



# **GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 13th, 2018; 7:00 p.m.  
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies  
1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW

### **Call to Order**

The June 2018 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Daniel Warwick 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), Beverly Schwartz (2B08), and Scott Davies (2B09).

### **Announcements and Public Comments**

#### **Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Johnson encouraged local residents to vote in DC's upcoming primary election on Tuesday, June 19th. She said that Voting Precinct 14 has moved to the Woman's National Democratic Club at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW for the election.

Commissioner Johnson said that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will be holding a public meeting regarding WMATA's proposed changes to Metrobus routes L1 and L2 on Wednesday, June 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the University of the District of Columbia Law School, 4340 Connecticut Avenue NW, Room 515. She added that there will also be a public meeting regarding WMATA's proposed changes to Metrobus routes 42 and 43 on Thursday, June 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Columbia Heights Community Center, 1480 Girard Street NW.

Commissioner Silverstein said that he recently received a letter of thanks from Jake Bain and Hunter Sigmund regarding the ANC's invitation for them to serve as ANC 2B's honorees for the 2018 Capital Pride Parade. He read the letter aloud.

Chair Warwick said that anyone who is interested in running to be an ANC Commissioner can pick up petitions beginning on Monday, July 9th at the DC Board of Elections, 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750. He said that anyone who is interested in running needs to collect signatures from

at least 25 registered voters in their respective single member district (SMD) in order to qualify to be on the ballot.

Commissioner DelleDonne said that he held a community meeting with 17th Street NW business owners on Friday, June 1st. He said that the meeting focused on the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) proposal to install a two-way cycletrack on 17th Street NW. He said that a representative from DDOT was present to give a presentation regarding the proposal.

#### Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Susan Volman, a board member for the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), encouraged local residents to volunteer for their houses to be featured as part of DCCA's 2018 Dupont Circle House Tour.

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, said that the organization is working hard on the planning activities for the 2018 17th Street Festival, which will take place on Saturday, August 25th.

Dennis Mitchell, a Development Manager for OTO Development, the developer for the AC Hotel by Marriott at 1112 19th Street NW, said that hotel construction is currently underway. He said that construction activities will move above ground sometime between now and December. He said that increased construction traffic will also begin to occur adjacent to the construction site. He added that there will be upcoming weekend street closures on the 1100 block of 19th Street NW in order to assemble the crane on the construction site.

Romney Makle, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that thefts from vehicles have increased across the city. He encouraged local residents to take advantage of DC's Private Security Camera Rebate Program, which provides rebates to local residents who install a security camera on their home. He added that Mayor Bowser recently participated in the Capitals Victory Parade and the 2018 Capital Pride Parade.

#### Public Space Committee Agenda

##### Public Space Application by the Golden Triangle BID to Install Additional Rain Gardens Along 19th Street Between K Street and M Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Golden Triangle BID seeks to improve the streetscape along 19th Street NW between K Street and M Street NW by installing additional rain gardens,

WHEREAS, the rain gardens will be 10 feet wide and will maintain at least 20 feet of pedestrian walkway along 19th Street, providing space for other users of the heavily-trafficked sidewalk,

WHEREAS, the Golden Triangle BID received a grant from the Department of Energy and Environment to install the rain gardens,

WHEREAS, a rain garden is a shallow depression landscaped with plants and designed to catch rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as roadways, sidewalks, and driveways, and

WHEREAS, if appropriately designed, some benefits of rain gardens include:

- Keeping pollutants from reaching local waterways,
- Reducing flooding problems,
- Providing habitat for beneficial birds and insects,
- Refreshing local groundwater,
- Using low-maintenance landscaping with no need for chemicals, and
- Creating an attractive and creative landscaping piece.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Golden Triangle BID's public space application to install additional rain gardens along 19th Street between K Street and M Street NW.

Public Space Application by Brick Lane Restaurant to Convert an Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café to an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at 1636 17th Street NW

Commissioner Maltz moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B has an understanding that Brick Lane Restaurant's public space application to convert an un-enclosed sidewalk café to an enclosed sidewalk café at 1636 17th Street NW will be removed from the agenda for the Public Space Committee's June 2018 meeting, however, if the application is not removed from the agenda then ANC 2B and the applicant jointly request a 30-day delay of the consideration of the application.

