



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.
Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

The June 2017 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Nicole Mann at 7:00 pm.

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), John Kupcinski (2B07), and Nicole Mann (2B08).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Downs said that the DC Council has approved has approved \$10 million in funding as part of DC's FY 2018 for the modernization and expansion of the Stead Park Recreation Center.

Commissioner Silverstein said that ANC 2B will be the home of DC's first Wawa, which will be opening at 1111 19th Street NW. He said that the store will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and will be the largest Wawa in the world. He said that the store will sell coffee, drinks, and sandwiches. He added that Wawa plans to open the store in December of 2017.

Commissioner Johnson said that a new Capital Bikeshare station has been installed at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and R Street NW.

Chair Mann said that this is the last ANC 2B meeting for Tom Lipinsky, the ANC's designated representative in Councilmember Jack Evans' office. She gave an overview of how hard Mr. Lipinsky has worked on behalf of ANC 2B's residents and commissioners.

Chair Mann moved to adopt a resolution expressing the ANC's appreciation of Mr. Lipinsky's work on behalf of the ANC. Commissioner Maltz seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Communications Director Tom Lipinsky has been serving as the Dupont Circle liaison in Councilmember Jack Evans' office for more than four years,

WHEREAS, Tom has not only been attending almost all of the ANC 2B monthly meetings over the past four years, but has also been assisting commissioners and constituents with community-related issues as needed,

WHEREAS, Tom's efforts on projects such as the P Street service station closure, the St. Thomas Church development project, and the "Cap Park" have been instrumental to ANC 2B and its constituents, and

WHEREAS, Tom has been actively involved himself with community projects such as T Street Park Cleanups, the Church Street Block Party, the Capital Pride Parade, Groundhog Day, the 17th Street Festival, and Dupont Festival events.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B would like to publicly recognize Tom Lipinsky for all of his tireless work on behalf of the Dupont Circle community and wishes him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) said that Mayor Bowser recently signed an executive order committing DC to the Paris Climate Agreement. He added that the Mayor recently kicked off an eight-week anti-graffiti initiative. He encouraged local residents to report graffiti through DC's 311 system.

Mr. Lipinsky said that the DC Council gave final approval of the city's FY 2018 budget the previous day. He said that the budget includes funding for the trash compactor grant program that Councilmember Evans worked to pass legislation on.

Breanna Bledsoe, the Legislative Counsel for Councilmember Robert White's office, encouraged local residents to use the Councilmember's office as a resource. She also encouraged local residents to read the Councilmember's newsletter and transition report.

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, said that the organization is currently working to plan the 2017 17th Street Festival. He said that the festival will be on Saturday, August 26th.

Nick Jessee, a Vice President for CAS Riegler, said that the company has completed the demolition process as part of their development on the site of St. Thomas Parish. He said that the company will now be working to construct the garage and the below-grade levels of the building. He added that the company's monthly neighborhood liaison meetings regarding the project will continue to take place.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Safeway – Application for a New Retailer's Class "B" Grocery Store License at 1701 Corcoran Street NW

Commissioner Maltz moved to protest Safeway’s license application based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-3-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests Safeway’s (ABRA-105295) application for a new Retailer’s Class “B” Grocery Store license at 1701 Corcoran Street NW based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to a negotiation of a settlement agreement that allows for the peaceful cohabitation with current neighbors.

Dacha Beer Garden – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1740 14th Street NW

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

WHEREAS, Dacha Beer Garden is proposing a location on the southwest corner of the intersection of 14th Street and S Street NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed location is within 600 feet of ANC 2B (Single Member District 2B09),

WHEREAS, Dacha Beer Garden is proposing an outdoor establishment that has the potential to serve up to 600 patrons at one time,

WHEREAS, the proposed location is directly adjacent to single family homes and apartment buildings,

WHEREAS, there is already a smaller beer garden located on the northeast corner of 14th Street and S Street NW,

WHEREAS, the owners/operators of Dacha Beer Garden at 1600 7th Street NW (ABRA-092773) have been found to have violated the terms of their liquor license in the past, including occupancy requirements, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a beer garden of the size and capacity proposed by Dacha Beer Garden would adversely affect the residents of ANC 2B due to the resulting noise, congestion, parking, and trash.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports neighboring ANC 2F’s protest of Dacha Beer Garden’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern license.

