



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 10th, 2019; 7:00 p.m.  
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies  
1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Room 500

### Call to Order

The regular July 2019 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Vice Chair Kari Cunningham at 7:01 pm.

### Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Matthew Sampson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Lucky Barbieri (2B03), Aaron Landry (2B04), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Kari Cunningham (2B07), Beverly Schwartz (2B08), and Ed Hanlon (2B09).

### Announcements and Public Comments

#### Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Schwartz provided an overview of Connect.DC's All Hands on Tech initiative, which provides free technical support to DC residents. She said that the next All Hands on Tech event will take place on Saturday, July 20th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Arthur Capper Recreation Center 1000 5th Street SE, and that the following event will take place on Saturday, August 17th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Lamond-Riggs Neighborhood Library, 5401 South Dakota Avenue NE.

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

Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) regular AlleyPalooza initiative is currently underway. She gave an overview of the three alleys in Dupont Circle that will be repaired as part of the initiative. She also said that July is DC Statehood Month. She said that the House Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hearing regarding DC statehood legislation on Wednesday, July 24th. She encouraged local residents to attend the hearing.

Joe Florio, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that the DC Council is on summer recess from July 15th to September 15th. He said that Councilmember Evans' Office will be open during the summer recess to help with constituent services matters.

Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA), gave an overview of the association and its work to fight the Scottish Rite Temple development project at 1733 16th Street NW. He gave an overview of the organization's recent DC Court of Appeals filing regarding the development project. He encouraged local residents to attend the organization's next membership meeting on Monday, July 15th at 7:00 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1500 15th Street NW.

Linda Greenan, Pepco's External Affairs Manager for DC, said that the company will hold a community meeting regarding Pepco's Capital Grid Project on Thursday, July 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the fifth floor community room of the Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street NW. She also gave an overview of the project, which includes the installation of a ten-mile underground transmission line, a portion of which will be within ANC 2B.

#### Commissioner Announcements (Continued)

Chair Warwick said that Dupont Underground's lease for the Dupont Underground space is expiring next year. He said that there may be neighborhood discussions in the coming months regarding what the neighborhood wants to see in the space.

Commissioner Silverstein gave an overview of the DC Council's recent refusal to provide additional funding for LGBTQ initiatives as part of DC's FY 2020 budget. He said that a group of LGBTQ ANC commissioners have sent a letter to the DC Council requesting that the funding be reallocated. He also gave an overview of some possible programs that the funding could be used for.

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

##### Licht Café – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License at 1520 U Street NW

*The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's special July 2019 meeting.*

##### Lupo Pizzeria – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1908 14th Street NW

*The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's special July 2019 meeting.*

##### AC Hotel Washington DC – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Hotel License at 1112 19th Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to support the AC Hotel Washington DC's request for a stipulated license as part of the establishment's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license at 1112 19th Street NW. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the AC Hotel Washington DC's request for a stipulated license as part of the establishment's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license at 1112 19th Street NW.

AC Hotel Washington DC – Application for a New Retailer's Class "B" 25% License at 1112 19th Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to support the AC Hotel Washington DC's request for a stipulated license as part of the establishment's application for a new Retailer's Class "B" 25% license at 1112 19th Street NW. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the AC Hotel Washington DC's request for a stipulated license as part of the establishment's application for a new Retailer's Class "B" 25% license at 1112 19th Street NW.

**Public Space Committee Agenda**

Public Space Application by the AC Hotel Washington DC for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe with 10 Tables, 32 Seats, and 3 Umbrellas at 1112 19th Street NW

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the AC Hotel Washington DC's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe at 1112 19th Street NW. Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the AC Hotel Washington DC's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe at 1112 19th Street NW due to the fact that the sidewalk cafe will provide at least ten feet of sidewalk clearance, is located inside of the central business district with no nearby residents, and is a relatively small sidewalk cafe.

**Zoning, Preservation, and Development Agenda**

1515 Rhode Island Avenue NW – Application by NW DC Property LLC for Area Variances from the Accessory Use Requirements, the Lot Occupancy Requirements, and the Rear Yard Requirements to Enclose Outdoor Courtyard Space and to Construct a New, Attached Accessory Structure to an Existing Hotel Building

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion. Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add language regarding the preexisting condition of the rear yard setback. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion for 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, the project is within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes a variance to increase lot occupancy to 82% and reduce the rear yard setback from 22 feet to 18 feet in order to construct an indoor accessory space,

WHEREAS, the rear yard setback of 18 feet is already a preexisting condition with an existing wall which separates the property from the alley, and it would not make sense to remove the wall based on this addition,

WHEREAS, under previous ownership, the applicant applied for a liquor license to utilize the currently outdoor courtyard space,

WHEREAS, during that process, neighbors urged the hotel to enclose the space in order to mitigate noise from hotel activities in the space,

WHEREAS, the liquor license application ended in a settlement agreement which includes language stating that “protestants agree to support, through their representative, an application for zoning variance if such a variance is required to construct a structure,”

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates the opportunity to support this variance as the ANC had initially requested through the liquor licensing process last year,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B encourages the applicant to consider a green roof rather than the applicant’s currently planned gravel roof in order to reduce noise and mitigate stormwater runoff, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B encourages the applicant to select an HVAC unit which maximizes noise reduction.

