

ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, Brookings Institution

March 2013 Minutes

The March Regular Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chairman Stephens at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Mike Feldstein (2B01), Kevin O'Connor (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Kishan Putta (2B04), Will Stephens (2B08), and Noah Smith (2B09). Commissioner Silverstein (2B06) expected for late arrival due to his duties on the ABC Board and Leo Dwyer (2B07) out sick. The Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

Minutes/Calendar

Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve February 2013 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. Passed 6-0.

Public Announcements

1. Commissioner Stephens announced that ANC2B seeking interns. Deadline for applications is 3/15/13.
2. Freddie Bulger from the Mayor's office announced the Mayor's Ward 2 Budget Town Hall meeting on 4/20/13. Commissioner Stephens moved to co-sponsor. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Passed 6-0.
3. Commissioner Putta announced the At-large Candidates Forum (co-sponsored by ANC 2B) scheduled for 3/26/13 at St. Stephen Martyr (25th & Penn).
4. Representatives from Capital Pride Parade announced the event for 6/8/13 and requested a letter of support from the ANC for any permitting or approvals necessary. Commissioner O'Connor read resolution of support. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. Passed 6-0. Commissioner Feldstein moved to approve a car rental for no more than \$200. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens. Passed 6-0.
5. Michelle Grossman announced the Ross School Auction – 3/23/13 5pm-8pm at German Marshall Building
6. Representatives from the Jewish Community Center announced the JCC Music Day in Stead Park – 5/5/13. Commissioner Putta moved a resolution of support. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 6-0.
7. Stonewall Kickball All-Star event (5/4/13) and Dragball event (6/2/13) in Stead Park. No one was present to announce this event. Tabled until April.
8. Out of Darkness Overnight Walk (Amer. Foundation for Suicide Prevention) 6/1/13-6/2/13. No one was present to announce this event. Tabled until April.
9. Commissioner O'Connor announced a "Listening Session" on 14th & U moratorium at Thurgood Marshall Center on 3/20/13 at 7pm.
10. Commissioner Smith announced that there has been an issue of the misuse of the T St park by dog-owners. People are letting their dogs play and run around at T St Park instead of the S St Park where dogs are allowed. Commissioner Smith proposed putting up a sign saying "No Dogs" and moved to spend no more than \$100 on a sign. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 6-0.
11. Commissioner Maltz introduced Lt. Porter (MPD) from Police Service Area 208, who gave brief synopsis on updates and details relating to crimes in and around Dupont Circle.
12. Commissioner Feldstein announced that the next Community Involvement Committee meeting will be on 3/18/13 at Resource Center.
13. Representatives from John Hopkins University provided information about the SAIS outreach program to get involved in the community.
14. Ruth Werner from Jack Evans Office announced that there will be assistance for tax-related information & updates on 3/28/13 from 12pm-5pm at MLK library.

15. Rob Halligan with Dupont Circle Main Streets announced that they have received funding and hiring an Executive Director and building up committees and boards.

16. Francis-Stevens School representatives requested a representative from ANC 2B to be a point person for support. Commissioner Silverstein was suggested as the point person, as Francis-Stevens lies within 2B06. There was no objection.

17. Gottlieb Simon of the Office of ANCs announced the special election for the vacancy in 2B05 beginning at 7:15pm and running until 9:30pm. Mr. Simon showed an empty ballot box and sealed it in view of the public, with the assistance of Commissioner Feldstein.

General

Consideration of ANC action on 16th Street bus routes

Commissioner Putta read the following resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed 5-0-1, with Commissioner O'Connor abstaining.

WHEREAS the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (the Commission) has received many comments from residents expressing concerns about the 16th Street bus lines (S1, S2, S4, S9), which have the most riders of any route in the District;

WHEREAS most resident comments concerned morning rush hour crowding issues and delayed commutes, though several residents also had other concerns;

WHEREAS the Commission held two community meetings in January 2013 and February 2013 between residents and the bus planners of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration (WMATA) and invited other ANCs bordering 16th Street;

WHEREAS WMATA, at the February 20 community meeting, proposed two options for creating a new morning-rush-hour-only route to address the morning rush hour crowding issues and has spent several weeks testing different options and has now proposed a final plan.

AND WHEREAS this plan is meant to be a first step toward broader solutions for commuters along 16th Street;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission supports WMATA's and DDOT's efforts to address the crowding issues with the following specific recommendations:

1. WMATA, in deciding which route option to implement should carefully weigh community input, should notify the public and the Commission before implementation, and should make clear to the public that the chosen route will be monitored closely – and could be updated and expanded in the future as determined by analysis of ridership and schedule data.

2. To minimize disruption, any layover parking spaces created by the Department of Transportation on U Street, V Street, or Euclid Street for buses serving the chosen morning rush hour route option, should only prohibit residential parking during the hours that the route is in operation (morning rush hour).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission also recommends WMATA confirm its plans to implement a headway initiative to regulate the flow of 16th street buses next year, as stated at the February 20 community meeting.

