



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17th, 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 7:00 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Nicole Goldin (02), Trupti Patel (03), Philip Schrefer (05), Jeri Epstein (06), and Detrick Campbell (07) were present. Commissioner James Harnett (08) arrived at 7:03 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda by unanimous consent. Without any objection the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

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

Community Forum

Presentation by Councilmember Jack Evans Regarding Ward 2 and Citywide Updates

Councilmember Jack Evans gave a presentation regarding Ward 2 and citywide updates.

Presentation by Betsy Cavendish, General Counsel for the Executive Office of the Mayor, Regarding the Mayor’s proposed FY 2020 Budget

Betsy Cavendish, General Counsel for the Executive Office of the Mayor, gave a presentation regarding the Mayor’s proposed FY 2020 budget.

Report from the Office of At-Large Councilmember Robert White

Shawn Hilgendorf, the Committee Director for Councilmember Robert White’s Office, gave a report from Councilmember White’s Office and from the DC Council’s Committee on Facilities and Procurement.

Consideration of a Resolution Recognizing St. Mary’s Court’s 40th Anniversary

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

Whereas, St. Mary's Court – an affordable housing community for seniors and persons with disabilities in Foggy Bottom – opened on March 22, 1979 and commemorated its 40th anniversary last month;

Whereas, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington obtained funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to construct St. Mary's Court in the mid-1970s based on a longstanding goal of the adjoining St. Mary's Episcopal Church to build affordable housing in Foggy Bottom on land then-owned by the National Capital Housing Authority (now the D.C. Housing Authority);

Whereas, far from being just a place to live, St. Mary's Court has always provided a robust set of services for its residents, including a meal plan, organized activities, and social services assistance – highly unique for housing communities of its type in the United States;

Whereas, St. Mary's Court has managed to consistently maintain a high degree of diversity in its residential population, enriching the fabric of Foggy Bottom and promoting connections across different cultures and experiences;

Whereas, St. Mary's Court is known for having friendly, engaged staff, many of whom end up working “at the Court” for decades – including the current executive director, Margaret Pully;

Whereas, St. Mary's Court has been a valued partner to many different neighborhood groups, including the ANC – for whom it has consistently made meeting space available on short notice over the years;

Whereas, despite the many difficulties associated with operating an affordable housing community of its type and the changing landscape of government funding programs, St. Mary's Court has managed to operate continuously and successfully for 40 years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on the occasion of St. Mary's Court celebrating its 40th anniversary in continuous operation, ANC 2A hereby recognizes it as a pillar of the Foggy Bottom community and a unique and valuable asset to the entire District of Columbia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A extends its best wishes to the residents and staff of St. Mary's Court on the occasion of the institution's 40th anniversary, and looks forward to seeing it operate successfully for many years to come.

Approval of Expenditures for the Retention of Counsel Regarding GW's Proposed Campus Plan Amendments to Accommodate Thurston Hall Renovations

Chair Smith made a motion to approve expenditures up to \$5,000 for the retention of counsel regarding GW's proposed campus plan amendments to accommodate Thurston Hall renovations. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Harnett and Epstein gave Commissioner updates.

Update Regarding GW's Transfer of the Marvin Center's Alcoholic Beverage License at 800 21st Street NW to the Smith Center at 600 22nd Street NW

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

ANC 2A has been informed by representatives of the George Washington University (GW) that the university intends to file an application with the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to transfer GW's alcoholic beverage license for the Marvin Center at 800 21st Street NW, which is currently in safekeeping, to the Smith Center at 600 22nd Street NW. The Commission believes that this transfer represents a significant change based on the different natures of the two buildings, and thus ANC 2A requests that the ABC Board determine that GW's application should be placarded as a significant change.

Announcements and Public Comments

Nick DelleDonne, the Chair of the Dupont East Civic Action Association; Gary Griffith, the President of the Friends of Francis Field; Marina Streznewski, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA); and Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Presentation by Michelle Garcia, Director of the DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, Regarding the Work of the Office

Michelle Garcia, the Director of the DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, gave a presentation regarding the work of the office.

Presentation by the Department of Behavioral Health's DC Prevention Center for Wards 1 and 2 Regarding the Work of the Center

Allie Bobak, a Community Mobilizer for the Department of Behavioral Health's DC Prevention Center for Wards 1 and 2, gave a presentation regarding the work of the center.

Presentation Regarding the Traffic Control Plan for the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Development Project

Sean Sullivan, a Senior Project Manager for Boston Properties, gave a presentation regarding the traffic control plan for the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW development project.

Regulatory Agenda

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

Chair Smith made a motion to protest The Watergate Hotel's application to renew the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood and based on the adverse impact on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A protests The Watergate Hotel's application for renewal of the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license at 2650 Virginia Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood and based on the adverse impact on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety.

The Commission looks forward to working with the hotel and its neighbors to finalize policies regarding the hotel's delivery schedule, parking, the use of the property's truck tunnel, and other issues as part of the protest process.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the International Monetary Fund's Ongoing Street Closure of the 1900 block of H Street NW

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

WHEREAS, the entire roadway and south sidewalk on the 1900 block of H Street NW have been closed since 2013 due to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) renovation project of its main headquarters building (HQ1),

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) did not notify ANC 2A about the street closure in 2013 until less than one week before it was scheduled to take effect, or of the application by the IMF for a public space permit,

WHEREAS, the timeline for this project by the IMF and DDOT was set at three years (Attachment 1), but the street closure has held this block hostage from the public for more than six years,

WHEREAS, the Commission received assurances by IMF officials in 2013 that the block would be returned to the public within "three years," (Attachment 2) but with the extended closure, the unacceptable possibility that the block will be permanently closed has become a significant concern among ANC 2A residents,

