



# **GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

## **Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 13th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.  
Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

### **Call to Order**

The December 2017 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Nicole McEntee at 7:01 pm.

### **Introduction of Commissioners**

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), Kari Cunningham (2B07), Nicole McEntee (2B08), and Scott Davies (2B09).

### **Announcements and Public Comments**

#### **Recognition of the Brookings Institution for its Generous Donation of ANC Meeting Space Over the Past Eight Years**

Chair McEntee recognized the Brookings Institution for its generous donation of ANC meeting space over the past eight years. She presented a certificate of appreciation to Joe Clapper, the Director of Facilities Operations for the Brookings Institution.

Chair McEntee said that the ANC's 2018 meetings will be held at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies at 1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW, unless otherwise noted.

#### **Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Silverstein said that Commissioner Davies was not present for the last two months due to his deployment to Puerto Rico to assist with Hurricane Maria cleanup efforts. He thanked Commissioner Davies for his service.

Commissioner Silverstein said that Kevin Days, the George Washington University's Director of Community Relations, might be interested in having GW partner with the ANC to further study the business and community impacts of the 17th Street NW bike lane proposal.

Commissioner Silverstein said that the new Wawa at 1111 19th Street NW opens tomorrow.

Commissioner DelleDonne gave an overview of his concerns regarding how the ANC's vote to censure himself was handled. He gave an overview of a recent letter issued by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) which also raised concerns regarding how the ANC's vote was handled.

Multiple meeting attendees expressed concerns regarding how the ANC's vote to censure Commissioner DelleDonne was handled.

#### 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 Public Works' (DPW) leaf collection efforts are currently underway. He also encouraged local residents to apply for the Mayor's Private Security Camera Rebate Program.

Joe Florio, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that the DC Council hearing regarding proposed legislation to create a Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID) will take place on Monday, December 18th. He added that the Councilmember's Office will be closed on Friday, December 22nd for the holidays and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27th.

Susan Volman, a representative for the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), said that DCCA's annual Resolutions Party will take place on Monday, January 22nd.

Wendy Cadell, an inspector for DPW, said that local residents can contact her if they have any DPW-related issues in the neighborhood. She said that her email address is [wendy.cadell@dc.gov](mailto:wendy.cadell@dc.gov).

Commissioner Downs said that the fourth community engagement meeting for the Stead Park Recreation Center project will be on Monday, January 8th at 6:30 pm at Foundry United Methodist Church, 1500 16th Street NW.

#### Closeout of the Dupont Circle Resource Center Renovation Project

Commissioner Davies gave an overview of the Dupont Circle Resource Center renovation project. He said that the last time that the resource center was renovated was in 2001. He thanked Bill McLeod, Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, for his work on the project. He also thanked Monarc Construction, the project contractor, for its efforts to limit costs for the project.

The commission presented Mark Bellingham, a representative for Monarc Construction, with the final payment check for the project.

#### Presentation by John Harvey, a Local Resident, Regarding the Proposal for the Dupont Little Flea Market

John Harvey, a local resident, gave an overview of his proposal to create a Dupont Little Flea Market on public space adjacent to Diego's Hair Salon at 1901 Q Street NW. He said that the market would run somewhat parallel to the Dupont Circle Farmers Market. He said that any local resident would be able to sign up for a table each week. He added that 10% of sales would be donated to local organizations.

Commissioner Johnson said that she spoke with Matthew Marcou, the Associate Director of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Public Space Regulation Administration, regarding the types of permits that Mr. Harvey will need in order to stage the market. She said that it is currently unclear what types of permits will be needed.

Ms. Volman said that Mr. Harvey gave a presentation regarding the proposal at a recent DCCA meeting and that the meeting attendees were generally supportive of the proposal. She encouraged Mr. Harvey to encourage local residents who have items that are not appropriate for sale at the market to donate the items to local organizations or to recycle them.

Commissioner Warwick said that there was a possibility that the market could be located in the new "cap park" that will cover the Connecticut Avenue NW underpass just north of Dupont Circle.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda**

#### **Update Regarding the ANC's Signing of a Settlement Agreement with Safeway at 1701 Corcoran Street NW**

Commissioner Johnson said that the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board's order approving Safeway's license and the associated settlement agreement should be issued tomorrow. She gave an overview of the stipulations that were included in the settlement agreement, including limiting beer and wine sales to 9:00 am to 9:00 pm daily, limiting shelf space devoted to beer and wine to 281 square feet, and limiting where the beer and wine can be located in the store, as well as when it can be delivered to the store.

#### **Stipulated License Request by Capitale as Part of the Applicant's Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Nightclub License at 1730 M Street NW**

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

### **Public Space Committee Agenda**

#### **Public Space Application by MPTCC 888 Property LLC for Streetscape Work, Including Reduction of Existing Curb Cut, New Steps, Updates to Existing Globe Lights, and ADA Improvements, at 888 16th Street NW**

*Commissioner Warwick recused himself from voting on this matter.*

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

WHEREAS, the applicant at 888 16th Street NW proposes to occupy public space for the purpose of streetscape work, including reduction of an existing curb cut, new steps, updates to existing globe lights, and ADA improvements,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the current plans are an incredible improvement to the built environment along 16th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B wishes to commend the developer and architect for effectively incorporating greenery on their public space along 16th Street NW and hopes that more greenery will be proposed in developments in Dupont Circle.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the public space application for 888 16th Street NW as proposed.

