



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10th, 2019; 7:00 p.m.
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

The regular October 2019 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: Daniel Warwick (2B02), Lucky Barbieri (2B03), Aaron Landry (2B04), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Kari Cunningham (2B07), and Ed Hanlon (2B09).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Downs said that the annual 17th Street High Heel Race will take place on Tuesday, October 29th at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Hanlon said that there will be a large yard sale on the 1400 block and 1500 block of Swann Street NW on Saturday, October 12th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. He encouraged local residents to attend the event.

Commissioner Silverstein said that the developers of the 1333 New Hampshire Avenue NW renovation project have reached an agreement with the Heurich House Museum to protect the house during the construction process.

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department

Captain Brian Bray, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, introduced himself to meeting attendees. He gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Commissioner Silverstein raised concerns regarding increased synthetic marijuana use and thefts from vehicles in the neighborhood.

Chair Warwick asked about a recent incident that took place at The Fireplace at 2161 P Street NW. Captain Bray gave an overview MPD's investigative work regarding the matter.

Captain Bray encouraged local residents to participate in the Mayor's Private Security Camera Rebate Program.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Inspector Wendy Cadell, a representative for the Department of Public Works (DPW), said that the agency will soon be starting with leaf collection season. She added that, with snow season coming up, residents need to know that they have 24 hours after it stops snowing to clear their sidewalks or they will receive a fine.

Deborah Shapley, the President of Restore Mass Ave, said that the organization will be holding its annual cocktail reception on Wednesday, October 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Residence of the Colombian Ambassador, 1520 20th Street NW.

Rachel Dubin, a local resident, said that the DC Council's Committee on Government Operations will be holding a hearing regarding DC Council Bill B23-0147 - the "Office on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Establishment Amendment Act of 2019" on Tuesday, October 15th at 10:00 am. Said that she has concerns regarding the bill.

Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA), said that DC Superior Court recently allowed the organization's lawsuit regarding the Scottish Rite Temple development project at 1733 16th Street NW to move forward. He encouraged local residents to join the organization and to donate to its legal efforts.

Lee Granados, a local resident, said that the Washington Blade will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. She encouraged local residents to pick up a copy of the special anniversary edition.

Update Regarding Dupont Underground

Chair Warwick said that Dupont Underground's current lease with the city will soon be coming to an end. He said that the organization is in active talks with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development's Office (DMPED) to continue to remain in the space. He encouraged local residents to attend all of the events that the organization puts on.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Swingers – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1330 19th Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Consideration of Several Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal Applications for Nightclubs and Taverns

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Zoning, Preservation, and Development Agenda

1600 M Street NW – Application by the National Geographic Society for a Modification of Consequence to the Plans Approved by BZA Order No. 13540 to Add a Front Entry Pavilion to an Existing Building

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

WHEREAS, the National Geographic Society (the applicant) requests a modification of consequence for their headquarters at 1600 M Street NW (Square 183, Lots 883 and 884),

WHEREAS, the applicant is proposing adding a pavilion to the property, which would increase the floor area by four percent,

WHEREAS, the pavilion would be in the portion of the property zoned D-6 and would comply with all of the development standards of that zone, and

WHEREAS, there are no apparent potential negative impacts to neighboring properties or residential areas in terms of light, air, and privacy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports this modification of consequence as proposed.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by Truno for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 15 Tables and 38 Seats at 1600 Rhode Island Avenue NW

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

WHEREAS, Truno has filed a public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 38 seats and surrounding area landscape changes at 1600 Rhode Island Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed location is within ANC 2B and single member district 2B05,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that sidewalk cafes are an important element in the urban ambiance and charm of the Dupont Circle community, while also promoting safety and economic development,

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

WHEREAS, much of the existing landscaping shall be removed and replaced with porcelain pavers with sub-base for water drainage, planters, moveable outdoor furniture, a trellis, additional lighting features, new signage, bike racks, and additional native and non-native landscaping,

WHEREAS, the existing condition of the sidewalk and tree boxes would remain and there would be no loss of pedestrian passageway, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Truno's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe and surrounding area landscape changes at 1600 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the applicant explores expanding and/or improving, with permeable flex paving, the existing tree box opening on Rhode Island Avenue NW in order to relieve tree root bunching and promote the continued healthy growth of the existing tree.

Public Space Application by the Golden Triangle BID for the Installation of Four Permanent Artworks in the Rain Gardens Along 19th Street Between K Street and M Street NW

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

ANC 2B supports the Golden Triangle BID's public space application for the installation of four permanent artworks in the rain gardens along 19th Street between K Street and M Street NW.

Public Space Application for the Installation of a Planter Box on the Sidewalk at 1519 Swann Street NW

Commissioner Hanlon moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was then tabled.

Public Space Application by BestBus for the Use of 3 Meter Spaces and 2 Non-Meter Spaces for an Intercity Bus Stop at 1913 Massachusetts Avenue NW

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

Based on conversations with the applicant, ANC 2B believes that the application is likely to be withdrawn. If the application is not withdrawn, ANC 2B requests that the Public Space Committee does not hear the application without a letter from the ANC detailing a specific position regarding the application.

Public Space Application by the World Bank for Streetscape Improvements, Including New Pavers, Uplighting, Bollards, and Benches at 1850 I Street NW

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

ANC 2B supports the World Bank's public space application for streetscape improvements, including new pavers, uplighting, bollards, and benches, at 1850 I Street NW.

Public Space Application for the Installation of a Planter Box on the Sidewalk at 1519 Swann Street NW (Continued)

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

ANC 2B supports the public space application for the installation of a planter box on the sidewalk at 1519 Swann Street NW based on the fact that the proposed planter box will be located between two existing stairways protruding onto the sidewalk and that the proposal is consistent with the streetscape of the block.

Break

The Commission took a break at 8:29 pm and reconvened at 8:44 pm.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent to Make the Bus Lanes on H Street and I Street NW Permanent

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion. Commissioner Landy moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to edit the language regarding the roadway markings. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Chair Warwick moved to adopt several proposed amendments to the resolution to add language regarding public space permitting, geofencing of ride hailing apps, analyzing bus runtime

differences, and traffic signal priority. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion for the amendments, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add language regarding the consideration of a second bus lane. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion for the amendment. Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the amendment to edit the language regarding the consideration of a second bus lane. Commissioner Barbieri seconded the motion for the amendment to the amendment. A roll call vote was requested. The motion for the proposed amendment to the amendment was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

- Commissioner Barbieri: Yay
- Commissioner Hanlon: Nay
- Commissioner Silverstein: Nay
- Commissioner Cunningham: Yay
- Chair Warwick: Yay
- Commissioner Landry: Yay
- Commissioner Downs: Yay

The amendment as amended was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-1). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has issued Notice of Intent #19-004-TDD for improvements to the H Street and I Street NW bus lanes,

WHEREAS, approximately 40 percent of all bus riders in the District travel on some portion of the H Street and I Street NW bus route,

WHEREAS, the H Street and I Street NW bus lanes make for a more efficient and more sustainable use of our limited street space, and

WHEREAS, the majority of ANC 2B residents do not own cars and use transit, bicycles, walking, or another form of mobility for their routine activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Notice of Intent to make the H Street and I Street NW bus lanes permanent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to implement a permanent mechanism for enforcing compliance with the permitted use of the bus lanes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B suggests alterations to the roadway paint to improve consistency with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, such as dashing the white lane line where motorists are permitted to enter the bus lane to execute a right turn.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to continue education and outreach campaign efforts for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians using corridors with bus lanes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends that DDOT provides loading and pickup and drop-off (PUDO) zones on every block on the opposite side of the bus lanes in these downtown bus lane corridors, including but not limited to, the 1500 block of H Street NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT reviews public space permits with the Public Space Committee for conflicts with bus lanes along the corridor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B encourages DDOT and the Department of For-Hire Vehicles to require geofencing along the bus lanes to avoid pickups and drop-offs from ride-hailing vehicles in bus lanes when they are active.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DDOT to analyze runtime differences attributable to the dedicated bus lanes and asks DDOT to encourage the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to reinvest these saved service hours towards routes using the dedicated bus lanes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DDOT to consider traffic signal priority at intersections along the bus lanes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B encourages DDOT, where feasible, or where bus layover space exists along the bus lane corridor, to consider adding a second bus lane.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends that DDOT continues monitoring these bus lanes to identify problems and solutions to ensure the continued success of their operation.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Proposed Changes to Metrobus Routes L1 and L2

Chair Warwick recused himself from voting on this matter.