WHEREAS, following six years of no communication or updates by the IMF or its contractor(s) on the status of this project, Commissioner Harnett contacted the IMF and

was told by officials in September of 2018 that the project would take an additional twelve months to complete,

WHEREAS, since September of 2018, and following a subsequent meeting in March of 2019, IMF officials have rejected requests to brief the public and the Commission on the status of this project,

WHEREAS, it is unacceptable and deeply troubling to see a private entity take control of public space for its own purposes, without public input or updates, for more than twice the length of the original project timeline originally communicated,

WHEREAS, the lack of notice by DDOT in 2013 regarding the impending closure of this public space left no time for public engagement before the project began, and its subsequent renewals of the IMF's public space permits have been done without any community engagement whatsoever, displaying a troubling lack of sensitivity to the neighborhood's interests, and

WHEREAS, a permit holder doing work in public space must restore it to its original condition at the conclusion of work, including any necessary re-paving, re-painting, re-installation of streetlights and parking meters, and signal adjustments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests the expeditious re-opening of the roadway and south sidewalk on the 1900 block of H Street NW after the IMF's HQ1 reconstruction is completed in December of 2019 and that the IMF's public space permit (DDOT #PA10558652-R2) not be renewed beyond December of 2019.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's 20th Street / 21st Street / 22nd Street NW Protected Bike Lanes Project

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

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is currently soliciting comment on the alternative identified for the 20th Street / 21st Street / 22nd Street NW Protected Bike Lanes Project,

WHEREAS, the Commission, in a resolution dated May 23rd, 2018, previously requested that the 22nd Street NW alternative not be carried forward for consideration,

WHEREAS, the Commission, in a resolution dated February 13th, 2019, requested that the following alternatives be advanced: 21st Street south of E Street NW, 20th Street north of I Street on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, and four possible "jog" alternatives between the north-south streets, and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to comment further now that DDOT has released designs of the alternative, expect for the proposed jogs, as they stand at "10% design."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission makes the following recommendations to DDOT:

- ANC 2A supports implementing the “jog” as two-way protected bike lanes on the north side of the southern leg of I Street NW or on G Street NW. This change would enable the facility to better connect to George Washington University (GWU) campus and residential buildings and Capital Bikeshare stations along 21st Street NW. The implementation of continuous two-way protected bike lanes would eliminate the common problem of cyclists going the wrong way on one-way protected segments (e.g., on L Street and M Street NW). In addition to concerns about one-way protected bike lanes and the use of F Street NW for a bicycle facility, I Street and G Street NW offer the following advantages:
 - Closer to the core of the GWU campus and residential buildings, providing a more convenient commuting option for most students and university employees,
 - Do not impact curbside loading for any large multifamily residential buildings,
 - Perceived as a more tranquil and comfortable setting for bicycle riders due to the lack of interface with the E Street Expressway and the commuter traffic funneled off of it during the morning rush hour.
- The Commission maintains its support for the alignments that it had previously recommended on 20th Street and 21st Street NW and thanks DDOT for advancing an alternative in harmony with that position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports engaging DDOT about implementing an east-west two-way protected bike lane along G Street and not F Street NW given the dangerous intersection at the western terminus of F Street and the longer access that G Street would provide. The Commission also supports engaging DDOT about other goals outlined in the 2005 DC Bicycle Master Plan and subsequent updates in order to advance long-term strategic priorities.

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting that the District Department of Transportation Incorporate the 1200 Blocks of 24th Street and 25th Street NW Into DC’s Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Program

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

WHEREAS, the residents of West End 25 (1255 25th Street NW), Whitman Place (1275 25th Street NW), and West End Residences (1221 24th Street NW) do not currently have the ability to purchase a Zone 2 parking permit under the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program,

WHEREAS, the 1200 blocks of 24th Street and 25th Street NW contain residential properties, are located within a mixed-use zone, and are therefore eligible for enrollment in RPP,

WHEREAS, the presence of office, educational, and recreational uses on these blocks drives demand for on-street parking by non-residents in a way that limits space availability for residents of the immediate neighborhood who are not enrolled in RPP,

WHEREAS, residents of the 1200 blocks of 24th Street and 25th Street NW therefore face an undue financial and logistical burden and are at a significant disadvantage for parking as compared to immediate neighbors and other community members,

WHEREAS, adjacent blocks north, south, and east have existing designated RPP Zone 2 spaces that said residents would be able to utilize, and

WHEREAS, RPP can be initiated on a block by initiative of the Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that the DDOT Director incorporate the 1200 blocks of 24th Street and 25th Street NW into the RPP program as soon as possible.

Public Space Application by Homeslyce for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe with 8 Tables and 16 Seats at 2121 K Street NW

Commissioner Epstein made a motion to support Homeslyce's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Homeslyce's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café at 2121 K Street NW.

Special Event Application for the Race to Beat Cancer 5K on Saturday, September 14th, 2019

Chair Smith made a motion to support the special event application for the 2019 Race to Beat Cancer 5K. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the special event application for the Race to Beat Cancer 5K on Saturday, September 14th, 2019.

Administrative Matters

Approval of Expenditures for the Retention of Counsel Regarding The Watergate Hotel's License Renewal Application

Chair Smith made a motion to approve expenditures up to \$2,000 for the retention of counsel regarding The Watergate Hotel's license renewal application. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Chair Smith made a motion to authorize himself to withdraw the ANC's protest of The Watergate Hotel's license renewal application if and when he feels it is appropriate. Commissioner Goldin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2019 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2019 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. J. Schrefer".

Philip Schrefer
Secretary, ANC 2A05