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

11 Dupont Circle NW – Concept / New Hampshire Avenue NW Façade and Public Space Modifications, Courtyard and Entry Alterations

Chair Warwick 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, the project as proposed is within Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B and the Dupont Circle Historic District,

WHEREAS, the project proposes to add a new horizontal element on the New Hampshire Avenue NW side of the building, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has supported earlier iterations of this project.

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

1637-1641 R Street NW – Concept / Fill in Dogleg Court and Construct Habitable Penthouse

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

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2B previously supported a special exception for the project,

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes to restore the historic brick and balconies and to maintain the historic façade,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that some metal features on the sides of the building may be removed, and while they have been a long-time feature of the property, they were not part of the historic context of the building in the period of significance,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that the applicant proposes a habitable penthouse which will be barely visible across 17th Street NW from the project, though will be of lower height than the currently existing and visible HVAC equipment, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that the visible portion of the habitable penthouse will be above the window line and believes that the visibility is minimal and will be compatible with the overall character of the neighborhood.

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

**Break**

The Commission took a break at 8:20 pm and reconvened at 8:44 pm.

**Zoning, Preservation, and Development Agenda (Continued)**

1620 Riggs Place NW – Concept / New Garage with Rooftop Patio

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

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

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes to add a garage behind their rowhouse,

WHEREAS, the garage will not be visible from the street, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates that the applicant has made adjustments to their plans based on the feedback of neighbors.

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

**Public Space Committee Agenda (Continued)**

Public Space Application by Taberna del Alabardero to Convert an Existing Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café to an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at 1776 I Street NW

*The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's special July 2019 meeting.*

Public Space Application by Thai and Pho Bistro for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 Tables and 24 Seats at 2153 P Street NW

Chair Warwick 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, the applicant proposes a sidewalk cafe at 2153 P Street NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed sidewalk cafe leaves at least ten feet of clearance between the sidewalk cafe and the curb, and

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to tie up and lock chairs at the end of the evening.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the application for a sidewalk cafe.

**General Agenda**

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. Chair Warwick seconded the motion. Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add language thanking the District Department of Transportation for choosing the "piazza" option for the deck-over portion of the project. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion for 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, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) held a public meeting on June 25, 2019 to present the 30% preliminary design options of the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project for review and comment from residents,

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has previously weighed in on this project in a letter to DDOT on July 3, 2018 based on concepts presented by DDOT on April 26, 2018,

WHEREAS, the streetscape concept presented by DDOT on June 25, 2019 no longer included protected bike lanes, even though Connecticut Avenue NW is identified by the moveDC plan to have protected bike lanes to Western Avenue NW, and protected bike lanes were included in the presentation by DDOT on April 26, 2018,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B, in a special meeting regarding the 20th Street / 21st Street / 22nd Street NW Protected Bike Lanes Project on February 5, 2019, passed a resolution to DDOT with a 9-0-0 vote stating in part, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT’s protected bike lanes project team to coordinate with DDOT’s Connecticut Avenue Deckover and Streetscape Project team to connect a 20th Street NW protected bike lane with protected bike lanes to Columbia Road NW,”

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates and thanks DDOT and the many stakeholders on the continued development of the project, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B thanks DDOT for advancing the “piazza” option for the deck-over portion of the project, which was previously supported by the ANC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project and reiterates the recommendations in the ANC’s July 3, 2018 letter to DDOT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that protected bike lanes return and remain part of the Connecticut Avenue streetscape plan on Connecticut Avenue NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the Connecticut Avenue streetscape plan contributes to a network of protected bike lanes, including the 20th Street / 21st Street / 22nd Street NW Protected Bike Lanes Project, and connecting to the existing bike lanes on Columbia Road NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the deck-over portion of the project that prioritizes pedestrian safety and walkability over other modes of transportation.

