



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 13th, 2016; 7:00 p.m.

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

The April 2016 Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Nicole Mann at 7:01 pm.

The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Daniel Warwick (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Michael Upright (2B04), Abigail Nichols (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), John Kupcinski (2B07), and Nicole Mann (2B08).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Mann said that ANC 2B would be partnering with the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) for a community cleanup on April 23rd.

Commissioner Nichols said that she and Commissioner Silverstein attended a neighborhood walk organized by the Mayor's Office on March 31st. She said that the walk focused on issues related to rats and allies in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Nichols said that it appears as though the Zoning Administrator is going to approve the proposed construction plans for the project at 1514 Q Street NW. She also said that DCCA would be hosting a meeting to discuss whether the language of the law as it relates to basement dwellings makes sense.

Commissioner Maltz said that the MySchoolDC lottery results had been released, and that all in-boundary schools that cover ANC 2B had long waiting lists.

Commissioner Silverstein thanked the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for their work on making improvements to the S Street Dog Park.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office, gave an overview of Councilmember Evans' recent testimony in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He also talked about the DC Council's ongoing hearings regarding DC's FY 2017 budget.

Eva Lewis, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), talked about the city’s plans for the upcoming Emancipation Day festivities. She also encouraged attendees to sign the Mayor’s pledge on increasing the minimum wage.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B21-0684 – the “Government Travel and Human Rights Act of 2016”

Commissioner Maltz moved to adopt the resolution on the matter. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-1. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Washington DC’s Human Rights Act of 1977 (amended on March 14, 2007) sought to secure an end to discrimination for any reason other than that of individual merit, including, but not limited to, discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, and place of residence or business,

WHEREAS, existing law provides for officers and employees of the District of Columbia, when away from their headquarters for official business, to receive travel expenses,

WHEREAS, when compared to other states, the District of Columbia has the highest percentage of adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to a Gallup study from 2012. At 10 percent, which is double the percentage of the second place state, and nearly triple the overall national average of 3.5 percent,

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census data shows that 5,146 District of Columbia households declared themselves as being headed by same-sex couples, representing a rate of 19 same-sex couples per 1,000 households,

WHEREAS, since March 2015, Indiana, South Dakota, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and numerous municipalities have either passed, or passed and signed into law, bills that allow for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity,

WHEREAS, religious freedom is a cornerstone of law and public policy in the United States, and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B strongly supports and affirms this important freedom,

WHEREAS, the exercise of religious freedom should not be a justification for discrimination,

WHEREAS, while Mayoral Orders are well intentioned, piecemeal efforts to address discrimination, the residents and public servants of the District of Columbia need a permanent solution, and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC must take permanent action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B urges the DC Council to consider and pass Bill B21-0684 – the “Government Travel and Human Rights Act of 2016”. This important law protects the District of Columbia’s public servants from discrimination and harassment and prohibits the use of DC funds to support activities in any state that affirmatively sanctions or requires discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Consideration of a Resolution Honoring Washington Blade Journalist Lou Chibbaro as ANC 2B’s Guest of Honor for the 2016 Capital Pride Parade

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt the resolution on the matter. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 7-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Lou Chibbaro, Jr. began writing for the Washington Blade in 1976, working at first as a volunteer,

WHEREAS, Lou initially published under the pseudonym Lou Romano because, at the time, it was generally acknowledged that journalism careers could be ruined by an association with a gay newspaper,

WHEREAS, Lou dropped the pseudonym after covering the 1978 Cinema Follies fire, in which nine men tragically died, an event that drove home to him the dangers of leading a double life,

WHEREAS, Lou became a paid staff member in 1984, but the pay was such that, in those early days, he had to supplement his income by working as a cab driver for the Red Top Cab Company,

WHEREAS, Lou has spent forty years chronicling gay life in Washington and nationwide, and the struggle for full equality,

WHEREAS, Lou has covered such wide-ranging stories as the AIDS epidemic, political protests and marches, scandals, murders, efforts to strike down anti-gay laws, the fight to achieve marriage equality, and hundreds of other topics,

WHEREAS, Lou Chibbaro, Jr. has held himself to the highest standards of professional journalism, having been inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists Washington Pro Hall of Fame, alongside such icons as Helen Thomas, Bob Plante, Andrea Mitchell, and Bob Woodward, and

WHEREAS, Lou has played a vital role in the struggle for full equality through his work, ensuring that stories vital to the LGBT community were fairly and professionally reported, even at times when the mainstream media downplayed those issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dupont Circle ANC 2B congratulates Lou for 40 years of service to the Washington Blade, and formally extends an invitation to Lou Chibbaro Jr. to be our Guest of Honor during the 2016 Capital Pride Parade.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

The Manor – Application for a Substantial Change to its Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1327 Connecticut Avenue NW

Commissioner Kupcinski moved to adopt the resolution on the matter. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, 1327 Connecticut, LLC dba “The Manor” Class C Tavern License No. ABRA-099536 (1327 Connecticut Avenue NW) is already in operation as a restaurant/lounge and is seeking a substantial change of total capacity (75) on the establishment’s current liquor license to reflect total capacity (275) on the Certificate of Occupancy issued on September 22, 2014,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B seeks to support the “The Manor” application for a Stipulated License, allowing them to continue to operate at the 275 capacity listed on the Certificate of Occupancy, pending approval of the substantial change to their license, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and “The Manor” have negotiated a Settlement Agreement and have resolved all matters prior to the end of the protest date.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the application for a substantial change in order to expand the second floor and increase capacity from 75 to 275.

