



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 9th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.
Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

The August 2017 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Nicole Mann at 6:59 pm.

The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Amy Johnson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Nick DelleDonne (2B04), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Nicole Mann (2B08), and Scott Davies (2B09).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Davies gave an update regarding the upcoming renovations to the Dupont Circle Resource Center. He said that the work contract has been signed and the work will begin immediately following the 17th Street Festival. He said that the contract agent for the project is Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets. He gave an overview of the project, as well as the large amount of use that the building experiences.

Commissioner Downs said that the next meeting of the ANC's Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee will be on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm at the Dupont Circle Resource Center, 9 Dupont Circle NW. He gave an overview of the current agenda for the meeting.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) recently released a new website for events taking place at DPR facilities (<http://dpr.events>). He said that the Mayor's office continues to prioritize the city's graffiti removal and rodent abatement efforts.

Update Regarding Recent Scott Circle Stormwater Flooding that Caused Damage in the Alley Adjacent to the General Scott Condominiums at 1 Scott Circle NW

Mr. Chapin said that there was a pump malfunction in the 16th Street NW underpass under Scott Circle during the recent rainstorm. He said that the malfunction created flooding in the underpass and some damage to a nearby alley. He added that, during the rainstorm, DC Water used

temporary pumps to pump out the water from the underpass. He said that any local residents who experienced property damaged can fill out a report on the DC Water claims page online (<https://www.dewater.com/claims>).

Commissioner Silverstein asked what the long-term fix for the underpass pump problems is. Mr. Chapin said that he has been told that the pumps are now working. He added that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will soon be carrying out a more thorough site evaluation.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items (Continued)

Mr. Chapin said that Mayor Bowser recently released her 30-month progress report.

Joe Florio, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office, said that the DC Council is currently not in session and that it will reconvene on September 15th. He said that the Councilmember's office is still open and able to assist with any community concerns.

Jenny Chang, a representative for the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens Home and School Association (HSA), gave an overview of the HSA's annual auction. She said that the event will take place on Saturday, October 21st at 5:30 pm at Squire Patton Boggs, 2550 M Street NW. She encouraged neighborhood businesses and organizations to sponsor the event.

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, thanked the ANC for sponsoring this year's 17th Street Festival. He said that the festival will take place from 12:00 to 6:00 pm on Saturday, August 26th. He said that the organization has also been working closely with the National Park Service to have the fountain in Dupont Circle turned back on.

Robin Diener, the President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), said that DCCA will be holding its 50th Annual Dupont Circle House Tour on Sunday, October 15th. She said that twenty houses are included in the tour this year and that the organization needs volunteers to help with the event.

Renée Moore, the Vision Zero Community Organizer for the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), said that she will be holding a Vision Zero walk along K Street NW on Thursday, August 23rd at 6:30 pm. She said that those interested in attending can meet her at the McPherson Square Metro Station. She encouraged community members to attend.

Kari Cunningham, the President of the Friends of Stead Park, said that the organization is working to finalize dates for the Department of General Services (DGS) to hold community comment sessions regarding the community's vision for a renovated Stead Park Recreation Center. She also thanked the community for its support during summer renovations at Ross Elementary School. She said that the renovations will be completed by the beginning of the school year

Announcement of Community Meeting Regarding Safeway's Alcoholic Beverage License Application on Monday, August 14th

Chair Mann announced that the ANC will hold a community meeting regarding Safeway's alcoholic beverage license application on Monday, August 14th at 7:00 pm in the ballroom of the Chastleton, 1701 16th Street NW. She said that the ANC will be hearing community comments during the meeting.

Update Regarding the Vacancy for Single Member District 2B07

Chair Mann said that the filing deadline for submitting petitions for the vacancy for single member district 2B07 is Monday, August 14th. She gave an overview of the timeline for filling the vacancy.

Report on the Mid-Year Check-In on the ANC's Goals and Objectives

Chair Mann said that the commissioners recently met to review the state of the ANC's published goals and objectives.

Commissioner Johnson gave an overview of the ANC's previous approval of mission and vision statements and goals and objectives. She said that the goals and objectives give an overview of areas where the ANC is focusing for fiscal years 2017-2018 and that commissioners had recently conducted a self-review of areas where the ANC is functioning well and areas where the ANC could improve, as well as where the ANC stands on implementing specific components. She invited community members to review the goals and objectives on the ANC website and to provide feedback by contacting their individual commissioner or all commissioners.

Chair Mann said that the ANC's intention is to revisit the goals and objectives in December 2017 or January 2018.