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 Installation of Parking Restrictions for Pick-Up and Drop-Off (PUDO) Research and Data Collection

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, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Amendment Act of 2000" DC LAW 13-249 (48 DCR 3491 April 20, 2001), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is required to give a written Notice of Intent (NOI) to modify traffic and/or parking requirements,

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2019, DDOT issued a Notice of Intent (NOI #19-06-12-PGTD) regarding the installation of parking restrictions for pick-up and drop-off (PUDO) research and data collection, including a location within ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, DDOT is experiencing increasing congestion from a growing number of commercial vehicle operators on its streets, and the rapid growth of commercial operators, which include ridesharing, parcel delivery, on-demand delivery, microtransit, e-bikes and scooters, and others, has created significant demand for access to the city's curbsides,

WHEREAS, the supply of DC's curbs is largely fixed, creating a supply and demand imbalance leading to increased congestion, unsafe operating environments, lower productivity, inequitable access, and unnecessary emissions,

WHEREAS, the primary changes are part of ParkDC's #AccessMatters policy to reprogram the curbside to safely convey people and goods from the street to the curb. These improvements will also improve DDOT's goals for Vision Zero by taking loading activities out of travel and bike lanes,

WHEREAS, in October of 2017, DDOT launched a pilot nightlife pick-up and drop-off (PUDO) zone in the "Club Central" section of Connecticut Avenue NW in Dupont Circle which has improved pedestrian safety and traffic flow,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B was proud to be part of the initial pilot and is excited about the possibility of expanding this program,



WHEREAS, in October of 2018, DDOT expanded the pilot to five additional 24-hour passenger PUDO locations, including one located in ANC 2B on the 1900 block of 14th Street NW,

WHEREAS, DDOT's Parking and Ground Transportation Division has decided to install new signs designating nine commercial PUDO areas (including the 1400 block of 20th Street NW, which is located within ANC 2B) as "No Parking / Loading Zone" for the period of August 1, 2019 to October 30, 2019 to do the following:

- Gather relevant data on DDOT's PUDO zones for future advancements,
- Evaluate opportunities for DDOT to reduce congestion, improve curb productivity and utilization, improve driver and pedestrian safety, and improve equity, and
- Identify and communicate to DDOT and other stakeholders' learnings, methods, and technology that can be applied more broadly.

WHEREAS, one of the nine locations chosen for research is located in ANC 2B on the 1400 block of 20th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is very supportive of the goals of this NOI and this DDOT project, however the ANC is concerned that the selected location of the 1400 block of 20th Street NW may not provide quality and relevant data as this location is not believed to have high commercial or passenger loading and unloading traffic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not object to DDOT's selection and use of the 1400 block of 20th Street NW as a pilot PUDO zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B encourages DDOT to work with the ANC, the Dupont Circle BID, the Golden Triangle BID, and Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets to identify and explore additional PUDO zones within ANC 2B.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Restore Mass Ave's Proposal for a Dupont Tree Plaza Adjacent to the PNC Bank at 1913 Massachusetts Avenue 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, Restore Mass Ave, a nonprofit working to restore the historic tree canopy and landscape of Embassy Row, is proposing a plan to transform the public space adjacent to 1913 Massachusetts Avenue NW into a shaded, inviting community space known informally as the Dupont Tree Plaza,

WHEREAS, the location of the proposed Dupont Tree Plaza is within ANC 2B,

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

WHEREAS, the proposed site is currently being utilized by the Dupont Circle Farmers Market on Sundays and contains one of DC's largest and most frequently used Capital Bikeshare stations,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is a long-term proponent of the growth and usage of Capital Bikeshare across the neighborhood and region,

WHEREAS, Restore Mass Ave's proposal is to excavate and replace the current paved area with new native trees and plantings, an integrated stormwater bioretention system, permeable pavers, a pollinator rain garden, and new area lighting,

WHEREAS, Restore Mass Ave has been engaged with community stakeholders including FRESHFARM, the Dupont Circle BID, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, the District Department of Transportation, and ANC 2B on the development and design of the project,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes the importance of trees, plants, and permeable landscaping and rain gardens as important elements in the urban ambiance and charm of the Dupont Circle community, while also promoting safety, economic development, historic importance, and resiliency, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the proposal will improve the built environment along Massachusetts Avenue NW.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the concept of the proposed Dupont Tree Plaza.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports a design of the Dupont Tree Plaza which:

- Will continue to accommodate the significant pedestrian traffic at a prominent intersection in the neighborhood, and
- Ensures the same number or more Capital Bikeshare docks will continue to exist in close proximity to the site if the bikeshare station needs to be reduced or moved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests and expects that the Restore Mass Ave project team will continue to engage and consult with community stakeholders on the evolution, timeline, and development of the project.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### **Approval of the Regular June 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Landry moved to approve the ANC's regular June 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Approval of Expenditures for Accessibility Services During the ANC's Regular July Meeting

Chair Warwick moved to approve expenditures up to \$1,000 for accessibility services during the ANC's regular July meeting. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

**Adjournment**

Chair Warwick adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm.