



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 8th, 2020; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular July 2020 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Daniel Warwick at 7:02 pm.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Matthew Sampson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), 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 Downs gave commissioner announcements.

Presentation by Pepco, An Exelon Company, Regarding the Capital Grid Project

Linda Greenan, the External Affairs Manager for DC for Pepco; Stacey Hemby, a member of Pepco's Capital Grid Project team; Stephen Hoskins, a Project Manager for C.W. & Sons Infrastructure; and Shamyra Edmonds, a Community Relations Coordinator for Pepco's Capital Grid Project, gave a presentation regarding Pepco's Capital Grid Project

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA); Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS); Susan Volman, the Treasurer of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA); Kate Whitesell, a volunteer with Community Mediation DC; Farid Nouri, the owner of the Eighteenth Street Lounge; and several local residents gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Archibald's/Fast Eddies Billiards Café – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub License at 1520 K Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Chi-Cha Lounge – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1624 U Street NW

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supported a stipulated license for the summer garden in January of 2020,

WHEREAS, the “summer garden” is an interior space off the second floor “lounge” room, and

WHEREAS, Chi-Cha Lounge is asking for the hours of the summer garden to match the hours of the rest of the lounge with an extension of one hour on Friday and Saturday nights from 2:00 am to 3:00 am.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the request for a one hour extension of the closing time for the summer garden on Friday and Saturday nights.

Rumi – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1217 Connecticut Avenue NW

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

ANC 2B protests Rumi’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern license at 1217 Connecticut Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood until a settlement agreement has been successfully negotiated between the ANC and applicant.

Suri – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub License at 1217 Connecticut Avenue NW

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

ANC 2B protests Suri’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub license at 1217 Connecticut Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet

of the neighborhood until a settlement agreement has been successfully negotiated between the ANC and applicant.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by Swingers for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 36 Tables, 100 Seats, and 10 Umbrellas at 1333 New Hampshire Avenue NW

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

ANC 2B requests, with the consent of the applicant, a 30-day delay of the consideration of Swingers’ public space application for 1333 New Hampshire Avenue NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

Public Space Application by Emissary for an Expansion of the Establishment’s Current Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café to Have 20 Tables, 44 Seats, and 12 Umbrellas at 2032 P Street NW

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Emissary is within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, restaurants have sought opportunities to expand outdoor space in order to provide safer options for eating and drinking,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that without expansion of outdoor space for sidewalk cafes, local businesses are more likely to fail,

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of seating on the sidewalk café meets ANC 2B’s Public Space Guidelines,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B understands that a concern was expressed that the expansion of the sidewalk café to the 21st Street NW side of the building would increase noise on the residential block of 21st Street, sidewalk cafes in our neighborhood are regularly next to residential and office units, such as the proposed expansion of this sidewalk café, and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B understands that there is a disagreement among the landlord and the tenant in relation to which entity should apply for the extension, we assume that this will be resolved before the Public Space Committee reviews this application.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the public space application as proposed.

Break

The Commission took a break at 8:52 pm and reconvened at 9:07 pm.

Public Space Committee Agenda (Continued)

Public Space Application by Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets for the Installation of a Sculpture in the Triangle Park at 18th Street and Q Street NW

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion. Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add the following language to the resolution:

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests that no sidewalk space is removed or blocked around the triangle park,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) completes work on eliminating the seldom-used northbound Q Street NW left-turn lane, adding additional protected pedestrian walk space and decreasing crosswalk distance as confirmed by ANC 2B in October of 2018,

Chair Warwick seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets is proposing the installation of a sculpture in the triangle park at 18th Street and Q Street NW,

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle Citizens Association is expected to continue to provide maintenance to the park, including the to-be-installed sculpture,

WHEREAS, a sculpture will add to the art and vibrancy in the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that green space in existing parks should be preserved as much as possible,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests that no sidewalk space is removed or blocked around the triangle park,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) completes work on eliminating the seldom-used northbound Q Street NW left-turn lane, adding additional protected pedestrian walk space and decreasing crosswalk distance as confirmed by ANC 2B in October of 2018, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that there are continuing discussions between Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association regarding the specific programming of the proposed sculpture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the public space application for the sculpture under the assumption that Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association will continue coordination on the specifics of the statue installation.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Downtown BID's DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Grant Application to Beautify the Historic Call Box at 1125 16th Street NW

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

WHEREAS, the DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) is preparing a grant application to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' (DCCA) Public Art Building Communities program, and

WHEREAS, the grant funds will enable the BID to beautify 14 historic call boxes on public space in downtown DC, including one which is located within the borders of ANC 2B at 1125 16th Street NW.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the DowntownDC BID's proposed Public Art Building Communities grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in FY 2021.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for the Installation of the 20th Street NW and 21st Street NW Protected Bike Lanes

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

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Notice of Intent (NOI) 20-70-PSD refers to the installation of protected bike lanes on 20th Street NW between G Street NW and Massachusetts Avenue NW and protected bike lanes between G Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW on 21st Street NW, within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) 2B and 2A,

WHEREAS, there currently is no protected north-south bicycle infrastructure connecting Dupont Circle with the National Mall,

WHEREAS, a protected bicycle connection between Foggy Bottom, the George Washington University, and Dupont Circle will enable students and residents to safely access the many businesses in greater Dupont,

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) launched a project in 2018 to evaluate and select 20th Street NW, 21st Street NW, or 22nd Street NW as the route for protected two-way bike lanes,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supported a further study concept earlier in the design process which would utilize 20th Street NW in West Dupont,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understood at the time that this would require agreement between DDOT, FRESHFARM, and the Dupont Circle BID for appropriate infrastructure on the segment of 20th Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue NW and Connecticut Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that progress was made towards a memorandum of understanding between DDOT, FRESHFARM, and the Dupont Circle BID for protected bike lane infrastructure which is moveable on Sundays in order to not impede market operations, however this process was ended by DDOT due to concerns about interim programmatic and feasibility constraints,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that protected bike lanes are most useful when connected to the broader bike lane network,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is disappointed that the protected bike lanes proposed in the NOI fall short of connecting to the Q Street NW and R Street NW bike lanes and the planned bike lanes in the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Project, which is at 65% design.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the NOI provided that:

