



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 11th, 2016; 7:00 p.m.

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

### Call to Order

The May 2016 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: Daniel Warwick (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Michael Upright (2B04), Abigail Nichols (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Nicole Mann (2B08), and Noah Smith (2B09).

### Announcements and Public Comments

#### Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Smith gave an overview of the process for filling the current vacancy for district 2B01.

Commissioner Warwick gave an overview of the Dupont Underground's current exhibit. He encouraged meeting attendees to visit the exhibit during the walk-in sessions.

Commissioner Maltz gave an overview of the upcoming community yard sale that would benefit the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens.

#### Announcement by the District Department of Transportation for Upcoming Public Meeting Regarding the DC Streetcar's Union Station to Georgetown Proposal

Megan Kanagy, a Transportation Planner for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave an overview of the upcoming public meeting regarding the DC Streetcar's proposed Union Station to Georgetown extension.

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

Eva Lewis, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), provided updates from the Mayor's Office. She gave an overview of the events that DC would be organizing for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Mayor's proposed legislation to raise DC's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and the Mayor's recent efforts regarding DC statehood.

Thomas Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, talked about the DC Council's ongoing FY 2017 budget process. He also gave an overview of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) SafeTrack plan.

Shirley Reid, a local resident, said that she was opposed to the opening of a proposed restaurant at 2300 N Street NW.

Ralston Cox, a resident of the Portsmouth Condos, thanked the ANC and Commissioner Maltz for their work on the finalizing a settlement agreement with the Carlyle Hotel.

## **General Agenda**

### **Presentation by City Administrator Rashad Young Regarding DC's FY 2017 Budget**

Rashad Young, DC's City Administrator, was present. He first gave an overview of the Mayor's proposed FY 2017 budget, which he said was titled "A Fair Shot." He talked about the Mayor's overall priorities for the budget. He also gave an overview of the city's revenue estimates and the city's previously implemented tax cuts, which he said would help grow the middle class.

Mr. Young gave an overview of the public engagement process regarding the formulation of the proposed budget, including the budget town halls that the Mayor's Office had held. He talked about the public's recommendations for the budget. He also gave an overview of the different categories that the city spends money on, and stated the percentage of the total budget that was spent for each category.

Mr. Young said that the proposed FY 2017 budget would represent the lowest annual budget growth that the city has seen in several years. He gave a detailed overview of the individual initiatives and programs that would receive additional funding for FY 2017. He added that the FY 2017 budget would be the first budget submitted under DC's budget autonomy initiative.

Commissioner Nichols gave an overview of the issues that the ANC had experienced regarding the city's issuance of 24/7 demolition permits, including what the ANC experienced with the demolition permit for the former Washington Post building. She also talked about the problems the neighborhood had experienced with sunken sidewalks.

Commissioner Smith said that the DC is unique among other cities when it comes to emergency medical services, including the process through which the city's emergency medical services are regulated. He asked how the City Administrator plans to bring a healthcare focus to the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DCFEMS), especially given the fact that such a large percentage of DC's DCFEMS calls are medical-related. Mr. Young said that the decision to contract with American Medical Response (AMR) for additional ambulance coverage will provide DCFEMS with additional free time to train the department's own staff members more thoroughly. He added that the City Administrator's Office is going to more thoroughly focus on ways to improve the level of patient care within DCFEMS.

Presentation by the District Department of Transportation Regarding the Feasibility Study for the Proposed Public Plaza between Dupont Circle and Q Street NW

Richard Kenney, Senior Project Manager for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), said that DDOT was conducting a feasibility study for the proposed park. He gave an overview of the plans for the park.

Joyce Tsepas, a Transportation Planner for AECOM, DDOT's contracted engineering firm for the project, said that DDOT was in the process of engaging with multiple different stakeholders, including the Dupont Underground, regarding the plans for the park. She added that DDOT was proposing to include an opening towards the south end of the park that would drop down to the underpass below in order to allow for proper ventilation in the underpass.

Ms. Tsepas said that DDOT was present to ask the ANC if they were missing anything regarding the feasibility study.

Commissioner Silverstein's asked if the Metrobus 42 line would still be maintained on the Connecticut Avenue NW access road after the park was completed. Ms. Tsepas said that DDOT would be carrying out a multi-modal transportation assessment in order to see how various transportation modes would be affected by the plans for the project.

Mr. Kenney went over the next steps for the project.

Consideration of a Letter of Support for the Proposed Closing of 17th Street NW for the 17th Street Festival on August 27th, 2016

Chair Mann moved to adopt the proposed letter of support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Upright. Passed 7-0-0. The letter reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets' special event application to shut down 17th Street NW between P Street and R Street in order to stage the annual 17th Street Festival on August 27th, 2016.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding ANC 2B's Guest of Honor for the 2016 Capital Pride Parade

Commissioner Silverstein said that Lou Chibbaro, Senior News Reporter for the Washington Blade, had to turn down the nomination to be ANC 2B's Guest of Honor, as he thought that the nomination would be a conflict of interest. Commissioner Silverstein said that the ANC has decided that it would be best to honor former Commissioner Mike Feldstein during the parade this year.

