



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

The February 2017 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: Amy Johnson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), John Kupcinski (2B07), and Nicole Mann (2B08).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Maltz gave an overview of the upcoming school enrollment deadline for MySchoolDC. She encouraged attendees to attend the State Board of Education's upcoming meetings regarding DC's response to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Commissioner Kupcinski said that the demolition process has started on the St. Thomas Church development project. He said that the project's construction timeline is approximately 24 months, with demolition and excavation themselves being approximately three months. He said that he has asked the developer to come to the March ANC meeting to provide an update regarding the project.

Chair Mann thanked Dupont Festival for their work in organizing the annual Groundhog Day celebration in Dupont Circle.

Commissioner Downs said that the Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee will be meeting next Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 pm at the Dupont Circle Resource Center, 9 Dupont Circle NW. He said that the committee will be discussing a proposal for express bus service on 14th Street NW and will continue to work on finalizing the committee's goals and objectives. He also said that funding for the modernization of the Stead Park Recreation Center remains in FY 2019 budget and that the Friends of Stead Park is working to expedite the modernization.

Commissioner Warwick said that the ANC is working with Councilmember Evans, the Department of Energy and Environment, and the Office of the Attorney General regarding the legal options related to the closure of the Embassy Gulf Service Center at 2200 P Street NW.

Introduction of Candidates for the Single Member District 2B04 Vacancy

The candidates for single member district 2B04 gave quick introductions.

Update Regarding the Carlyle Hotel

A local resident from district 2B03 gave an overview of the current status of the neighborhood's ongoing concerns with the operations of the Carlyle Hotel. He said that, as of two months ago, the hotel is up for sale. He said that the sale is disappointing because the hotel management previously promised that they would remain in the neighborhood for the long-term. He said that his neighbors are hoping that the new hotel ownership will work with the community and will uphold the agreements that the previous hotel ownership made.

Commissioner Maltz gave an overview of the agreements that the previous ownership had made. The local resident said that the previous ownership, Kimpton Hotels, had been great at addressing concerns regarding the traffic problems created by the hotel's valet service.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Item

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), encouraged meeting attendees to continue to use 311 when there are any issues to report. He said that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is working hard to pick up the remaining holiday trees in the neighborhood. He encouraged attendees to report the locations of any trees directly to him. Lastly, he encouraged meeting attendees to attend the Mayor's upcoming budget engagement hearings for the city's FY 2018 budget.

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office, said that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has selected a construction and engineering firm to start the planning process for the proposed park spanning the Connecticut Avenue underpass on the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW. He said that DDOT would like to attend an upcoming ANC meeting to talk about the plans for the park. He also encouraged meeting attendees to testify at the DC Council's upcoming agency oversight hearings.

Robin Diener, the president of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, encouraged meeting attendees to volunteer for DCCA's annual house tour. She also encouraged meeting attendees to attend the Mayor's upcoming budget engagement forums.

Kari Cunningham, the president of the Friends of Stead Park, thanked Mr. Chapin for his work on prompting DDOT to repave the Church Street NW alley next to the park. She said that the Friends of Stead Park board members will soon be testifying before the DC Council regarding the need to expedite the renovation of the Stead Park Recreation Center.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Discussion Regarding the Upcoming License Application for the Safeway at 1701 Corcoran Street NW

Shawn Dekker, Construction Manager for Safeway; Tom Lofland, the Vice President of Marketing and Merchandising for Safeway; and Brad Spooner, the Vice President of Operations for Safeway, were present. Mr. Dekker gave an overview of Safeway's proposed renovation plans for the store at

1701 Corcoran Street NW. He said that more self-checkout registers will be added, along with more fresh produce and an expanded natural and organic product selection.

Mr. Dekker said that the construction process will be approximately six weeks and that most construction will be take place overnight. He gave an overview of the floorplans for the new store. He said that Safeway's motivation is to make the store a one-stop shop and to better match the needs of the community. He added that the proposed alcohol selection will go where the greeting cards are currently located in the front of the store. He said that Safeway is proposing to install taller shelves in the produce area to accommodate more products.

Commissioner Warwick said that he would be interested in Safeway carrying out a complete remodel of the store with housing built on top of the store. Mr. Dekker said that Safeway currently leases the store property so they are unable to build on top of the store.

Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda

1514 T Street NW – Concept / Third Floor Addition and Rear Roof Deck

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

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is within the confines of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B and the Strivers' Section Historic District,

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes a third story addition to their existing rowhouse,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates that the applicant voluntarily set back their addition farther back than a recent third story addition at 1520 T Street NW, as well as the applicant's lack of a front deck,

WHEREAS, the project as proposed does not expand the footprint of the building,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests a flag test to determine if the proposed addition is visible from the street, and

WHEREAS, while there are immediate neighbor concerns regarding the viability of construction, including building on party walls, ANC 2B believes that these concerns can be resolved with further communication among the applicant and neighbors before the project files for permitting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project on the condition that the addition is not visible from the street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the Historic Preservation Office schedule a flag test before the applicable HPRB hearing.