- A pick up / drop off / loading zone is added to the north side of O Street NW at 20th Street NW in order to provide a dedicated area for pick up / drop off / loading at the Bristol House apartment building which currently has an entrance loading zone on 20th Street NW.
- DDOT continues to work with FRESHFARM, ANC 2B, and the Dupont Circle BID to determine the timing and circumstances for the extension of the protected bike lanes to Connecticut Avenue NW.
- DDOT expeditiously provides an interim connection from the proposed terminus of the protected bike lane at Massachusetts Avenue NW to the existing bike lane network on Q Street NW and R Street NW and the proposed Connecticut Avenue NW protected bike lanes in coordination and conjunction with the proposed design reflected in the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Project, including a protected two-way bike lane on the westside of Connecticut Avenue NW between

R Street NW and Hillyer Place NW. A potential conceptual design for the interim connection is available in Appendix 1, however ANC 2B expects that the bike planners at DDOT are best equipped to design the connection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT expedites the consultation and design timeline of the project, completing the installation by the end of 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges and expects that DDOT and the project team will continue to engage and consult with the ANC, residents, merchants, business workers, business distributors, and other community stakeholders on the continued development of the project.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for the Installation of Protected Bike Lanes on 17th Street NW between K Street NW and T Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion. Commissioner Hanlon moved to table consideration of the proposed resolution. The motion was not voted on due to the lack of a second. Chair Warwick moved to end debate regarding the proposed resolution. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0). The resolution reads as follows

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Notice of Intent (NOI) 20-69-PSD refers to the installation of protected bike lanes on 17th Street NW between K Street NW and T Street NW, fully within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B,

WHEREAS, the NOI is in response to 17th Street NW being included in DC's Bicycle Master Plan, and is a concept which has been reviewed by ANC 2B in [2017](#) (Appendix 1) and [2018](#) (Appendix 2),

WHEREAS, DDOT was responsive to some, but not all, of the ANC 2B feedback provided in 2018,

WHEREAS, in June and July of 2020, many ANC 2B commissioners engaged residents and over two dozen 17th Street NW businesses directly, received over three dozen written testimonies, dozens of verbal testimonies, and a petition of support including over 100 residents in ANC 2B, with a total of over 450 District residents voicing support of the NOI,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B hosted a public listening session with DDOT on June 30th, 2020 dedicated to this project and one other project, where more testimony was heard by ANC 2B and DDOT,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is strongly supportive of safer streets, and pedestrian and bicyclist safety is a paramount concern on 17th Street NW and across the District,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that the vibrancy of 17th Street NW is in many ways dependent on the success of neighborhood businesses, and understands that the needs are complex for freight unloading, parking for patrons and employees, pick up and drop off areas for taxis, ridehailing and deliveries, and loading zones,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that a more bike-friendly street will help many businesses on 17th Street NW, but raises legitimate concerns with some businesses that do not benefit as much from additional foot and bike traffic,

WHEREAS, in [2018](#) ANC 2B formally suggested to DDOT exploring a “shared street” concept, also echoed by the Dupont Circle Citizens Association,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B acknowledges that DDOT as well as some 17th Street NW businesses have indicated that they are not supportive of a “shared street” concept at this time, and

WHEREAS, in the process of engagement with ANC 2B residents, particularly in the context of COVID-19, there is a demonstrated need for longer-term changes to the streetscape to help further protect pedestrians, although we recognize that this would require significant resources including capital budget expenditures and would likely take years to implement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the NOI 20-69-PSD with the following conditions:

- Businesses on 17th Street NW between P Street NW and Riggs Street NW must continue to be engaged regarding the programming of the specifics of curbside space dedicated to parking, pick up and drop off areas for taxis, ridehailing, and deliveries, and loading zones.
- In particular, businesses that sell heavy or bulky items that necessitate vehicular use, including hardware stores, frame shops, and grocery stores, must have their input weighed appropriately on the programming of parking and loading zones, and be directly engaged by DDOT.
- The weekday needs of freight unloading for businesses must be appropriately accommodated so the through traffic lane is not blocked.
- Additional traffic calming measures for all vehicle types should be implemented to slow speeds on this mixed-use street to help ensure the safety of the most vulnerable users of the road.
- Incorporation of recommendations from the DDOT Safe Routes to School Team for the school zone surrounding Ross Elementary, including better signage, a flashing beacon, and crosswalk repainting and/or enhancements occur so as to make certain people are aware they are approaching a school zone in time for the start of the new school year.

- DDOT installs additional bicycle parking at designated locations along the route where sufficient public space allows to accommodate such additional traffic and further encourage use.
- Emergency sidewalk expansions, “streeteries,” and other temporary uses of public space created as part of the Public Health Emergency must be unaffected by the implementation of this Notice of Intent.
- The final configuration must be able to accommodate temporary (festivals, parades, etc.) and emergency configurations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that:

- DDOT provides an update on their progress to neighbors in autumn of 2020, prior to installation.
- DDOT provides additional longer-term recommendations to ANC 2B so that neighbors can work together to create more opportunities for safe pedestrian passage and other safety-related interventions along the 17th Street NW corridor through a project with a larger budget and scope through capital expenditures such as a streetscape.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC’s Regular June 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Landry moved to approve the ANC’s regular June 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Warwick adjourned the meeting at 11:37 pm.