Presentation Regarding Pepco's Capital Grid Infrastructure Upgrade Project

Linda Greenan, the External Affairs Manager for Pepco, gave a visual presentation regarding Pepco's Capital Grid infrastructure upgrade project. She said that the project includes multiple substation additions or upgrades, and that a 10-mile transmission line will also be installed through the city in order to connect the substations.

Ms. Greenan said that the effects of the project on ANC 2B will be largely limited to district 2B09. She gave an overview of Pepco's overall grid for delivering energy to homes and businesses in DC. She said that Pepco currently obtains its electrical generation from power plants outside of the city and that electricity travels through a transmission system from the power plants into the city.

Ms. Greenan said that Pepco is planning for two different electricity delivery chains into DC that will supply electricity from the north and from the south and will thus create redundancy in the event of an emergency or power failure. She gave an overview of the transmission line construction schedule. She said that the project's work in Ward 2 will occur between the fall of 2020 and the winter of 2021.

Ms. Greenan said that Pepco will be providing ample community notice during construction times. She gave a visual presentation on the renderings for the new substation buildings.

Commissioner Downs said he would like Pepco to look at ways to increase the city's use of renewable energy sources in its electrical system.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Local 16 – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1600 U Street NW

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

ANC 2B protests Local 16's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 1600 U Street NW based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to the re-negotiation of the establishment's settlement agreement in order to allow for peaceful cohabitation with current neighbors.

Presentation Regarding Rewind's Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Nightclub License at 1219 Connecticut Avenue NW

Arman Amirshahi, a representative for Rewind, said that his team will be opening an establishment named Rewind in a space on the ground floor of 1219 Connecticut Avenue NW that was formerly occupied by a Thai restaurant. He said that the space is below Decades, which he also owns, and will feature a diner restaurant concept. He gave an overview of his plans for the establishment.

Chair Mann asked if Mr. Amirshahi had worked with the Golden Triangle BID's nightlife task force regarding various issues in ANC 2B's "club central district." Mr. Amirshahi said that his company has been working closely with the task force. He added that the company has been particularly focused on the designated Uber drop-off and pick-up zone concept.

Commissioner Warwick asked why Mr. Amirshahi was applying for a nightclub license for a diner concept. Mr. Amirshahi said that all of his establishments have nightclub licenses. He said that the space will have a door to the upstairs Decades space so the company thus wants to avoid any legal issues by also having a nightclub license for the ground floor space. He added that the company also wants the ability for the establishment to stay open later if needed.

Commissioner Johnson asked if a public space application for the establishment's planned outdoor space has been filed. Mr. Amirshahi said that the application has not yet been filed.

Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda

1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW – Application by the Commonwealth of Australia to Replace an Existing Chancery Use by Demolishing the Existing Australian Chancery Building and Replacing it with a New Chancery Building

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

WHEREAS, the Chancery of Australia has applied to renovate its embassy at 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has created an expedited Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment which encompasses public space, historic preservation, and zoning entitlements review for foreign missions,

WHEREAS, the renovation as proposed is within the confines of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports the zoning variance portion of the request, and notes that the floor area ratio of the proposed new building is 20% less than the existing floor area ratio,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that the current building is a non-contributing structure within the 16th Street Historic District and therefore has a lower preservation standard than contributing structures,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the current building is not a candidate for historic landmarking and is encouraged by the design of the proposed new construction,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B appreciates the applicant's attention to improving public space along Massachusetts Avenue and 16th Street NW, ANC 2B notes that the public space improvements along Massachusetts Avenue do not strictly conform to ANC 2B's public space guidelines, which request that sidewalks within our neighborhood have a width of at least ten feet and that there will be portions of the sidewalk along Massachusetts Avenue which will only be six feet in width,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B nevertheless supports the public space portion of the application because the applicant will be providing a car drop-off woonerf on its own property, inviting the public to walk on embassy grounds where the path is more than ten feet wide, and not on the six foot wide sidewalk, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B encourages the applicant to study and minimize the impact of glare from its facade as it relates to nearby residential buildings and traffic.

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

Public Space Committee Agenda

1250 Connecticut Avenue NW – Public Space Application by City Tap House for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 7 Tables and 28 Seats

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the public space application by City Tap House is requesting a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 28 seats,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that sidewalk cafes and outdoor restaurants are an important element in the urban ambiance and charm of the Dupont Circle community, while also promoting safety and economic development,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that public space use is a privilege, not a right,

WHEREAS, the proposed width of the sidewalk cafe meets the ANC's published Public Space Guidelines, which state that sidewalk cafes should allow for a minimum of ten feet of sidewalk clearance, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B demes that the location of the sidewalk cafe is in a nonresidential zone of the block, acknowledging that there are no residents within direct line sight of the sidewalk cafe and that the ambient noise from the sidewalk cafe will not have a negative effect on residents' peace and quiet.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B conditionally supports City Tap House's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe at 1250 Connecticut Ave NW based on the applicant's agreement to amend their public space application to state that the establishment will bring all sidewalk cafe furniture inside for storage when closing for business or at midnight, whichever occurs earlier each night.