The Commission also recommends that, next year, WMATA address other resident concerns with 16th Street buses including:

- 1. More and larger (60-footer articulated) S1 buses and rush hour Federal Triangle buses;*
- 2. Consider resuming a route with a destination closer to the National Archives and/or Penn Quarter.*
- 3. Consider lowering the volume of announcements made by bus speakers at stops.*

The Commission also recommends that, as WMATA's Northern and Western garages (which serve routes in NW DC) are both over 75 years old, the city should make it a priority to replace these garages with modern facilities capable of fully accommodating larger (articulated) and newer buses that will improve service city-wide.

Therefore the ANC supports Metro's service plan proposed tonight 3/13/13.

Consideration of Resolution in Support of the Bicycle Safety Amendment Act of 2013

Commissioner Smith read the following resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Putta and passed 6-0.

WHEREAS Councilmembers Cheh and Wells have introduced the "Bicycle Safety Amendment Act of 2013"; and

WHEREAS the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) released a report in February 2013 analyzing bicycle and pedestrian crash records for the last two years, which concluded that the intersections of 14th & U Streets NW and 16th Street & New Hampshire Ave NW are among the most dangerous for bicyclists in the city; and

WHEREAS the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) held a public listening session on June 20, 2012 and heard from the community about issues broadly concerning pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS ANC 2B also held a public listening session on September 27, 2012 in conjunction with Logan Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2F) where it heard from the community about issues concerning bicycle lanes, signage, bicycling on sidewalks, and pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS there are several ongoing and planned major construction projects in and around ANC 2B that require blocking a sidewalk, bicycle lane, or other pedestrian or bicycle path; and

WHEREAS ANC 2B values its strong relationships with the Metropolitan Police Department, the District Department of Transportation, ANC 2F, the Executive Office of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association; and

WHEREAS ANC 2B appreciates the initiative and commitment of Councilmembers Cheh and Wells to protecting vulnerable road users in the District;

BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the passage of the "Bicycle Safety Amendment Act of 2013" with the following recommendations:

- 1. New laws governing the actions of drivers and bicyclists are only effective if properly enforced; the City Council must fund and direct the Metropolitan Police Department to increase traffic enforcement efforts as part of the normal duties of all of its officers and increase ongoing traffic enforcement training.*

2. *The City Council must include language in the law that more clearly defines the term “safe accommodation” as it relates to the proposed requirement for construction projects blocking sidewalks and bicycle lanes. More clarity is important to avoid unintended regulatory flexibility that could result in unsafe accommodations. That definition must include requirements to protect and cover pedestrians and that the accommodations not be unduly burdensome.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B encourages the City Council to continue its work to protect road users, particularly pedestrians, by implementing safety programming through new infrastructure, education and enforcement campaigns.

Regulatory

Historic Preservation & Zoning Applications

Application to Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for concept design approval for rear addition to three story rowhouse at 1823 S Street NW to enable four condo units. Architect John Linam to present. Hearing 4/28/13 (2B01)

Commissioner Stephens, on behalf of the Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee, read the following proposed resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Feldstein and passed 6-0.

ANC 2B supports the project as presented, with the below conditions, because the project request is reasonable and the massing is appropriate in its context on the block.

ANC 2B’s conditions for support are as follows: (1) the electric and gas meters should not be visible from public space; (2) the roof mechanical system shall not be visible from public space; and (3) the applicant continues its outreach to neighbors.

Application to Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for zoning variance at 1726 18th Street NW. Hearing 4/4/2013 (2B01)

Commissioner Stephenson behalf of the Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee, read the following proposed resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Feldstein and passed 6-0.

ANC 2B supports the proposed 3rd floor rear bay because of (1) the minimal increase in FAR, (2) the bay will only be visible in a limited way, (3) the bay will not affect light into neighboring structures, (4) the building is already non-conforming at 100% lot coverage, and (5) the addition of the bay will not affect lot coverage.

ANC 2B supports the proposed roof deck on condition that there will be no railing.

ANC 2B notes that we cannot consider nor have we passed upon historic preservation matters at this time until an application to HPRB is filed. We look forward to reviewing the HPRB application at the appropriate time. Prior to considering the HPRB application, the ANC asks for photo evidence of the planned flag test for the rooftop.

Public Space Applications

DDOT public space sidewalk cafe application (Tracking #78877) for Noodles & Co., 1667 K Street NW. Hearing 3/28/13 (2B05)

Commissioner Stephens moved to support on the understanding that fencing is removable. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 7-0.

DDOT public space application for Freshfarm Market, Vermont Ave NW (White House) (2B05)

Commissioner Stephens moved to support permit application and blocking of H St. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 7-0.

DDOT public space sidewalk cafe (tracking #79670) for 1506 19th St NW (2B03)

Commissioner Maltz moved to support the application, but not for 24 hours, but only hours through 1am during the week & 2am on the weekend. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Passed 7-0.

Committee & Liaison Reports

Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee

1. Nomination & approval of committee members. Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve the following nominees to be additional members of the committee (along with Commissioner Dwyer and Commissioner Maltz): Michael Beidler, Bob Meehan, John Jedzinak, Bevan Mace, David Alpert, Robert Sockwell, Joe Spector, Chris Furlong, and Jessica Morse. Commissioner Stephens seconded. Passed 7-0.

