



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

### Call to Order

The March 2017 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Vice Chair Daniel Warwick at 7:01 pm.

The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Amy Johnson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), John Kupcinski (2B07), and Nicole Mann (2B08).

### Election for Single Member District 2B04

#### Beginning of Voting for the Vacancy of Single Member District 2B04

Kathy Williams, a representative for the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) gave an overview of the voting procedures for the vacancy of single member district 2B04. At 7:05 pm Chair Mann said that voting had begun.

### Announcements and Public Comments

#### Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Silverstein said that DC Water will soon begin a construction project to replace the water main on 18th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and K Street NW.

Commissioner Silverstein gave an overview of the development plans that were being proposed by the owner of the properties at 2126 and 2128 N Street NW. He said that the developer will be scheduling an upcoming community meeting to discuss the plans. He said that the developer is open to receiving community comments regarding the plans.

Commissioner Warwick gave an overview of the recent closure of the Embassy Sunoco service station at 2200 P Street NW. He said that the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) are conducting a legal review of the closure. Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office, said that OAG is expected to issue a legal opinion regarding the matter later in the week.

Commissioner Maltz said Antwan Wilson, the new Chancellor of the DC Public Schools (DCPS), is hosting a series of community meetings in each ward across the city. She said that his Ward 2 meeting will be on Monday, April 24th at 6:30 pm at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens.

Commissioner Downs said that the ANC's Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee now has a standing meeting date for the third Wednesday of each month. He said that the meetings will be at 7:00 pm at the Dupont Circle Resource Center, 9 Dupont Circle NW. He added that at next week's committee meeting the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will be present to discuss possible new bikeshare station locations in ANC 2B, along with other bicycling safety matters.

Commissioner Maltz said that March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

#### Presentation by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Regarding the Start of Building Renovations at 2000 Florida Avenue NW

Danielle Brown, a representative for the American Geophysical Union (AGU), said that AGU has been a neighbor in Dupont Circle since the 1970s. She gave an overview of the organization's renovation plans for its headquarters building at 2000 Florida Avenue NW. She said that the green elements that will be included in the new building reinforce the scientific community's assertion of the need to act on climate change. She added that the organization hopes that the building will inspire other businesses and organizations to also pursue net-zero development.

Ms. Brown encouraged meeting attendees to visit [building.agu.org](http://building.agu.org) to follow the project updates. She said that the website will soon have a construction timeline posted.

Tom Rathburn, a representative for Skanska, the contractor for the building project, said that the contractor is currently applying for building permits. He said that a construction start date has thus not been defined yet. He said that the project will not be too disruptive to the community because most of the work is being done inside the building. He added that the contractor will be tapping into the sanitary sewer underneath the street, which will cause some sidewalk disruptions.

Commissioner Johnson asked if there will be opportunities for the community to take site tours during the construction process. Mr. Rathburn said that there will be opportunities to do so.

#### Update Regarding the St. Thomas Parish Development Project

Nick Jessee, a Vice President for CAS Riegler, said that the St. Thomas Parish development project began about a month ago. He said that the demolition process is currently ongoing, and that after the demolition process has ended the contractors will be excavating for the building's garage. He said that the developer launched a Google Group at <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/st-thomas-parish-construction>, which will include construction updates.

A local resident expressed concerns with the possible impacts of the demolition vibrations on neighboring buildings. Mr. Jessee said that the developer has hired a seismic consultant who has found that the contractors are currently operating below the seismic vibration threshold where the consultant would predict problems would occur.

#### Update Regarding the Homeless Encampment at the Intersection of 17th Street and Corcoran Street NW

Benjamin Link, a Constituent Services Liaison for the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services' office, said that representatives from the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Deputy Mayor's office, the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) recently met with Commissioner Maltz at the site of the homeless encampment to try to find resources for the individual who was living in the encampment. He said that the individual values the support network he currently has in the neighborhood and fears moving into housing and thus losing that network. Mr. Link added that there seems to be competing interests in the neighborhood regarding how to address the issue.

Mr. Link said that several cleanups have been conducted at the location and that the decision was made that DHS and DBH would work with the individual moving forward to identify a housing resource. He said that he thinks that the agencies will be able to identify a resource. He encouraged the community to assist the Deputy Mayor's office by encouraging the individual to view housing as a good thing. He also encouraged the community to contact the Deputy Mayor's office if they know any landlords that will rent to someone like this homeless individual.