1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW – Concept / Public Space Alterations and Construction

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

WHEREAS, the applicant at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW proposes to improve the exterior streetscape and public space along its 19th Street NW side between Dupont Circle and Q Street NW in conjunction with a renovation of its restaurant,

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B and the Dupont Circle Historic District,

WHEREAS, the applicant is the Dupont Circle Hotel, which has a strong history of community involvement and support of the Dupont Circle community,

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the project, the applicant proposes to improve the streetscape along 19th Street NW by replacing dying trees, adding hedges, and expanding tree boxes,

WHEREAS, the project proposes to expand the currently-existing patio space farther north towards Q Street NW than currently exists,

WHEREAS, there is a currently-existing enclosed sidewalk cafe on the public space of the premises,

WHEREAS, across 19th Street NW from the proposed streetscape and public space improvements are the dumpsters for businesses fronting the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW and the enclosed and unenclosed sidewalk cafes of Kramerbooks and Rakuya, which protrude much farther into the sidewalk than the currently-existing enclosed sidewalk cafe on the applicant's premises,

WHEREAS, the project proposes to add new fixed retractable awnings to the unenclosed sidewalk cafe, with the retractable awnings going to the sidewalk rather than stopping at the current extent of the existing enclosed sidewalk cafe,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B has a history of opposing new enclosed sidewalk cafes which go past the farthest extent of the currently existing viewshed, ANC 2B believes that the 1500 block of 19th Street NW is unique in its presence of large enclosed sidewalk cafes, a currently existing hotel which spans the entire block, and the back door atmosphere of 19th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B would typically not support a project similar to the one proposed by the applicant and would not support full-time awnings on the unenclosed sidewalk cafes, ANC 2B believes that the proposed retractable awnings will help balance the current public space by adding more character to the street level of the building and will enhance the pedestrian experience of this block of 19th Street NW.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project as proposed contingent on the unique built environment of the 1500 block of 19th Street NW and the applicant's improvement of the treeboxes along the streetscape.

Public Space Committee Agenda

1700 M Street NW – Application for Streetscape Improvements, Including New ADA Curb Ramp; Driveway, Sidewalk, and Alley Paving; and Bike Rack Installation

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

ANC 2B supports Vornado Realty Trust's public space application for streetscape improvements at 1700 M Street NW based on the proposed installation of new bike racks, the use of native plants as part of the landscaping, the beautification of sidewalks in the neighborhood, and the creation of a micro-park on the property.

1407 T Street NW – Application by Ice Cream Jubilee for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 3 Tables and 6 Seats

Chair Mann 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:

WHEREAS, Ice Cream Jubilee opened at 1407 T Street NW in 2016 and is a welcome addition to the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the plans for the use of public space are consistent with adjoining sidewalk cafes at 1409 and 1401 T Street NW,

WHEREAS, the plans call for only three tables and six chairs,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests that the movable outdoor seating be moved inside at 11:00 pm Sunday through Thursday and at 12:00 am midnight on Friday and Saturday evenings,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests that Ice Cream Jubilee brings the planters identified in the Stop Work Order #703703 issued on October 8, 2016 into compliance with District Department of Transportation public space rules and be included in the public space application, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B would support an amendment to the public space application to include umbrellas as part of the movable outdoor seating.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the public space application by Ice Cream Jubilee at 1407 T Street NW.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Negative Effects of DDOT's Proposed LED Streetlight Installations

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

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, and the Office of Public-Private Partnerships are in the process of a request for qualifications for the replacement of streetlights as part of the Smart City Initiative,

WHEREAS, lighting is very important to our neighborhood, especially in our mixed-use corridors and entertainment areas such as the section of Connecticut Avenue NW between Farragut Square and Dupont Circle, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that there is neighborhood concern, including from the Lighting Task Force, on the impact of warm LED streetlights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the District Department of Transportation and the Office of Public-Private Partnerships include impacts of different technologies, including color temperature and kind of light, as part of their request for qualifications process for a citywide replacement of streetlights as part of their Smart City Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the District Department of Transportation and the Office of Public-Private Partnerships research and restore the historic streetlight lanterns as part of this request for qualifications process.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Historic Dupont Main Streets' Request to Close 17th Street NW from P Street to R Street for the 17th Street Festival on Saturday, August 26th

Commissioner Mertz moved to support Historic Dupont Main Streets' special event application for the 2017 17th Street Festival. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets' special event application to shut down 17th Street NW between P Street and R Street in order to stage the annual 17th Street Festival on Saturday, August 26th, 2017.

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting Funding for the Expansion of the 14th Street and U Street NW "Clean Team"

Chair Mann moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0-3). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, members of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B and the community are requesting that the Mayor and DC Council secure funding to expand the 14th & U Street “Clean Team” from 14th Street and U Street NW to Thomas Circle NW,

WHEREAS, the 14th & U Street “Clean Team” has the ability to provide the Dupont Circle community and the vibrant 14th Street NW corridor with much needed sanitation services,

WHEREAS, the formation status of the Mid-City BID, which would otherwise address the requested sanitation services, is now entering into its second year and has been significantly delayed, and

WHEREAS, the DC Department of Small and Local Businesses Development, which administers the city’s “Clean Team” program, would require an additional \$25,000 in funding in their FY 2018 budget in order to expand the 14th & U Street “Clean Team”.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B, in fulfilling its mission to improve the livability of our neighborhood and surrounding commercial corridors, requests \$25,000 in additional FY 2018 funding to be allotted to the 14th & U Street “Clean Team” so that it can expand its service and coverage area from U Street NW along the 14th Street NW corridor south to Thomas Circle NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a DC Council Proposal to Create a Carbon Pricing System in DC

Julie Hantman, a representative for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, gave an overview of an upcoming DC Council proposal to create a carbon pricing system in DC.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the Regular January 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chair Mann moved to approve the regular January 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC’s FY 2017 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Commissioner Maltz moved to approve the ANC’s FY 2017 Quarter 1 financial report. Chair Mann seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:22 pm.