**General Agenda**

Approval of Expenditures in Support of the 17th Street Festival on Saturday, August 25th, 2018

Chair Warwick moved to approve up to \$2,000 in expenditures for the rental of porta potties for the 2018 17th Street Festival, pending approval of the expense by Gottlieb Simon, the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Special Event Application for the High Heel Race on Tuesday, October 30th, 2018

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the High Heel Race on 17th Street NW is held each year on the Tuesday before Halloween and takes place entirely within the boundaries of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, the High Heel Race brings many thousands of visitors to our neighborhood in the spirit of good fun, excitement, and camaraderie, and

WHEREAS, the High Heel Race is a great benefit to the independently owned businesses along the 17th Street NW corridor and the rest of Dupont Circle, and brings tens of thousands of dollars in tax revenue to the District of Columbia.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B enthusiastically supports the annual 17th Street NW High Heel Race and its special event application for Tuesday, October 30th, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports all permit applications and requests for waivers of fees for the event.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Chair Warwick moved to make an amendment to the proposed resolution regarding the removal of language about a request to uncouple the deck-over park itself from the "piazza" proposal for the overall space. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion on the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Connecticut Avenue NW is an arterial road of vital importance to the District, and to Dupont Circle and ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, in 1949 the District created the Dupont Circle underpass and underground to improve safety and service of the streetcars running on Connecticut Avenue, and to alleviate chronic congestion of motor vehicle traffic on the circle's surface streets,

WHEREAS, when streetcar service ceased in 1962 the Dupont Circle underpass was converted to a motor vehicle bypass of the circle, while the curbside lanes continued to serve the businesses on the block and funnel local vehicles into and out of the circle,

WHEREAS, the aesthetics and potential neighborhood use of the at-grade area were not considerations until after Metrorail's Dupont Circle station was constructed and Dupont Circle's "renaissance" as a significant destination and thriving community came to fruition during the 1980s,

WHEREAS, the blank space above the underpass in the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue between Dupont Circle and Q Street NW is an unsightly, wasteful barrier confronting pedestrians and businesses,

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle residents, civic groups, and ANC 2B have called upon the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for many years to address the empty space and to provide accommodation and safety features that specifically include pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-vehicle uses,

WHEREAS, DDOT is now preparing to remedy the 70-year old mistake by transforming the void above the underpass into a useful public resource as part of a focused project to significantly improve access, safety, and aesthetic along Connecticut Avenue from Dupont Circle to California Street NW,

WHEREAS, DDOT held a public meeting on April 26, 2018 to present its findings and preliminary design options for review and comment from residents,

WHEREAS, DDOT's design options for the deck-over park are an "oasis" in the existing footprint of the space that preserves the existing traffic lane configuration; a "promenade" that provides a connection to Dupont Circle at the expense of parking and the turnaround lane; and a "piazza" that transforms the traffic lanes to commingled traffic and pedestrian use,

WHEREAS, Greater Greater Washington (GGWash) conducted a survey to determine popularity of the designs which yielded a fourth option: the "piazza" option plus elimination of vehicular access, making the space pedestrian-only,

WHEREAS, the GGWash survey indicated DDOT's first option ("plaza") to be the least desirable, with DDOT's "piazza" (third) option and the write-in fourth option ("piazza" closed to vehicles) to be the most favored,

WHEREAS, there is exceptionally strong and united support across constituencies for the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project, and

WHEREAS, the community stakeholders and ANC 2B recognize that Connecticut Avenue is an official evacuation route; and from K Street to Nebraska Avenue NW it is designated as an arterial road in the National Highway System, which overlays a variety of administrative, inter-agency, and Federal Government dynamics which can limit options for transformation and create delays or other unforeseeable obstacles.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B generally supports the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports option 3, the “piazza” design with shared street option, for the deck-over park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports use of additional landscaping and softscaping elements on the deck-over/“piazza” to make the space as welcoming as possible as a gathering place for the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT consider alternate designs for the underpass ventilation strategy so that it is both visually appealing and disperses unhealthy air and noise as far away from people in the area as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT prioritize the deck-over park for the fastest possible delivery substantially in advance of the current timetable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports a design of the deck-over which will accommodate closures of the service lanes/shared street to traffic on a frequent/as needed basis for events, such as the Dupont Circle Farmers Market, regardless of the design that is selected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT make necessary improvements to 19th Street between Dupont Circle and R Street NW to accommodate increased volume during closures of Connecticut Avenue; and to consider traffic calming measures to keep traffic flow and speed compatible with a residential street in advance of the construction of the deck-over park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends that DDOT evaluate making the portion of Q Street between 19th Street and Connecticut Avenue NW into a two-way roadway to permit bypass of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue during closures by using 19th Street from Dupont Circle to Q Street to return to Connecticut Avenue when Q Street itself is not closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT study the potential resulting traffic patterns on 19th Street northbound from Dupont Circle NW due to the construction of the deck-over park and institute appropriate measures to mitigate traffic and speed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B generally supports the design of the broader streetscape components of the project and is eager to see improvements to the pedestrian and biking environment along Connecticut Avenue NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B believes that it is essential that the streetscape project includes provisions for bike lanes connecting to the existing bike lanes on Columbia Road or to potential future bike lanes north on Connecticut Avenue NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests and expects to be included and engaged regarding the continuing design and execution processes for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests and expects that DDOT will be timely, transparent, and accountable to the community concerning issues that could cause delay or alteration of the project.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for the Expansion of the No Parking Zone on Q Street at 16th Street NW and the Conversion of the Adjacent Two-Hour Parking Zone to 15-Minute Parking