Prequel – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 919 19th Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Saint Yves – Application for Renewal of the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1220 Connecticut Avenue NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Donburi DC – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1134 19th Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Continuation or Non-Continuation of the East Dupont Circle Moratorium Zone

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Mann seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-1-2). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the East Dupont Circle Moratorium Zone (the Moratorium) has been recognized as a tool to reduce liquor license over-concentration and protect the peace, order, and quiet of the East Dupont Circle neighborhood,

WHEREAS, a goal of the ANC is to promote the future of its neighborhoods and advocate for smart growth and sustainable, responsible economic development,

WHEREAS, there are several tools that can effectively help promote the welfare of the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the East Dupont Circle Moratorium Zone limits the number of Retailer’s liquor licenses issued in the area that extends approximately six hundred (600) feet in all directions from the intersection of 17th Street and Q Street NW,

WHEREAS, the East Dupont Circle Moratorium is set to expire on August 21, 2017.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not seek the renewal of the East Dupont Circle Moratorium Zone.

Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda

1902 R Street NW – Application for a Variance from the Maximum Floor Area Ratio Requirements to Convert an Existing Four-Story Building into a Four-Unit Apartment House

Commissioner 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:

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, the project proposes to renovate and redevelop an historic building primarily by filling in existing decks with interior area,

WHEREAS, the building is currently non-conforming with regards to floor area ratio,

WHEREAS, the filling-in of the decks will allow the applicant to accommodate an unusually large historic central core staircase as well as to build more functional bedrooms/dens than otherwise would have been practicable,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the additional floor area within an existing historic floor-plate is acceptable and beneficial to the neighborhood, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has received several letters of support from immediate and proximate neighbors to the project.

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

2125 N Street NW – Application for a Variance from the Minimum Court Dimensions to Construct a Partial Third-Story Addition and Roof Deck on an Existing Three-Story Apartment House

Commissioner 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 project as proposed is an addition to a structure with a non-conforming side court and an addition to a non-conforming building,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that the proposed addition is within the context of an alley, although ANC 2B also recognizes that the addition is likely to cause shade impacts to the neighbor's rear deck and windows, and

WHEREAS, the applicant reached out to immediate neighbors as requested by ANC 2B and received letters of support from these neighbors.

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

1524 18th Street NW – Concept / Rear Third Floor Extension and Roof Deck

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

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

WHEREAS, the project as proposed intends to construct an addition which will be visible from the street,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B typically opposes additions visible from the street due to historic preservation concerns, the specific context of this block and alley on 18th Street NW includes several taller buildings, including a nine-story office building, and the project is across the street from an under-construction church and apartment building which will be nearly 70 feet tall, and

WHEREAS, the proposed addition, if designed with matching brick so that it blends in with the current and surrounding historic context, is understandable and supportable.

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

1753 Willard Street NW – Concept / Third Floor Extension and Roof Deck

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

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is within the Strivers' Section Historic District and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, the project as proposed will not be visible from the street,

WHEREAS, most neighbors on the project's block of Willard Street NW have a similar addition to the one proposed by the applicant, and

WHEREAS, immediate neighbors have received the project drawings and have not voiced opposition.

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

Public Space Committee Agenda

1101 16th Street NW – Public Space Application by Akridge for Streetscape Improvements as Part of their New Development, Including New Sidewalks, Street Trees, a Fence, a Retaining Wall, and Bike Racks

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

ANC 2B supports Akridge's public space application for streetscape improvements as part of their new development at 1101 16th Street NW based on the applicant's plans to

bring the new development into ADA-compliance, the non-conforming structure that the applicant's new development will be replacing, and the applicant's proposed addition of ample green space in front of the new development.

1100 17th Street NW – Public Space Application by Liberty Property Trust for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 9 Tables and 17 Seats

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

ANC 2B conditionally supports Liberty Property Trust's public space application for a new, unenclosed sidewalk cafe at 1100 17th Street NW based on the applicant performing hourly checks of the usage of the sidewalk cafe and the applicant bringing all sidewalk cafe furniture inside for storage between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am each night.