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

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office, said that the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Enforcement Division has completed an investigation regarding the closure of the Embassy Sunoco service station. He said the division has sent the investigative report to the Attorney General, who should be sending it to Councilmember Evans later this week.

Mr. Lipinsky said that the Mayor has nominated Interim Chief Peter Newsham to be the city's new Chief of Police. He said that the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety will be holding upcoming community roundtables to hear community input regarding the nomination.

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that the DC government offers many activities for children during the summer months, including camps and youth employment. He encouraged attendees to visit [summer.dc.gov](http://summer.dc.gov) to find summer opportunities. He said that he has received multiple questions about the impact of the DC's rodent poisoning methods on household pets. He gave an overview of the Department of Health's (DOH) process for adding poison to rat burrows.

Kishan Putta, a representative for DC Health Link, said that he wanted to reassure meeting attendees that DC Health Link will continue to operate regardless of what happens in Congress. He added that DC's insured rate has reached 96% thanks to DC Health Link's efforts.

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, gave an overview of the organization's upcoming Spring Fling event. He said that the event will be on Wednesday, March 22nd from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW. He encouraged meeting attendees to attend the event.

Steve Shulman, the Executive Director of Cultural Tourism DC, gave an overview of the organization's upcoming Embassy Day event on Saturday, May 6th.

#### General Agenda

## Vote on ANC 2B's Goals and Objectives for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Years

Chair Mann moved to approve the ANC's proposed goals and objectives for the 2017-2018 fiscal years. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The goals and objectives read as follows:

Goal 1: Facilitate administration that supports transparent ANC operations

- Objective 1a: Complete renovation of Resource Center in a fiscally responsible manner
- Objective 1b: Post monthly meeting minutes within one month of being approved
- Objective 1c: Post Settlement Agreements on the ANC's website within two weeks of being published in an ABC order
- Objective 1d: Post resolutions on the ANC's website within one month of vote
- Objective 1e: Publish end of fiscal year report by November 30 of each year

Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for residents of ANC 2B

- Objective 2a: Determine ANC 2B position on visitor parking options
- Objective 2b: Work with groups seeking to establish Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in ANC 2B
- Objective 2c: Appoint a Public Safety Liaison
- Objective 2d: Implement at least one public safety campaign per year
- Objective 2e: Use Transportation & Public Infrastructure Committee to advance related priorities

Goal 3: Strengthen community participation in public processes

- Objective 3a: 100% of historic preservation applications are reviewed by the ANC
- Objective 3b: 100% of board of zoning adjustment (BZA) applications are reviewed by the ANC
- Objective 3c: 100% of liquor license processes (applications, substantial changes, renewals) are reviewed by the ANC
- Objective 3d: 100% of public space applications are reviewed by the ANC

## **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda**

### Third Eye – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License at 1723 Connecticut Avenue NW

Commissioner Johnson moves to support Third Eye's request for a stipulated license based on the ANC entering into a settlement agreement with the applicant. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B submits the attached settlement agreement for Third Eye's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license at 1723 Connecticut Avenue NW, which the Commission has entered into with the applicant.

ANC 2B also supports the issuing of a stipulated license for Third Eye so that the applicant can begin the immediate sale of alcoholic beverages.

Commissioner Johnson moved to protest Third Eye's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to the approval of the ANC's settlement agreement with the applicant. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

The Darcy Hotel – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Hotel License at 1515 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Commissioner Downs moved to support the Darcy Hotel's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports The Darcy Hotel's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license at 1515 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

**Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda**

1722 Swann Street NW (2B01) – Concept / New Construction of Three-Story Plus Basement Plus Mezzanine Levels for Multifamily Building

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

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is an infill development of a vacant lot at 1722 Swann Street NW,

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates the applicant's work with the community and adjacent neighbors over the past several months to make several design enhancements including:

- the addition of a front setback
- aligning the rear facade with the neighbor at 1720 Swann Street NW's rear façade
- a further setback of the third floor to reduce visibility from the street
- the lack of a roofdeck

WHEREAS, ANC 2B further appreciates the applicant including a three-bedroom unit in their proposed development, helping to add family-sized housing units to the Dupont Circle neighborhood,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B urges the applicant to continue working with their neighbors and ANC 2B to devise a solution for garbage storage and collection in the rear of the proposed building, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B encourages the applicant to continue working with the Historic Preservation Office to refine the design which, as presented, feels like a modern building stitched on top of a building mimicking the immediate historic context.