We Work – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1875 K Street NW

Chair Mann moved to approve a stipulated license for the applicant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. Passed 5-1-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B approves We Work’s application for a stipulated Class C license.

Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda

1711 Rhode Island Avenue NW – Application for Special Exceptions from the Office Use Requirements and the Parking Requirements to Renovate an Existing Building for Use as Offices

This matter was removed from the agenda.

2000 Florida Avenue NW – Redevelopment of the American Geophysical Union Building to a Net Zero Office Building

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the resolution on the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverstein. Passed 7-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the American Geophysical Union, located at 2000 Florida Avenue NW, was built in 1994, and is a non-contributing building located within the Dupont Circle Historic District and Dupont Circle ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, the project is targeting “net zero,” which produces as much energy on the premises as it consumes,

WHEREAS, the project would be the first net zero office conversion within the District of Columbia and will serve as a model for innovative sustainability across the country,

WHEREAS, sustainability and doing our part to protect the environment are not just strategically aligned with the mission of the American Geophysical Union, but are the values of District of Columbia and Dupont Circle residents as well,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requested that the applicant approach the Historic Preservation Review Board only for comment in March so that we could facilitate and hold a stand-alone neighborhood meeting with the applicant and hold additional meetings and engagement surrounding the development,

WHEREAS, the applicant has responded positively to the neighborhood requests for maintaining the rich and unique façade of the non-contributing building—including the distinctive planters on the sidewalk,

WHEREAS, throughout ANC 2B’s community outreach, neighbors within the Dupont Circle Historic District have reacted extraordinarily positively to the net zero concept, including the solar array,

WHEREAS, the primary concern of the solar array was the light and shadow impacts to properties across 20th Street NW from the project, but due to the permeable nature of the solar array and the penthouse being shorter than the current penthouse, those concerns have been ameliorated,

WHEREAS, since the March Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, the applicant has reduced the proposed height of the solar array even more with option two being only 11 feet 6 inches above the roof compared to a current penthouse height of 20 feet,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and neighbors in the Dupont Circle Historic District prefer a distinctive solar array addition to the non-contributing building, especially of the earthy

color of the initial proposal which appeared to the ANC's Zoning Preservation and Development Committee as a combination of earth, nature, and sun,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the solar array should be prominent and not blend into the surroundings, and that juxtapositions and contrasts will beautify the neighborhood, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that that our Historic District must be capable of including a visible solar array on a non-contributing building within the Historic District if we, as neighbors, are the live up to our values, and that the preservation of the look of a 22-year old building should not and cannot halt its retrofit to an innovative landmark and first of its kind building.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, for the reasons above, ANC 2B strongly supports the project as proposed and urges the Historic Preservation Review Board to not reduce the size of the solar array.

1735 Fraser Court NW – Application for a Variance from the Nonconforming Structure Requirements to Permit an Addition to an Existing One-Family Dwelling

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the resolution on the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Upright. Passed 7-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the project at 1735 Fraser Court NW is an addition to a non-conforming building within the confines of ANC 2B to accommodate a young family,

WHEREAS, the project has received a letter of support from its immediately adjacent neighbor in addition to multiple letters of support from neighbors who share an alley with the project, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes the Dupont Circle neighborhood does not have enough housing which allows for raising families and the addition of one family housing unit helps, in a small way, of solving the housing crisis our city faces.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project as proposed.

Public Space Committee Agenda

1823 L Street NW – Public Space Application for a Sidewalk Cafe at the Hotel RL

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the public space application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warwick. Passed 7-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to set back the edge of the proposed sidewalk cafe 24" from the outer edge of the sidewalk cafe at Mackey's Public House (1823 L Street NW), which is located adjacent to the Hotel RL.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the public space application for a sidewalk cafe at the Hotel RL.

1800 M Street NW – Public Space Application for a Sidewalk Cafe at Pret A Manger

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the public space application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warwick. Passed 7-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, a 10-foot clearance on the sidewalk will exist for pedestrians with this application, in accordance with ANC 2B's published public space guidelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the application as proposed for a sidewalk cafe at Pret A Manger.

1800 N Street NW – Public Space Application for an Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe at Surfside

Commissioner Maltz moved to request a 30-day delay of the Public Space Committee's hearing for the applicant. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 7-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay on the consideration of this application in order to complete community outreach and speak with the applicant.

1147 Connecticut Avenue NW – Public Space Application for a Planter Box on the Sidewalk

Commissioner Nichols moved to submit a letter to the Public Space Committee that states that the ANC appreciates the chance to review this application and that the ANC is taking no action on the matter. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 7-0-0.

Administrative Agenda

Approval of March 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chair Mann moved to approve the March 2016 regular meeting minutes, subject to minor technical edits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maltz. Passed 6-0-1.

Approval of FY 2016 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Commissioner Maltz moved to approve the FY 2016 Quarter 2 financial report. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 7-0-0.

Approval of Expenses for the 2016 Capital Pride Parade

Commissioner Maltz moved to approve ANC expenses up to \$450 for the 2016 Capital Pride Parade. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverstein. Passed 7-0-0.

Adjournment

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:23 pm.