1629 K Street NW – Public Space Application by Chopt for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 Tables, 12 Seats, and 4 Umbrellas

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Zipcar's Application to Use Two Street Parking Spaces at 1701 17th Street NW for Carsharing Vehicles

Commissioner DelleDonne moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Zipcar, a carsharing company participating in DC's carsharing program, has noted an increase in demand in the area near 17th Street and Corcoran Street NW, in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, and has requested community approval for two additional curbside parking spaces for carsharing vehicles,

WHEREAS, the neighborhood benefits from carsharing by reducing the need for car ownership, by reducing the competition for the limited number of parking spaces, and by reducing air pollution from car emissions,

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B, representing the Dupont Circle neighborhood, has considered factors of safety and congestion in this dense business neighborhood and has sought and received positive public comment for the program and for the proposed location at 1701 17th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that Zipcar submitted an initial proposal for use of two spaces, but that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) requested three spaces for shared mobility on the block.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Zipcar's proposal for carsharing uses of two metered spaces at 1701 17th Street NW, outside the Level One restaurant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT send a representative to ANC 2B's Transportation and Public Infrastructure Committee to explain why they believe that three spaces would be more beneficial at this location than the two spaces that were initially requested by Zipcar.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Downtown BID's DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Grant Application to Install Public Art in the Vermont Avenue NW Exit of the McPherson Square Metro Station

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

WHEREAS, the Downtown BID is applying for a grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' Public Art Building Communities Project-Based Grant Program to install a mural in the Vermont Avenue NW exit of the McPherson Square Metro Station beneath the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Building,

WHEREAS, the Downtown BID is partnering with a DC nonprofit arts organization, Words Beats & Life (WBL), to create the mural,

WHEREAS, the three memorials represented in the designs of the mural are the Air Force Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and the African American Civil War Memorial,

WHEREAS, the project has the support of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the General Services Administration, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA),

WHEREAS, if selected as a recipient of the Commission grant in October 2017, the anticipated completion date of the mural will be early 2018, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that this mural would be a contributing element in the urban ambiance and charm of the Dupont Circle community as well memorialize the contribution of military service members to the District and the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the mural for the McPherson Square Metro Station's Vermont Avenue NW entrance as proposed by the Downtown BID in their grant application to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 17th Street NW Storm Drain Mural Project to Promote LGBTQ Neighborhood Identity

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) is committed to restoring the Anacostia River and its tributaries to swimmable and fishable condition for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. AWS seeks to achieve this goal by undertaking a variety of projects to build environmental awareness and engage community members, including the 17th Street Storm Drain Painting project,

WHEREAS, the goal of these murals is to both raise awareness of storm drains as a connection to our local waterways and to promote the neighborhood's LGBTQ identity,

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle neighborhood and the District of Columbia prides themselves in not only tolerating the LGBTQ community but rather embracing the LGBTQ community and working to foster equality and inclusiveness,

WHEREAS, in recognition of the longstanding presence of LGBTQ people who live, work, and patronize businesses along 17th Street NW, former DC Mayor Adrian Fenty dedicated a section of 17th Street between P Street and R Street NW as Frank Kameny Way in honor of the late DC gay rights pioneer Frank Kameny,

WHEREAS, installing storm drain murals on Frank Kameny Way would further showcase the Dupont Circle neighborhood's and the District of Columbia's support for environmental conservation and the LGBTQ community,

WHEREAS, murals will be applied to 4 foot by 10 foot storm drains along 17th Street NW at the northeast corner of the intersections of P Street NW, Church Street NW, and Corcoran Street NW, and the southeast corner of the intersection of R Street NW, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the District Department of Transportation, the District Department of Energy and Environment, and the Office of Planning have given their support for installing the storm drain murals on Frank Kameny Way.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the District of Columbia Government grant all appropriate permits and approvals and support the implementation of the painting of the storm drain murals on Frank Kameny Way in June and July of 2017.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposal to Restore Funding for the Proposed Extension of the DC Streetcar to Georgetown in Future DC Fiscal Year Budgets

Chair Mann moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-1-3). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District has already established the H Street/Benning Road line of the DC Streetcar, which has resulted in the demonstrated use of the service far exceeding projected ridership estimates and the tremendous growth of the adjacent neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the DC Streetcar project has spurred a good deal of investment along the H Street NW corridor and has given our community hope that the city is committed to initiatives that promote economic development and enhanced public transit options across the city,

WHEREAS, the proposed extension of the streetcar line down K Street NW to Georgetown through downtown would serve as a vital link between cross sections of the city and an important public transportation option for commuters and residents where few east-west links currently exist, and

WHEREAS, a reversal of the DC Streetcar's expansion plan to Georgetown would undercut many assumptions built into development plans for the area, and would remove the needed east-west connection between developed and developing parts of the city.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the DC Council to restore funding for the completion of the DC Streetcar extension down K Street NW to Georgetown so that it can serve as a viable form of transit for residents in our neighborhood and others throughout the District.

Administrative Matters

Meeting Minutes

Chair Mann moved to adopt the ANC's regular May 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kupcinski seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1).

Adjournment

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 10:09 pm.