



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2014; 7:00 p.m.
GW's Phillips Hall – 801 22nd Street NW, Room B152

Call to Order

Chair Patrick Kennedy (01) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Asher Corson (03), Armando Irizarry (04), Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present. Commissioner Florence Harmon (06) arrived at 7:11 pm. Commissioners Rebecca Coder (02) and Graham Galka (05) were absent.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

Kevin Stogner, General Counsel for Councilmember Jack Evans, was present to give an update from the Councilmember's office. Mr. Stogner said that the disposition of the Stevens School will be acted on by the end of the legislative year. He added that early voting in the 2014 General Election began in a few days.

Report from the Ward 2 Education Network

Chris Sondreal, ANC 2A's representative to the Ward 2 Education Network, was present to give an update on the Network. Mr. Sondreal said that many Network members had signed on to a set of six education principles that they want candidates to discuss during the upcoming election. He added that the Network has joined with several other ward education councils to hold a Mayoral forum on next Wednesday, October 22, for which the questions to candidates would be based off of the six education principles.

Mr. Sondreal then said that the first Network event of the new school year would be on Saturday, October 25, where the Office of the State Superintendent of Education would be discussing the new standardized test that will replace the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS).

With regards to the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, Mr. Sondreal said that the school's Home and School Association (HSA) would be hosting its First Annual Auction on Saturday, October 18, and more than \$12,000 worth of in-kind donations was up for auction.

Presentation by Candidates for Open or Contested ANC Races

Commissioner Corson said that he was not seeking reelection.

William Kennedy Smith and Tom Martin, the two candidates appearing on the ballot for Single Member District 2A04, were present. Both candidates introduced themselves and talked about their plans for the ANC.

Philip Schreter, one of two candidates appearing on the ballot for Single Member District 2A05 was present. Mr. Schreter introduced himself and talked about his plans for the ANC.

General Agenda

Presentation by TERRIFIC, Inc.

Joseph McCarley and Dr. Sandra Lawson, the Project Directors for Ward 2 Senior Services for TERRIFIC, Inc., were present. They said the organization was a Lead Agency for Senior Services in the city, and operated as the Lead agency in wards 1, 2 and 4. They also said that the organization provides case management, transportation, and other senior services.

Mr. McCarley handed out flyers that had their contact info and the services they offer.

Consideration of a Grant Application by School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens in the Amount of \$1,000 for the Creation of Community Spaces on School Property and Adjoining Grounds

Megan Hanley, the Assistant Principal at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, was present. Ms. Hanley talked about the history of the school and its efforts to stay open, as well as its merger with the School Without Walls High School.

Ms. Hanley also said that there was a lack of suitable outdoor space at the school. She talked about how the school's Home and School Association (HSA) bought some picnic tables for the site, and that the picnic tables have served the students very well. She said that the tables are used for card games and action figure play. She ended by saying that the school has been asking for more picnic tables to better use the space.

Naamal DeSilva, a representative for both the school and the HSA, gave a presentation on the grant application. She said that she is a doctoral student in education at GW, and has been supporting the HSA and the school staff with community partnerships.

Ms. DeSilva said that the grant would be used to create more activity tables on the site, and would complement the work that the school did in the spring to plant gardens and beautify the area around the school.

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to approve the grant for \$1,000 to the Home and School Association at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0).

Regulatory Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution on the Kennedy Center Expansion Plans

Commissioners Irizarry and Harmon recused themselves from voting on this matter.

Commissioner Irizarry gave an overview of the planning process thus far for the Kennedy Center expansion project. He talked about an upcoming planning meeting at the Kennedy Center, where the most up-to-date plans for the project would be presented. He said that the neighborhood's current issues with the expansion plans are with regards to the increased amount of traffic that could be expected as a result of the project and the need for more parking on the site.

Commissioner Irizarry said he would like to see the ANC file a resolution so that the ANC was on the record one more time expressing its position on the matter. He also said he would like to add another point to the resolution about the need to clarify what the project's proposed floating platform would look like. He said that multiple neighborhood residents had questions about what the floating platform would entail.

One neighborhood resident suggested that the Army Corps of Engineers weigh in on the proposed floating platform.

Commissioner Irizarry also said he would like the ANC to request that the National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission delay action on the project so that the ANC could weigh in on the stated issues at its November meeting.

Chair Kennedy read the enacting clauses of a resolution that he wrote on the matter aloud.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0).

Discussion of Traffic Conditions at Washington Circle

Richard Kenney, a Senior Project Manager for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) was present to respond to comments and suggestions from attendees.

Commissioner Corson reiterated the need to fix the sidewalks on K Street NW between 25th and 26th Street, including the portion of the sidewalk that is only 18 inches wide.

Joseph Chukwueke, a representative for the New Hampshire Avenue Project was present to talk about the problems DDOT was facing with construction on 24th Street NW near the intersection with K Street. He said that there was a conduit underneath 24th Street that was filled with rust, and was thus delaying the electrification of the crossing lights above. He said that DDOT was waiting on Pepco to replace the pipe before the lights could be electrified.

Commissioner Harmon emphasized the dangerous nature of the crosswalks on 22nd and 24th Streets for pedestrians. In response, Mr. Kennedy said that DDOT was fairly close to getting the issues with the 22nd Street crosswalks resolved.