Public Space Application by the General Services Administration for the Installation of Security Bollards at 717 Madison Place NW and 1520 H Street NW

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

WHEREAS, the applicant at 717 Madison Place NW and 1520 H Street NW proposes to occupy public space for the purpose of installing security bollards and streetscape work, including updates to curb and gutters, sidewalks, landscaping, and ADA improvements, and

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested that ANC 2B ask for a delay in the review of its application.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of the public space application for 717 Madison Place NW and 1520 H Street NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

**General Agenda**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2018 Season of the FRESHFARM Dupont Circle Market

Chair McEntee moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the 2018 season of FRESHFARM's Dupont Circle Market. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports FRESHFARM’s application for the renewal of its public space permit and for three reserved parking spaces in order to stage the 2018 Dupont Circle Farmers Market on Sundays on 20th Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue and Connecticut Avenue NW.

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the 2018 season of FRESHFARM’s White House Market. Chair McEntee seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports FRESHFARM Markets’ application for the renewal of its public space permit and for three reserved parking spaces in order to stage the 2018 White House Farmers Market on Vermont Avenue between H Street and I Street NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B22-0234 – the “Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2017”

Commissioner DelleDonne moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion. Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt two amendments to the proposed resolution. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion for amendments, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and did not pass (VOTES: 4-4-0).

Presentation by the Scottish Rite Temple Regarding Vacant Property on Lot 108

*Commissioner Warwick recused himself from voting on this matter.*

Commissioner DelleDonne moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion did not pass due to the lack of a second.

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

WHEREAS, there are bills before the DC Council regarding tax abatements for two locations in ANC 2B: the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (the Temple) at 1733 16th Street NW (DC Council Bill 22-0361) and 1320 Penelope LLC (the Penelope Hotel) at 1337 Connecticut Avenue NW (DC Council Bill 22-0592),

WHEREAS, both pro-business and progressive groups agree that tax abatements can be an effective tool in urban planning, helping to jump-start development in struggling areas, helping to offset developers’ infrastructure improvement costs in major projects, or providing affordable housing or other amenities,

WHEREAS, tax abatements also shift the tax burden to those who do pay taxes,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B generally believes that tax abatements should be denied unless the applicant can show a demonstrable public good or quantifiable provision of affordable housing or other such amenities beyond the minimum legally required,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that there should be a process in place for determining the need and benefits of proposed tax abatements,

WHEREAS, the DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer has deemed the proposed tax abatement for the Masonic Temple “not necessary” with an analysis outlining alternative financing methods, and is expected to issue an analysis for the Penelope Hotel, and

WHEREAS, the applications for tax abatements by the Masonic Temple and the proposed Penelope Hotel do not meet the minimum standards of public amenities or public good to offset the loss of tax revenue for ANC 2B support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B opposes the tax abatements for the Masonic Temple on 16th Street NW and for the proposed Penelope Hotel on Connecticut Avenue NW.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Tax Abatements as a Public Policy Tool

*Commissioner Warwick recused himself from voting on this matter.*

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter.

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is aware of several proposals for tax abatements within the Dupont Circle neighborhood and across the District,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is generally skeptical of tax abatements as a public policy tool because these tax expenditures keep money from the General Fund,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that tax abatements may be acceptable policy when providing financing potential for large amounts of affordable housing and temporary financing when moving federal land onto the tax rolls,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that the DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) reviews the fiscal impact of proposed legislation, including proposed tax abatements,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B urges the OCFO to approach tax abatements with extreme skepticism, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B additionally urges the DC Council to grant great weight to determinations of the OCFO opposing tax abatements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the DC Council to oppose tax abatements that cannot be independently substantiated and validated to provide a public benefit.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B22-0275 – the “Making Rodent Syndicates Flee Restaurants, Interior Settings, Basements and Yards Amendment Act of 2017”

Commissioner Cunningham moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the restaurants and establishments in ANC 2B contribute significantly to the trash generated in the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the lack of proper trash containment practices and/or a rodent prevention plan are known to contribute to an environment where rodents may thrive,

WHEREAS, the lack of action on the part of businesses to systematically handle grease, solid waste, and rodents may negatively impact the quality of life of the residents of Dupont Circle, and

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle has witnessed an increasing number of complaints in reference to rodents, requiring intervention by Department of Health and Department of Public Works officials, including fines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the passage of DC Council Bill B22-0275 – the “Making Rodent Syndicates Flee Restaurants, Interior Settings, Basements, and Yards Amendment Act of 2017.”

**Administrative Matters**

Approval of the Regular November 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC’s regular November 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Election of an Election Chair for the ANC’s January 2018 Meeting

Chair McEntee moved to elect Commissioner Maltz as the Election Chair and Commissioner Johnson as the Alternate Election Chair for the ANC’s January 2018 meeting. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

**Adjournment**

Chair McEntee adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.