



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15th, 2019; 7:00 p.m.

West End Library, Main Meeting Room – 2301 L Street NW

Call to Order

Chair William Kennedy Smith (04) called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Nicole Goldin (02), Trupti Patel (03), Philip Schrefer (05), Jeri Epstein (06), Detrick Campbell (07), and James Harnett (08) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular May 2019 meeting agenda with one modification. Commissioner Goldin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular April 2019 meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Without any objection the minutes were adopted.

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Sergeant Richard Davis, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave an update from the Mayor’s Office.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

Sarina Loy, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans’ Office, gave an update from the Councilmember’s Office.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Smith, Commissioner Goldin, and Commissioner Harnett gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

Inspector Wendy Cadell, a representative for the Department of Public Works (DPW); SJ Matthews, the President of the GW Student Association; Amy Martin, the Executive Vice

President of the GW Student Association; Jillian Wolons, the Acting Vice President for Government Relations of the GW Student Association; Trina Stewart, a Supervisory Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Specialist for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA); Barbara Kahlow, a local resident; Toni Marsh, an Associate Professor at GW; and Sara Maddux, a local resident, gave announcements and public comments.

Update from the District Department of Transportation Regarding the Proposed Signalization of the Intersection of H Street and 19th Street NW

Commissioner Harnett gave an update regarding the proposed signalization of the intersection of H Street and 19th Street NW.

Update from GW Regarding the Planned Renovations to Thurston Hall at 1900 F Street NW and the Proposed Smith Center Alcoholic Beverage License at 600 22nd Street NW

Kevin Days, the Director of Community Relations for GW, gave updates regarding the planned renovations to Thurston Hall at 1900 F Street NW and the proposed Smith Center alcoholic beverage license at 600 22nd Street NW.

General Agenda

Update from the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens Regarding the School's Planned Classroom Renovation Project

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens (SWWFS) is a citywide educational resource serving students from all eight wards, with the majority of attendees living outside of Ward 2,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, SWWFS has demonstrated one of the strongest year-over-year track records of academic improvement of any public elementary school in the city and currently has a waiting list of 700 students requesting enrollment,

WHEREAS, beginning in October 2018 school administrators and community members called DCPS's attention to the pending issue of over-enrollment at the school.

WHEREAS, a lack of response from DCPS regarding overcrowding at SWWFS led the LSAT, HSA and ANC 2A to arrange the services of a pro bono design team to provide options to constructively address the overcrowding issue and subsequently that design team completed a set of concept drawings addressing the issue in a comprehensive expensible manner, the so-called "community plan".

WHEREAS, at the February ANC 2A meeting, the ANC passed a resolution endorsing the community plan and DCPS formally acknowledged the issue of over-enrollment at

SWWFS and the pledged to work with community members to evaluate the community plan and implement a solution prior to the 2020 academic year.

WHEREAS, since that February ANC meeting the project liaison provided the ANC and community has changed three times, no contracting timeline was provided until May and no official explanation regarding the design choice and rationale has been provided as of this date.

WHEREAS, reports of mismanagement of previous renovations, including a reported payment of \$600,000 for a single door, the purchase and installation of unnecessary mechanical equipment and the misalignment of a locker room, thereby curtailing needed expansion of the school gym, among others, have left many in the community with a lingering distrust of the renovation management process at DCPS.

WHEREAS, unofficially, the ANC and community members have been informed that DCPS has selected an inferior design for the current renovation, one that has faced repeated and significant merit-based objections from the community, objections that have not been officially addressed by DCPS.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED ANC 2A reiterates its February 2018 call for DCPS to utilize such funds as are available for renovations at SWWFS to eliminate two small offices and repurpose unused balcony space between them and the small gym so as to create two new 1200 square foot classrooms, thereby implementing the so-called “community plan”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if DCPS elects, as now seems to be the case, to repurpose the current library instead of implementing the community plan, the ANC requests written notification of the decision and its rationale as well as any relevant process documents pertaining to the bid process and cost elements that informed the decision.

Presentation Regarding the Installation of a Mural at the Intersection of 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue NW

Commissioner Schrefer made a motion to support the proposed installation of a mural at the intersection of 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue NW. Chair Smith seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the proposed installation of a mural at the intersection of 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue NW.

Matters Before the District Department of Transportation

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting a Study of a Proposed Closure of Virginia Avenue Between Constitution Avenue and 18th Street NW

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is committed to achieving “zero fatalities and serious injuries to travelers of our transportation system” by 2024, a commitment colloquially referred to as “Vision Zero,”

WHEREAS, despite the above-stated commitment, the number of traffic deaths in the District has increased every year since Vision Zero was announced in 2015, with a spate of recent roadway deaths putting 2019 at-risk to continue the trend absent corrective measures,

WHEREAS, to make progress, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) must look at transportation infrastructure proactively in order to identify safety improvements that can be made before incidents take place,

WHEREAS, the intersection of Constitution Avenue and Virginia Avenue NW represents one specific, major safety hazard for pedestrians in a tourist-heavy area that DDOT should address as soon as possible,

WHEREAS, a large number of near misses take place at this location when cars turning right off of Constitution Avenue to Virginia Avenue NW interact with a low-visibility crosswalk set back from the intersection – often at a high rate of speed due to the generous angle for right-turning traffic, and

WHEREAS, the proximity of this intersection to the one at 18th Street and Constitution Avenue NW presents an opportunity for DDOT to evaluate re-routing vehicular traffic around this short block of Virginia Avenue with minimal anticipated impacts on traffic flow but potentially significant benefits for pedestrian safety and the nearby public space.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that DDOT conduct an expedited evaluation of the feasibility of closing the 1700 block of Virginia Avenue NW to automobile traffic, along the lines suggested in the attached presentation, and other measures to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity, and that if such a closure is deemed conceptually feasible, that it conduct a six-month pilot closure of the block thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A asks DDOT to come and present to the Commission near the conclusion of any trial closure period in order to report on the pilot’s effectiveness vis-à-vis pedestrian and cyclist safety and traffic flow.

Matters Before the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts application for 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Goldin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES:7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports The Mills Building Associates, LLC's U.S. Commission of Fine Arts application for conceptual review at 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by GW to Install a Post to Hang Banners for Exhibitions at 701 21st Street NW

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until a future ANC meeting.

Public Space Application for the Repaving of 333 Square Feet of a Public Alley at 1227 25th Street NW

Commissioner Goldin made a motion moved to support the public space application for the repaving of 333 square feet of a public alley at 1227 25th Street NW. Chair Smith seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the public space application for the repaving of 333 square feet of a public alley at 1227 25th Street NW.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Consideration of Several Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal Applications for Restaurants, Hotels, Multipurpose Facilities, Clubs, Marine Vessels, Arenas, and Caterers

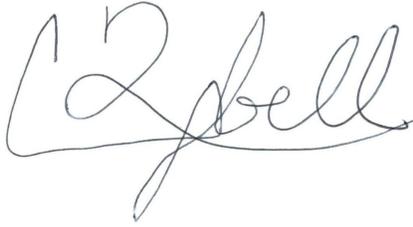
Commissioner Patel recused herself from voting on this matter.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Adjournment

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Detrick Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Detrick" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Campbell".

Detrick Campbell
Secretary, ANC 2A07