2. Next Meeting: Tuesday 4/2/13 7pm at the Resource Center

Community Involvement Committee

1. Next meeting 3/18/13

2. Commissioner Feldstein moved to recruit a member of the SAIS Community Outreach Program to join the committee. Commissioner Stephens seconded. Commissioners noted that the Commission has other committee seats for institutional designees rather than specific individuals, such as a DCCA designee on the ABRA Policy Committee. Passed 7-0.

3. Grants policies and procedures: Commissioners Feldstein and Stephens handed out a full draft of the proposed grants policies and procedures for ANC 2B. The Committee will discuss them at the April Committee meeting and provide a final draft for ANC consideration.

ABRA Policy Committee

1. Commissioner O'Connor clarified that with respect to Growler sales, stores must placard if they don't already have single sales exemption

2. Model Settlement Agreement (formerly "Voluntary Agreement") is up on the website – sets standardized language and suggested discussion points to help neighbors, Commissioners, applicants, and other stakeholders generate a Settlement Agreement.

3. ABRA Policy Committee web page: Commissioner Stephens announced that Commissioner O'Connor had drafted a web page for the ABRA Policy Committee, which is now live on the Commission's public website.

Public Safety Liaisons

Commissioner Putta debriefed the Commission on the meeting with DDOT about the repaving of the 15th street bike lane.

Closure of Special Election Poll

Commissioner Stephens and Mr. Simon announced at 9:30pm that the polls for the 2B05 special election were now closed. Anyone in line may still vote.

Short Reports on Old Business

NU = No Update

1. 1751 18th Street: zoning variance (2B01) Approved
2. Glen's Garden Market: sidewalk cafe (2B01) Approved
3. Art Jamz: CX license (2B01) Pending
4. James Hobans: VA amendment (2B02) Pending
5. 1200 17th Street NW: pavers & benches (2B05) Voluntarily delayed by one month
6. Catch 15: new CT license (2B05) Pending
7. Bean & Bite: sidewalk cafe (2B05) Approved
8. Third Church: curb cut (2B05) Approved
9. Amorini Panini: sidewalk cafe (2B06) NU
10. Camelot: additional valet parking days (2B06) Approved
11. Boloco: DDOT sidewalk cafe (2B06) Approved
12. Kabin: new CT license (2B07) NU
13. 1337 Conn Ave NW: HPRB concept design (2B07) NU
14. The Gryphon: new license (2B07) NU
15. Kabab-ji: entertainment endorsement (2B07) NU
16. Golden Brown & Delicious: new CR license (2B07) Signed settlement agreement
17. Lauriol Plaza: valet parking (2B08) Approved
18. Resource Center (Stephens/Feldstein) In process of approving renovations, moved the Main Streets "Clean Team" trash canister storage to a different location away from the door; WiFi turned back on and available for public use (with password DupontRules)
19. Schools Consolidation: Commissioner Silverstein read the following resolution of reiterated support for Francis Stevens school merger. Seconded by Commissioner Putta. Passed 7-0.

ANC 2B reaffirms its support for the DCPS plan to merge School Without Walls with Francis Stevens Educational Campus to create School Without Walls at FSEC, to maintain a public education option for parents in the West End and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods.

20. Libraries: Commissioner Maltz read the following resolution to reaffirm support for citizen task force for MLK central library. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens. Passed 7-0.

WHEREAS, District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL) are a valued and important part of the quality of life for District residents;

WHEREAS, Public libraries should be designed to meet the needs of the residents, to ensure they contain the resources to meet the needs of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, ANC's are the elected bodies closest to the local communities; and

WHEREAS, A Citizen Task Force that provides a transparent public process would help ensure that decisions about the future of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library adequately reflect the needs of residents and library users.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B urges Mayor Grey and the City Council to convene a "Citizen Task Force on the Future of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library" as soon as feasible and before undertaking any decisions with regard to the projected "transformation" of the central library; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANCs shall be duly represented on the Task Force.

Administrative/Financial Matters

Commissioner Stephens moved to amend budget to add landline expense of \$30/month for Verizon and \$5 additional/month for cleaning. The landline is needed in order to have DSL service. The cleaning service rates increased by \$5 for 2013. Commissioner Maltz seconded. Passed 6-0.

Commissioner Maltz reported that the Commission's quarterly allotment was received this month. Current balance is \$77,606.29 and FY 2013 First Quarter report submitted.

Commissioner Stephens passed out updated policy & procedures manual for review and comment. The new draft includes, for the first time, discussion of policies (alcohol, historic preservation, public space, zoning, etc.) in addition to Commissioner procedures and represents the first full draft manual.

Announcement of winner of 2B05 Special Election

Commissioner Stephens announced that Abigail Nichols won the special election for 2B05 by a vote of 34-12. Commissioner Stephens moved to certify to the Board of Elections and Ethics the election of Abigail Nichols as the newest Commissioner. Seconded by Commissioner Feldstein. Passed 7-0.

Adjournment (9:57pm)