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

1902 R Street NW – Concept / Rear Dogleg Infill Addition

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

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is an infill of a dogleg and a one-story addition at the rear of 1902 R Street NW,

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

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

WHEREAS, the applicant will be restoring the front facade,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B urges the applicant to take all practical measures to protect the neighboring tree, which overhangs into the dogleg which would be filled in,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B further urges the applicant to survey the interior wallpaper and determine if it has any historic value,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports the proposed differentiation on the rear facade of two brick stories and a material other than brick on the top two floors, and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B ordinarily opposes the infill of doglegs, ANC 2B supports this specific project because the impact to the immediate neighbor in views, shadows, and light and air quality is minimal due to the neighbor's mature tree.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the historic preservation components of the project as proposed.

Update Regarding the Proposed Demolition of the Townhouses at 2126 and 2128 N Street NW

Commissioner Silverstein said that, based on the history of the townhouses at 2126 and 2128 N Street NW, it would be difficult to seek historic landmark status for the townhouses. He added that the properties are outside of the Dupont Circle Historic District. He said that he has met with the

developer and has viewed the plans for the project. He said that the developer will be hosting a community meeting regarding the project and will be coming to the ANC's April meeting to give a presentation on the project plans.

A neighbor to the property said that the townhouses look just like the townhouses across the street, which are inside of the Dupont Circle Historic District, and thus he does not understand why the townhouses being discussed are not historically protected.

Multiple residents suggested expanding the boundaries of the Dupont Circle Historic District to include the townhouses being discussed. Commissioner Warwick gave an overview of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) application process to expand the boundaries of the historic district. He said that he is personally opposed to an expansion of the boundaries because he believes that historic district boundary expansions should not be reactionary to individual projects located along the borders.

Commissioner Kupcinski asked about the status of the developer's demolition permit for the townhouses. A representative for the developer said that the demolition permit will not be issued until after the ANC's April meeting.

### **Public Space Committee Agenda**

#### **1050 17th Street NW – Public Space Application by Lenkin Management for the Re-Use of an Existing Curb Cut**

Randy moved to raise no objection to Lenkin Management's public space application. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B raises no objection to Lenkin Management's public space application for 1050 17th Street NW as proposed.

#### **1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW – Public Space Application to Install Art Work**

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

WHEREAS, the public space application proposes to add four John Cavanaugh statues to the New Hampshire Avenue NW side of the Woman's National Democratic Club, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that public art is a fundamental part of the Dupont Circle neighborhood and believes that the addition of these statues will be an important community amenity, especially as an added stop for the Dupont Circle First Friday art open houses.

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

1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW – Public Space Application by the Dupont Circle Hotel to Increase the Size of the Hotel’s Sidewalk Café and to Increase the Number of Tables to 39 and the Number of Tables to 147

Commissioner Warwick moved to support the Dupont Circle Hotel’s public space application. Chair Mann seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the Dupont Circle Hotel’s public space application to increase the size of the hotel’s sidewalk café and to increase the number of tables to 39 and the number of seats to 147 at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW.

**General Agenda (Continued)**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Proposal to Create an Express Metrobus Route on 14th Street NW

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

WHEREAS, the 14th Street NW corridor has seen a significant amount of redevelopment and renewal over the past ten years, bringing new, densely populated apartment complexes, large and small condominium and cooperative buildings, government facilities, and businesses,

WHEREAS, it is the expressed goal of the DC Government to encourage and provide safe, reliable, efficient, and diverse transportation options for the city’s residents, visitors, and suburban neighbors, including through the use of bicycle lanes, shared bicycle services, and public transportation,

WHEREAS, the city’s main public transportation system, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), has met the growing population density and ridership demands on major north-south routes by improving and adding limited stop bus service along Georgia Avenue NW and 16th Street NW in 2007 and 2009, respectively,

WHEREAS, WMATA and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) conducted a comprehensive study in 2012 to examine the feasibility of implementing improved bus service recommendations along 14th Street NW, including through the establishment of a limited-stop bus service,

WHEREAS, the 14th Street NW bus lines were selected for study because about 15,000 passengers use the lines on an average weekday, which is one of the highest levels of ridership in the Metrobus system,

