



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 21st, 2020; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair James Harnett (08) called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Nicole Goldin (02), Trupti Patel (03), Evelyn Hudson (05), and Jeri Epstein (06) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Harnett 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 Harnett made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular September 2020 meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Without any objection the minutes were adopted.

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

No one was present regarding this matter.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Barry Weise, the Legislative Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, and Ella Hanson, the Legislative and Community Coordinator for the councilmember’s office, gave updates from the councilmember’s office.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

No one was present regarding this matter.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Harnett and Commissioners Epstein, Goldin, and Patel gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

There were not any announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Personnel Matters at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens and School Without Walls High School

Chair Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, School Without Walls High School (SWWHS) and School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens (SWWFS) are both located in Ward 2, and the high school campus is within the boundaries of ANC 2A,

WHEREAS, Richard Trogisch has served as principal of SWWHS, the highest performing high school in the District, since 2006. The school is ranked second in the region, among the top 75 high schools in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report, and a two-time Blue Ribbon Schools award winner that is majority-minority with students from all eight wards,

WHEREAS, Richard Trogisch also took over leadership of Francis-Stevens Education Campus in 2012, when it was barely saved from closure, with only 190 students enrolled in a building with a capacity for 480 and failing test scores. He has since led the pre-K through grade 8 school to a remarkable turnaround, with nearly 600 students now enrolled from all eight wards, a waiting list of up to 800, vastly improved test scores, and increased academic rigor,

WHEREAS, both schools, representing 1,200 DC families, boast a diverse enrollment; both are majority-minority; and in both schools the student body and parental involvement proudly have diverse leadership teams that should be the envy and goal of every school in America,

WHEREAS, on Monday, October 5th, 2020, the Mayor announced plans to re-open schools in the coming weeks, and, at a Chancellor's meeting, Principal Trogisch asked specifically what air quality standards were being set by the DC Public Schools (DCPS) and how such standards would be measured and enforced at all schools. After no specific answer to his question was given, he said he later told his staff and parents that he would not open School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens unless he was certain students, teachers, and all other school personnel would be safe,

WHEREAS, School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens is a 93-year old building with no HVAC system, window air conditioners in each classroom, and numerous maintenance issues that come with an old building slated for major renovation in less than two years,

WHEREAS, within the past week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its guidance to acknowledge that COVID-19 is spread not just by droplets, but in aerosolized form in closed indoor spaces with poor ventilation and that regular exchange of fresh air is imperative for such spaces to be safe, especially where people, such as students and teachers in classrooms, stay in those spaces for more than just a few minutes at a time,

WHEREAS, the student body at SWWFS includes students with disabilities, including students with respiratory problems such as asthma, and adult staff members at the school include personnel in the high risk category, with some up to the age of 70, and the health and safety of students and personnel must be the highest priority and that is non-negotiable,

WHEREAS, less than 48 hours after Principal Trogisch questioned whether the air quality and ventilation standards at SWWFS would allow the school to open safely, he was fired by DCPS with the pretext later given that there had been a student “enrollment anomaly” in a previous year,

WHEREAS, DCPS officials openly admitted to the school community that the firing of Principal Trogisch was “not in the best interests” of students and faculty, and

WHEREAS, when considering the timing of the firing of Principal Trogisch within hours of his bringing up health and safety issues, the reason given by DCPS appears to be an implausible pretext, straining all credulity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A joins a majority of DC councilmembers in demanding answers from Chancellor Ferebee to questions regarding the firing of an honored, respected, and beloved educator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A demands to know what air quality standards and ventilation (air exchange) standards will be used by DCPS to determine whether schools and individual classrooms can reopen safely, and demands to know how those standards will be measured and enforced before schools are allowed to reopen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A demands that DCPS immediately engages parents, students, and educators so as to ensure that all individuals have access to information on the metrics for reopening and safety measures being put in place so that parents and educators can make informed decisions as to how they wish to proceed with this school year. Given that DC has among the highest rates of asthma of major metropolitan areas in U.S. and that children from Wards 5,7, and 8 are impacted by respiratory illnesses at higher rates than other wards, understanding the state of the ventilation in every single DCPS building is critical to ensure that we do not put our children, especially children of color, who have already been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, at even further risk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to hold hearings on remediation efforts conducted at every DC Public School facility as a step toward restoring public trust. Failure to do so will only add to fears of retaliation for whistleblowers and add to the fears of parents and teachers that our school buildings are not safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A demands that Principal Richard Trogisch be reinstated at once to his duties. The fact that he was willing to risk his career rather