1107 19th Street NW – Public Space Application by Dunkin Donuts for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 3 Tables, 12 Seats, and 3 Umbrellas

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

ANC 2B supports Dunkin Donuts' public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café with 3 tables, 12 seats, and 3 umbrellas at 1107 19th Street NW.

1900 M Street NW – Public Space Application by Rockrose Development for a New Curb Cut to Replace the Existing Curb Cut on the Property

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

ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of Rockrose Development's public space application for a new curb cut to replace the existing curb cut at 1900 M Street NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

1815 Q Street NW – Public Space Application by the Embassy of Argentina to Install a Brick Wall in the Rear of the Property

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

ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of the Embassy of Argentina's public space application to install a brick wall in the rear of the property at 1815 Q Street NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

1823 L Street NW – Public Space Application by Pisco y Nazca to Install a New Canopy Over an Existing Sidewalk Café

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter.
Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-1).
The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Pisco y Nazca's public space application to install a new canopy over an existing sidewalk cafe at 1823 L Street NW.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Stead Park Permit Application for the Washington Jewish Music Festival's Day in the Park Event on Saturday, October 7th, 2017

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC (DCJCC) and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) have requested the support of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B for a DPR permit to hold the Washington Jewish Music Festival's (WJMF) 5th Annual Day in the Park event in Stead Park on Saturday October 7th, 2017, with access from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm (permit request #41448),

WHEREAS, the Washington Jewish Music Festival's Day in the Park event is a two-part festival starting off with musical acts for young children and their families. WJMF, in partnership with the Edlavitch DCJCC Preschool, provides carnival games and activities, including face painting, balloon animals, and snow cones. The second half of the festival will feature musical acts for a young adult audience,

WHEREAS, the Washington Jewish Music Festival and the Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC are continuing users of Stead Park who provide important and popular cultural additions to our community, and

WHEREAS, the sponsors are experienced in managing this event and have presented plans that assure control of potential problems of concern to the neighboring community, for example with regards to noise levels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the permitting of Stead Park for the Washington Jewish Music Festival's Day in the Park Event on Saturday, October 7th, 2017.

Presentation and Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposal to Install a Contraflow Bus Lane on H Street NW and to Make Public Space Improvements, Including the Addition of Protected Bike Lanes, on Pennsylvania Avenue NW as Part of the District Department of Transportation's Downtown West Transportation Planning Study

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

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) proposes a contraflow bus lane on H Street NW between Pennsylvania Avenue and New York Avenue, and protected bike lanes on Pennsylvania Avenue between 17th Street and Washington Circle,

WHEREAS, 20% of bus trips in Downtown DC are along H Street and I Street NW, and this project would dramatically speed up these trips and trips throughout the District of Columbia,

WHEREAS, the increased speed of these bus trips will result in the same amount of bus service with fewer service hours, allowing DDOT to further expand bus service — including along the 14th Street and 16th Street corridors — with the reinvestment of these saved service hours,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B applauds DDOT for introducing innovative transportation improvements such as contraflow bus lanes and encourages continued mobility innovation District-wide and especially within ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that there are concerns from local businesses and hotels regarding loading zones and encourages DDOT to continue to work with these businesses to ameliorate concerns, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is proud to join groups such as the Coalition for Smarter Growth in supporting these critical infrastructure improvements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports DDOT's Downtown West Transportation Planning Study, and the recommended alternatives, as proposed.

Confirmation of Members for the ANC's Zoning, Preservation, and Development (ZPD) Committee and Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee

Commissioner Warwick moved to confirm Michael Beidler, Kathy Brookerce, and Constance Lai as members of the ANC's Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee.

Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Commissioner Downs moved to confirm Susan Volman, J. Alan Rueckgauer, and Thomas Hay as members of the ANC's Transportation and Public Infrastructure Committee. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Administrative Matters

Approval of the Regular July 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC's regular July 2017 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-2).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 3 Financial Report

Commissioner Maltz moved to approve the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 3 financial report.

Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Approval of Additional Expenditures for the ANC's Internet Contract with Verizon

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve an expenditure of \$878.66 to pay a past-due bill for the ANC's internet contract with Verizon for the Dupont Circle Resource Center. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0)

Adjournment

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 10:07 pm.