With regards to Washington Circle traffic, Mr. Kenney said that DDOT had improved the visibility of the signals on the circle by cutting trees and adding signal heads. He asked for comments from attendees on whether or not the situation had improved.

Commissioner Sacco reiterated the need to get Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers stationed on the circle during rush hour to ticket both pedestrians and cars that were not following the street signals so that everyone knows when to go and stop.

Commissioner Irizarry talked a problem he was witnessing where cars traveling north on New Hampshire want to turn into the circle but are blocked by waiting cars trying to turn south onto 23rd Street.

Marina Streznewski, a neighborhood resident, said that there were many problems with cars and pedestrians ignoring the street signals at the intersection of Washington Circle and 23rd Street.

Commissioner Corson said that administrators at GW Hospital had legitimate concerns about ambulances transporting patients being able to quickly get around the circle, and that the ambulances should be prioritized when managing traffic patterns on the circle.

Another neighborhood resident brought up concerns about traveling down 23rd Street from P Street to Washington Circle. He suggested that DDOT eliminate parking on 23rd Street between M Street and L Street during rush hour periods. He also suggested stationing more MPD officers on the Circle to issue tickets to drivers who were blocking the box.

Commissioner Carnes reiterated the need for a second entrance to the Foggy Bottom Metro Station to alleviate traffic issues in the neighborhood.

Mr. Kennedy requested that neighborhood residents allow DDOT to complete the electrification of the 22nd and 24th Street crosswalk lights before coming back to the ANC to reevaluate the situation.

Commissioner Irizarry left the meeting.

Re-Hearing of an Application for a Rear Addition at 2431 I Street (HPA 14-625) in the Foggy Bottom Historic District

Steve Charnovitz, the owner of the property was present. He said that he reached out to Mr. Summers, the owner of the neighboring property, who said he would still have objections to the project even if the third floor of the proposed addition was removed from the project's plans. He added that the matter is not scheduled for any Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) meeting in October.

Commissioner Corson said that his instinct was to side with the applicant on the matter. Mr. Corson cited the need to create more permanent residents in the Foggy Bottom Historic District.

He added that Mr. Summers brought up many concerns in his letter to the ANC that were unrelated to historic preservation.

Mr. Summers was present and said that he was very concerned with protecting the historic nature of Foggy Bottom. He was also concerned that the project would set a bad precedent for the rest of the street. He laid out multiple specific concerns, including the loss of use of a chimney, the loss of a tree, and the loss of parking in the back of the property.

Chair Kennedy asked about the status of the negotiations between the two property owners. Mr. Charnovitz said that the Mr. Summers asked that Mr. Charnovitz set up an escrow account to be used if there was any damage to Mr. Summers' property. In response, Mr. Charnovitz said that there were established DC procedures on the matter and that he would abide by what the procedures.

Commissioner Corson made a motion to support the application in front of the Historic Preservation Review Board. Chair Kennedy seconded the motion. Chair Kennedy asked for a friendly amendment to specify that the applicant must continue to work with the adjacent property owners to mitigate issues with the project. Commissioner Corson asked for a friendly amendment to specify that the ANC's support would be contingent upon the favorable completion of a flag test on the property. Commissioner Corson and Chair Kennedy approved both friendly amendments. The final motion passed (VOTES: 4-0 (Commissioner Harmon recused)).

Consideration of Follow-Up Action Regarding the Name Of and Design Guidelines for the Preliminarily-Approved “George Washington/Old West End Historic District” (Case 14-12) in Squares 58, 77-81, 101-104, 121, and 122

Kim Williams, a representative for the DC Historic Preservation Office (HPO), was present to talk about the progress with the creation of the historic district. Ms. Williams said that the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) most recently voted to approve the creation of the historic district.

Ms. Williams said that the HPO staff is continuing to do research on the name and the history of the historic district, however the HPO staff still strongly feels as though the chosen name is historically accurate. She added that she talked to Gary Griffith, a neighborhood resident who had previously raised issues with the chosen name, who no longer had objections with the chosen name. She added that Mr. Griffith would still like to see that parts of the research are clarified better.

Commissioner Sacco asked what the historic review process for the historic district moving forward looked like. Ms. Williams said that the HPRB had approved the creation of the historic district, however they had left it to the HPO to finalize the name, and thus final name does not have be approved by the HPRB.

The ANC took no action on the matter.

Renewal Applications for Class B Retail-Grocery Licenses by Trader Joe's (ABRA-071278, 2425 L Street), Marvelous Market (ABRA-078414, 2424 Pennsylvania Avenue), and Whole Foods (ABRA-086916, 2201 I Street)

No Commissioners or attendees raised issues with any of the license renewals, so the ANC took no action on the matter.

Request for a Letter of Support by the Advisory Board Company to Permit Their Usage of Francis Field for Staging a 5K Race

The matter was deferred to a later date.

Administrative Agenda

Approval of Past Commission Meeting Minutes

Chair Kennedy made a motion to approve the regular May, July, and September 2014 meeting minutes, subject to minor technical edits. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES 5-0).

Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by **Peter Sacco**, ANC 2A Secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Sacco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Peter" on top and "Sacco" below it, both starting with a capital letter.