



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2020, 7:00 pm
Our Lady Queen of the Americas
2200 California Street NW

Call to Order

Chair David Bender called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners David Bender (2D01) and Jeff Nestler (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 22 residents and visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Nestler moved to approve the ANC's February 2020 meeting agenda. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of January 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Nestler moved to approve the ANC's January 13th, 2020 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Nestler said that he is working with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to get Decatur Place NW and Florida Avenue NW repaved.

Chair Bender said that the ANC's review of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) application for 2323 Tracy Place NW has been moved to next month. He also said that St. Margaret's Episcopal Church has informed the ANC that they plan to file applications for exterior work to their building.

John Odenwelder, the new Executive Director of the Washington English Center, introduced himself to meeting attendees and gave an overview of the organization's programs.

Annabelle Restaurant

David Bess, Annabelle Restaurant's General Manager, and Mark Thompson, Annabelle Restaurant's Wine Manager, introduced themselves to meeting attendees. Mr. Thompson said that the restaurant team hopes to continue the legacy that Restaurant Nora built in the DC restaurant scene.

Mr. Thompson encouraged local residents to visit the restaurant and to eat in the dining room or at the bar. He said that the restaurant serves contemporary American food.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Nestler said that he has nothing to report.

DC Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department (Police Service Area 208)

Lt. Jonathan Pongratz and Officer Jeremy Brady, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Lt. Pongratz gave an overview of MPD's rollout of communications on the NextDoor program. He encouraged local residents to join their local neighborhood on NextDoor. He said that MPD will not be monitoring NextDoor 24 hours a day. He also encouraged local residents to sign up for the Mayor's Private Security Camera Rebate Program.

Lt. Pongratz gave an overview of enforcement actions that the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) has taken against Assets in response to a recent incident that took place at the establishment.

Mayor's Office

Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), introduced herself to meeting attendees. Said that she will be MOCRS' representative to the Sheridan-Kalorama community moving forward.

Ms. Goines encouraged local residents to call DC's shelter hotline at (202) 399-7093 if they see any individuals experiencing homelessness out in the cold. She also encouraged local residents to submit their comments to the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) regarding the authority's proposed bus route changes.

Ms. Goines said that she can be reached via phone at: (202) 805-7122 or via email at: nicole.goines@dc.gov if any local residents have any concerns.

Old Business

Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Ave. NW from 20th St. to Waterside Dr.

Chair Bender said that he recently contacted DDOT regarding the status of the planned rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue from 20th Street to Waterside Drive NW. He said that DDOT has made several vehicular and pedestrian safety updates to the project plans based on community feedback. He said that the ANC will keep the community updated as the ANC receives information regarding the project.

Discussion of Visitor Parking Passes

Chair Bender gave an overview of the discussions regarding the visitor parking pass program that took place during past ANC meetings.

Meeting attendees discussed the pros and cons of changing the ANC's position regarding the visitor parking pass program. Meeting attendees then voted on whether or not ANC 2D should participate in the visitor parking pass program. Five attendees voted to participate in the program and eight attendees voted against participating in the program.

Update on Assets

Don Friedman, the President of the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council, gave an overview of the ongoing issues that are being debated as part of the organization's settlement agreement discussions with Assets. He said that the organization had thought that they had reached an agreement with Assets but the draft settlement agreement that the organization received from the establishment did not reflect the understood agreement. He gave an overview of the provisions that the organization is looking to have included in the settlement agreement.

Commissioner Nestler gave an overview of several provisions that he would like to see included in the settlement agreement.

Commissioner Nestler moved to support the settlement agreement that the Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council is negotiating with Assets. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

DC Government Reports (Continued)

Department of Public Works Update

Celeste Duffie, a Community Relations Specialist for the Department of Public Works (DPW), said that if any local residents still have holiday trees they can be put out next to the residents' trash and recycling in order to be picked up by DPW.

Ms. Duffie said that street sweeping and alley cleaning will begin on March 1st provided that there are not any major snowstorms before then.

New Business (Continued)

District Department of Transportation; Infrastructure Needed Repairs for 2020

Chair Bender said that DDOT has started a new program to identify the streets, sidewalks, and alleys with the worst conditions across the city. He said that local residents can inform the ANC about particularly bad conditions and the ANC will pass along the information to DDOT.

Renewal of the Temporary Zoning Request for 2200 R Street NW

Chair Bender moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Nestler seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2D supports the Embassy of Zambia's Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 2200 R Street NW based on the condition that the property lease is renewed for no longer than one year.