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion. Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add language regarding the extension of bus service to the Kennedy Center. Commissioner Hanlon seconded the motion for the amendment. A roll call vote was requested. The motion for the amendment was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Barbieri: Yes

Commissioner Hanlon: Yes

Commissioner Silverstein: Yes
Commissioner Cunningham: Yes
Commissioner Landry: Yes
Commissioner Downs: Yes

The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) are exploring possible changes to Metrobus routes L1 and L2 (Connecticut Avenue NW line),

WHEREAS, these routes travel through ANC 2B via Connecticut Avenue NW, providing public transportation for residents, as well as employees who work at area commercial establishments and visitors to the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle is a hub for riders transferring between buses, and between bus and Metrorail,

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2018, ANC 2B sent a letter to WMATA supporting our recommendations for modifications to routes L1 and L2,

WHEREAS, the final WMATA service recommendations for route L1 and L2 (Connecticut Avenue NW line) include:

- Consolidate certain bus stops based on WMATA's bus stop spacing guidelines and daily average ridership thresholds,
- Modify route L1 to avoid the congested portions of Constitution Avenue NW in order to improve reliability, and
- Exploration of an alternative layover location for buses that currently serve Farragut Square.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the consolidation of stops that provide efficient service along both routes while still offering convenience and accessibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not object to the relocation of terminal stands for routes L1 and L2 in the Farragut Square area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends continuing study to improve Metrobus service providing direct connections between Dupont Circle and areas not accessible by Metrorail, as such connectivity is essential to the vitality and sustainability of residential and business growth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends that WMATA studies extending bus service to the Kennedy Center due to the recent opening of the Kennedy

Center's REACH expansion and the possible resulting increase in bus ridership to and from the Kennedy Center.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Proposed Changes to Metrobus Routes 42 and 43

Chair Warwick recused himself from voting on this matter.

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to remove language opposing changes the bus routes. Commissioner Hanlon seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The final motion was voted on and did not pass (VOTES: 2-4-0).

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

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) are exploring possible changes to Metrobus routes 42 and 43,

WHEREAS, these routes travel through ANC 2B via Connecticut Avenue NW, providing public transportation for residents, as well as employees who work at area commercial establishments and visitors to the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle is a hub for riders transferring between buses, and between bus and Metrorail,

WHEREAS, Metrobus route 42 serves Dupont Circle and allows riders to transfer between other bus routes transiting Dupont Circle, but those transfers are not possible with route 43, which bypasses the circle,

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2018, ANC 2B sent a letter to WMATA conveying our recommendations for modifications to routes 42 and 43, and

WHEREAS, the final WMATA service recommendations for routes 42 and 43 (Mount Pleasant Line) include:

- Convert some route 42 midday, evening, and weekend trips to route 43 trips operating between Mt. Pleasant and the Gallery Place Metrorail station by using the underpass and bypassing the Dupont Circle Metrorail station, and
- Recalibrate the time needed for buses to make the trip along the route. This could possibly extend the time between buses or cause more resources to be required to maintain current service. This change will more accurately reflect the times buses serve each stop and allow buses to be more reliable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the District of Columbia's representatives to WMATA's Board of Directors to oppose changes to routes 42 and 43 that would decrease the number of route 42 trips passing through the Dupont Circle traffic circle by converting them to 43 trips.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the consolidation of stops that provide efficient service along both routes while still offering convenience and accessibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that WMATA considers creating a transit concession that would allow route 42 riders to transfer for free from the bus to Metrorail at the Dupont Circle Metrorail station.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends continuing study to improve Metrobus service providing direct connections between Dupont Circle and areas not accessible by Metrorail, as such connectivity is essential to the vitality and sustainability of residential and business growth.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B23-0148 – the “Transportation Benefits Equity Amendment Act of 2019”

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion. Chair Warwick moved to table the matter. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion to table the matter, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Needed Improvements to the S Street NW Dog Park

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

WHEREAS, the S Street NW Dog Park opened more than ten years ago and is extremely popular and heavily used,

WHEREAS, the K-9 turf originally installed has a seven year guarantee and has degraded over time, and

WHEREAS, there are dozens of holes in the turf and it is beginning to completely degrade in places.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to repair or replace the degraded K-9 turf as quickly as possible to protect the drainage system underneath and ensure safe use of the park for both people and dogs.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the Regular September 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Landry moved to approve the ANC's regular September 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2019 Quarter 4 Financial Report

Commissioner Silverstein moved to approve the ANC's FY 2019 Quarter 4 financial report. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2020 Budget

Commissioner Silverstein moved to approve the ANC's FY 2020 budget. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Warwick adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.