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner DelleDonne seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, residents of the 1500 block of Q Street NW, nearby residents who use the north-south alley between Q Street and Corcoran Street, and others who need to drive down the 1500 block of Q Street have raised concerns about the pick-up/drop-off vehicle volume for the preschool and delivery trucks at the DC Jewish Community Center (DCJCC), parking in the alley, queuing that obstructs traffic flow, and other unsafe conditions,

WHEREAS, residents of the 1500 blocks of Q Street and Corcoran Street NW, as well as the ANC Commissioners for single member districts 2B04 and 2B05, met with representatives of the DCJCC to discuss ways to alleviate these problems, and subsequently met with representatives from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT),

WHEREAS, at the request of residents and the DCJCC, DDOT has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI #18-43-TOA) to extend the existing No Parking zone on Q Street NW at 16th Street NW twelve feet to the east and to convert eighty feet of the existing Two-Hour Parking (RPP parking) zone on Q Street NW to 15 Minute Parking from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee contacted numerous residents of the 1500 block of Q Street NW about this proposal, and the DCJCC initiated a public meeting with residents of the 1500 block of Q Street, residents of adjacent buildings on 16th Street, and the ANC Commissioners for single member districts 2B04 and 2B05,

WHEREAS, through this outreach, the overwhelming majority of those who responded agreed that it was desirable to convert the five RPP spaces to a wider No Parking zone

from the corner of 16th Street NW and four 15 Minute Parking spaces during the day, as long as these spaces would remain available for overnight parking,

WHEREAS, residents thought that 6:00 am was too early to be required to vacate those spaces, given that the preschool hours begin at 7:30 am, and

WHEREAS, in the meeting with the DCJCC representatives, it was agreed by everyone present that it would be preferable to change the hours restricted to 15 Minute Parking to be from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the proposed changes stipulated in DDOT's Notice of Intent, with the modification that the new 15 Minute Parking spaces be restricted from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm, Monday through Friday, instead of 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Proposal to Install a Two-Way Cycletrack on 17th Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. Commissioner Johnson moved to delay consideration of the proposed resolution until the ANC's regular July 2018 meeting. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion for delayed consideration, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-3-2). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Johnson: Yea  
Chair Warwick: Nay  
Commissioner Maltz: Abstain  
Commissioner DelleDonne: Yea  
Commissioner Downs: Nay  
Commissioner Silverstein: Yea  
Commissioner Cunningham: Yea  
Commissioner Schwartz: Abstain  
Commissioner Davies: Nay

*The Commission delayed consideration of this matter.*

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Proposed Traffic Safety Improvements Within ANC 2B

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Ross Elementary School, located in single-member district 2B03, is a DC Public Schools (DCPS) school located at 1730 R Street NW that serves approximately 180 students in grades PK3-5,



WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, located in single-member district 2B06, is a DCPS school located at 2425 N Street NW that serves approximately 500 students in grades PK3–8,

WHEREAS, Stead Park, Francis Field, and Francis Pool, all located in ANC 2B, are prominent parks and playgrounds that are popular with children,

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the children of the District of Columbia is of highest concern to the citizens and Commissioners of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, DC’s Vision Zero goal is to achieve zero road deaths by 2024,

WHEREAS, according to the Sustainable DC Plan, DC aims to “increase public transit, biking, and walking to 75% of all commuter trips; reduce car trips to 25%; and achieve zero unhealthy air quality days” by 2032,

WHEREAS, the District has adopted the Safe Routes to Schools initiative to promote walking and biking to school in areas adjacent to schools where school bus transportation is not generally available,

WHEREAS, being able to walk or bike to school and playgrounds along safe routes offers an opportunity to build healthy physical activity into students’ daily routine,

WHEREAS, studies have shown that physical activity has a positive effect on student achievement,

WHEREAS, more children walking and biking to school will reduce traffic congestion in school zones, resulting in improved air quality and reduced fuel consumption, and

WHEREAS, physical infrastructure improvements and increased community attention to pedestrians, primarily aimed at helping students walk to school safely, will benefit the entire community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the District Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Police Department support initiatives, and improve the built environment through permanent tactical urbanism interventions, for children to safely walk and bike to school and playgrounds by and not limited to:

- Enhancing traffic enforcement, engineering, education, and encouragement strategies,
- Identifying and creating school and playground walking and biking route maps for distribution and future District Department of Transportation planning use,
- Identifying and regulating the school and playground zones with reduced vehicle speeds, enhanced signs and roadway markings, and vehicle bollards,

- Providing and maintaining protected bike and pedestrian facilities along the school routes, including sidewalks, on-street bike facilities, paths, curb ramps, and accessible pedestrian signals,
- Providing safe street crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians, and
- Calming traffic near and along school and playground travel routes.

Discussion Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Dupont / Kalorama Curbside Management Study

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

**Administrative Matters**

Approval of the Regular May 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC's regular May 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

**Adjournment**

Chair Warwick adjourned the meeting at 10:02 pm.