than put at risk the health and safety of his students, teachers, and staff is at the heart of this matter, and the manner in which he was terminated has created a chilling effect for anyone wanting to raise health and safety issues, even during a pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A demands that since SWWHS and SWWFS have five women associate and assistant principals, four of whom are women of color, with many years of experience with the School Without Walls community, the selection of any interim principal must come from within their ranks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be considered a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Chancellor Lewis Ferebee and all other DCPS officials directly involved in the termination of Richard Trogisch. It should be noted that School Without Walls High School is the closest public school in America to the White House, and the transparently cruel methods of silencing and terminating a whistleblower do not represent to our nation the values of the citizens of the District of Columbia, nor the concern that we have for our children and educators that our schools be reopened safely.

Presentation by GW Regarding the University's Coronavirus Policies and Testing Practices

Lynn Goldman, the Dean of GW's Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Christy Anthony, the Director of GW's Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities, gave a presentation regarding the university's coronavirus policies and testing practices and answered questions from commissioners and meeting attendees.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Updated Public Space Proposal for Streetscape Improvements at 26th Street and I Street NW

Chair Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion. Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to table the proposed resolution for consideration during a future ANC meeting, with instructions to consider a plan that includes a sidewalk as part of this public space application. Chair Harnett seconded the motion to table the proposed resolution, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Public Space Application for the Installation of 12 Fiberglass Planters at 1222 22nd Street NW

Commissioner Epstein made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the public space application for the installation of 12 fiberglass planters at 1222 22nd Street NW.

Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Boston Properties' Request for an After-Hours Permit to Work During Upcoming Holidays as Part of the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Construction Project

Chair Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Boston Properties' request for an extension of its after-hours permit until the end of November 2020 as part of the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW construction project. The ANC also supports Boston Properties' request for an after-hours permit to work on the following holidays between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm:

1. Veterans Day: November 11th, 2020
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 18th, 2021
3. Presidents' Day: February 15th, 2021

Matters Before the District Department of Transportation

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed moveDC 2021 Update

Chair Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Goldin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has [opened public comment](#) for the agency's 2021 update to the moveDC plan, last updated in 2014, which is the framework for establishing routes across the District of Columbia where prioritized mass transit lanes should be constructed, including protected bus lanes, dedicated bus lanes, and prioritized freight corridors,

WHEREAS, new DC law requires the periodic update of the moveDC plan and that DDOT solicit feedback from the public and ANCs as to its overarching goals and specific routes where mass transit should be prioritized, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is committed to advancing the safety of all road users and projects that can reasonably improve transit access.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports implementing the moveDC plan, with the following additions for the 2021 update:

1. On the Transit Priority Network:
 - a. Reiterating a [resolution](#) approved by ANC 2A on March 20th, 2019, the inclusion of 18th Street NW between K Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW for a dedicated bus lane.

- b. Reiterating a [resolution](#) approved by ANC 2A on March 20th, 2019, the inclusion of 19th Street NW between K Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW for a dedicated bus lane.
2. On the Bicycle Priority Network:
 - a. Inclusion of a two-way protected bike lane on 15th Street NW from Pennsylvania Avenue NW to Maine Avenue SW.
 - b. Inclusion of a two-way protected bike lane on 17th Street NW from K Street NW to Constitution Avenue NW.
 - c. Inclusion of a two-way protected bike lane on 21st Street NW from G Street NW to New Hampshire Avenue NW.
3. On the Freight Priority Network:
 - a. No additions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the moveDC 2021 update including a new “Pedestrian Element” to promote the goals of Vision Zero and so that specific plans to pedestrianize or otherwise promote the safety of pedestrians can move forward in a structured, systematic way.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2020 Quarter 4 Financial Report

Commissioner Patel made a motion to approve the ANC’s FY 2020 Quarter 4 financial report. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Budget

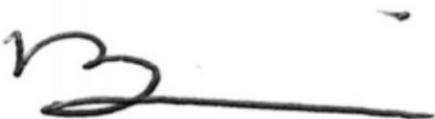
The commissioners discussed the ANC’s proposed FY 2021 budget.

No action was taken regarding this matter.

Adjournment

Chair Harnett adjourned the meeting at 10:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Goldin
Secretary, ANC 2A02