WHEREAS, the 14th Street NW lines have been identified as having reliability issues and related overcrowding problems over the conducted course of the study and subsequent years,



WHEREAS, the boundaries of ANC 2B extend along 14th Street NW for several blocks,

WHEREAS, many residents of ANC 2B commute on the 14th Street NW bus lines and would benefit from limited-stop buses, which will reduce the number of riders traveling from further north on non-limited-stop routes,

WHEREAS, even more residents of ANC 2B commute on buses along 16th Street NW and adding limited-stop bus service along 14th Street NW will induce riders north of ANC 2B who are currently walking to the 16th Street bus lines to take the 14th Street bus lines instead, helping to alleviate chronic overcrowding problems on the 16th Street bus lines, to let more ANC 2B residents board the buses when they come to ANC 2B, and to dramatically improve the quality of life for ANC 2B residents,

WHEREAS, WMATA will need funding from the DC Government to implement improvements and add limited-stop bus service along 14th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, the DC Government contributed substantial financial assistance to WMATA for the initial operating costs for each of the aforementioned north-south improvements, including limited-stop bus services along Georgia Avenue NW and 16th Street NW, in the amount of \$1.2 million annually.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the DC Government implement the recommendations for improved bus service as outlined in the 2012 Metrobus 14th Street Line Study – Final Summary Report, which include the following:

- Running time calibration
- Operations improvements
- Recommended facilities improvements
- Recommended customer information improvements
- Proposed service modifications

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that WMATA implements such improvement recommendations at the earliest possible time.

Discussion Regarding DC Council Bill B22-0092 – the “Short-term Rental Regulation and Affordable Housing Protection Act of 2017”

Multiple meeting attendees expressed concerns with the proposed Short-term Rental Regulation and Affordable Housing Protection Act of 2017.

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

Discussion Regarding DC Council Bill B22-0125 – the “Small Business Parking Permit Act of 2017”

Chair Mann moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, parking studies conducted in the Dupont Circle Neighborhood have demonstrated a severe shortage of on-street parking for residents due to the population density,

WHEREAS, residents have voiced their concern that the proposed action currently under consideration by the Council would further restrict the parking available to residents,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B requests, should the Small Business Parking Permit Act of 2017 be passed by the Council, that ANC 2B be exempted from said legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B opposes the passage of the Small Business Parking Permit Act of 2017.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Needed Renovations to the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens

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

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens is currently operating at full capacity with a waiting list, and provides athletic facilities for its students and students at School Without Walls High School,

WHEREAS, there are currently funds available to refurbish and renovate a physical plant that dates back to 1922,

WHEREAS, the school's principal, faculty, Home and School Association (HSA), and concerned neighbors have requested that renovating and updating the gym and locker room facilities be given highest priority,

WHEREAS, the students currently have no locker rooms and no place to shower or change clothes. The boys and girls have to change in the bathrooms, and they have to carry their possessions with them because there are no lockers,

WHEREAS, the school's gym is too small to be used by School Without Walls High School for basketball because it does not have a regulation size court. The high school has no gym facilities and wants to use the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens for practices and home games but cannot do that now,

WHEREAS, when work was done on the school's HVAC system in the cafeteria directly below the gym the work was not performed in the gym upstairs, and

WHEREAS, the needs of the school's gym are evident, immediate, and far more pressing than any need to renovate the school's auditorium. Renovations to the gym would benefit the students directly every single day. Unlike a lengthy project involving the auditorium, upgrading the gym facilities can be dealt with immediately and with minimum impact on daily operations of the school.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B and residents of the Dupont Circle neighborhood, including parents of students at Ross Elementary School, a feeder school for the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, strongly urge the DC Public Schools and the Department of General Services to begin a renovation of the gym and locker room facilities at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens at the earliest possible date, giving the project a higher priority than any other project involving the school. Our children need a place to shower, to change with dignity, and to store their belongings, and they need it now.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### **Approval of the Regular February 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Mann moved to approve the regular February 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kupcinski seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

#### **Election for Single Member District 2B04 (Continued)**

##### **Announcement of the Results of the Election for the Vacancy of Single Member District 2B04**

Chair Mann moved to adopt a proposed resolution to the Board of Elections announcing that Nick DelleDonne has won the election for single member district 2B04. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### **Adjournment**

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:51 pm.