Needed New, Permanent Facility for the District of Columbia Archives

Chair Bender moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Nestler seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the DC Archives and the Office of Public Records (OPR) serve the key public purpose of storing, protecting, and organizing the government documents that constitute the most universal records of District residents and those of the government that serves them.

When pieced together, these documents tell vivid stories about ordinary people of all races, classes, and genders, from all eight wards, representing both communities that exist and ones that have been lost. These documents allow both historians and family genealogists to reconstruct the lives of ordinary residents.

Additionally, the Archives holds records of public figures, objects, and private collections of public interest. Among other things, these collections chronicle the struggles for home rule and civil rights that have defined the District.

WHEREAS, the current facility used to store DC's valuable historical documents is a converted stable in Naylor Court, off 9th Street NW in Shaw, that does not meet industry standards for security, fire protection, document preservation, and public access.

The facility was commissioned in 1990 but immediately fell into disrepair due to budget cuts in the 1990s. Between that time until the restoration of the HVAC system in 2018, poor climate control allowed DC heat and humidity to severely damage paper, photographs, and objects, many of which were never separated from mold or materials that degrade them, metal paperclips, oils, and glue.

Secondly, the current archive facility is too small, leaving government records scattered across District buildings and rented spaces. Indeed, the majority of public documents held by OPR are stored at a National Archives and Records Administration facility in Suitland, MD at a cost of over \$600,000 per year, and the full cost of offsite storage is difficult to calculate because this excess storage is paid for by the agencies that generated the records.

Finally, the lack of proper reading rooms means that the Archives are substantially not available to the public. The limited access citizens and historians have strained staff resources, and it is impossible to accommodate school or university instruction, a common practice elsewhere. When space is available, researchers must work in record storage areas, a major security risk.

WHEREAS, even the best conditions outlined above are not normal for peer institutions, such as ones that store state-level documents or those of major cities. Similarly, these conditions would not be considered acceptable for a university archive or private records collection.

WHEREAS, most peer organizations operate independently of the executive branch of government, either as independent agencies, or governmentally-chartered institutions. In contrast, key decisions about the DC Archives are made by the executive. The independence of other archives reflects an understanding that the cycles of government and politics are not conducive to the long-term planning and operations critical to a successful archive.

WHEREAS, between FY 2015 and FY 2019, Mayor Bowser and the DC Council appropriated over \$80 million to construct a new DC Archives facility and to transfer and conserve the records currently stored in rented spaces. This latest action occurred after a long period of citizen activism and after District agencies proposed several inappropriate locations.

In addition to this appropriation, capital funds from earlier building proposals remain assigned to OPR, unexpended, while the office's operational budget is insufficient for the backlog of conservation work.

WHEREAS, at the September 27th, 2018 hearing on the "District Historical Records Advisory Board Amendment Act of 2018" (DC Council Bill B22-0842), the Office of the Secretary announced that a new-construction archive, record, and education facility would be constructed at the University of the District of Columbia. The Secretary stated that construction would begin in 2019.

WHEREAS, as of December 31st, 2019, no contracts for design or construction of these facilities have been issued and no land transfer agreement between the University of the District of Columbia and the Government of the District of Columbia existed, or has been made public.

WHEREAS, at a time of major change in the District of Columbia, ANC 2D recognizes the need for a new facility and resources to make public records a public resource.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D requests that the Mayor and the DC Council secure a site for the DC Archives and the Office of Public Records at the University of the District of Columbia, design a facility, and begin substantial construction within eighteen months of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is a matter of fiscal responsibility that the Mayor and the DC Council expend funds appropriated from their constituents to preserve their own history in a timely and efficient fashion. Appropriations from earlier capital plans not dedicated to establishing a new facility at the University of the District of Columbia should be spent completing the 20-year backlog of conservation work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the DC Council should create a lasting legacy for the citizens of the District by establishing an independent District Records and Archives Agency, governed by a Mayorally-appointed board of specialists and citizens.

This independence is the most effective way to ensure that a new facility is put to use in a timely fashion and that the operations of the Archives are consistently and freely funded in the future.

McClellan's Retreat Sidewalk Cafe

Commissioner Nestler gave an overview of McClellan's Retreat's application for a sidewalk cafe. There were several inconsistencies identified with the application and the ANC thus decided to table consideration of the application in order to conduct additional research regarding the application.

Announcements

There were not any announcements.

Open Comments

A local resident asked about the projected completion date for the Embassy of China's apartment building project at 2300 Connecticut Avenue NW. Chair Bender said that he has reached out to the U.S. Department of State regarding the completion of the project but has not heard back.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, March 16th, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady Queen of the Americas, 2200 California Street NW.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.