Consideration of a Letter of Support for the DC Black Pride Festival on May 29, 2016

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt the proposed letter of support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. Passed 7-0-0. The letter reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports DC Black Pride's Health & Wellness Expo which will take place on May 29, 2016 at the playing field at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Consideration of Several Renewal Applications for Current Alcoholic Beverage Control Board License Holders**

#### **The Carlyle Hotel**

Commissioner Maltz moved to send a letter to the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board stating that the ANC supports the settlement agreement that the ANC recently signed with the Carlyle Hotel in relation to the hotel's license renewal application. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-0. The letter reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the settlement agreement that the Commission recently signed with the Carlyle Hotel and looks forward to the agreement being incorporated as part of the hotel's license renewal.

#### **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC**

Commissioner Nichols moved to protest the hotel's license renewal application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests the application for the Doubletree Washington DC at 1515 Rhode Island Avenue NW (ABRA-079383) to renew the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to a renegotiation of the establishment's settlement agreement that allows for the peaceful cohabitation with current neighbors.

#### **Some Place Else Bar & Grill**

Commissioner Upright moved to protest the establishment's license renewal application. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests the application for Some Place Else Bar & Grill at 1637 R Street NW (ABRA-098935) to renew the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to a renegotiation of the establishment's settlement agreement that allows for the peaceful cohabitation with current neighbors.

## **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda**

### **Local 16 – Petition to Amend or Terminate the Settlement Agreement for the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1600 U Street NW**

Chair Mann moved to protest the petition to amend or terminate the establishment's settlement agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maltz. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests the petition for Local 16 at 1600 U Street NW (ABRA-060467) to amend or terminate the settlement agreement for the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

### **Historic Preservation & Zoning Agenda**

#### **923 16th Street NW – Proposed Side and Roof Addition to the St. Regis Hotel, Including the Creation of a Rooftop Bar**

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the St. Regis Hotel at 923 16th Street NW is within the confines of the 16th Street Historic District and ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has reviewed the plans for an additional "townhouse" in a currently vacant lot in addition to the addition of a rooftop bar,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the project will beautify the neighborhood and improve the historic viewshed along 16th Street NW by hiding non-contributing mechanical equipment, and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B has a concern with the amount of outdoor bar space and its proximity to residents and opposes 24-hour construction at the site during the addition, ANC 2B believes that these issues will be dealt with during construction and operation.

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

#### **1101-1111 16th Street NW – Revised Concept Façade Alterations to Non-Contributing Buildings as Two Buildings Are Combined**

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the applicant at 1101-1111 16th Street NW proposes to renovate two existing office buildings and combine them into one,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supported a previous version of the project during its February meeting, although the Historic Preservation Review Board did not grant concept approval to those plans,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the current plans are an incredible improvement to the built environment along 16th Street NW and effectively marries the two existing buildings, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B wishes to commend the developer and architect for effectively incorporating greenery on their public space along 16th Street NW as well as on the columns of the buildings and hopes more greenery will be proposed in developments in Dupont Circle.

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

1508-1512 21st Street NW – Revised Residential Renovation and Rear Addition to Three Existing Multifamily Rowhouses, Including Restoration of the Historic Façades on 21st Street

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

1520 T Street NW – Proposed Concept Roof Addition

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the project hearing from the May HPRB agenda to the June HPRB agenda, as ANC 2B learned about the project on May 10th after its May 4th Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee meeting.

1800 R Street NW – Application for a Variance to Allow for the Opening of a Yoga Studio in a Condominium Building

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

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting that the Board of Zoning Adjustment Grant ANC 2B Great Weight Regarding the Application for 1711 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. Passed 5-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B wishes to explain, for the record, why the ANC report on BZA #19267 was received after the May 10th deadline. The ANC 2B monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of the month, this month being May 11th. The application was initially on the April ANC 2B agenda, but was deferred to May at the applicant's request as they finalized the specific zoning variances and special exceptions necessary for converting a pool to the parking garage. Based on accommodating the applicant's request, ANC 2B asks the board to consider its recommendation with great weight even though it was submitted tardy.

1711 Rhode Island Avenue NW – Application for Variances from Various Parking Requirements and for a Special Exception from the Office Use Requirements to Renovate an Existing Building for Use as Offices

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the applicant at 1711 Rhode Island Avenue NW proposes to redevelop the former YMCA building into an office building,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B initially reviewed the project at its February Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee meeting in conjunction with the project's historic preservation component,

WHEREAS, the applicant also requires a special exception to switch the use from a private club to an office,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B misses the YMCA, the ANC recognizes the project is within a predominately office-driven context,

WHEREAS, the successful conversion of a pool to a parking garage requires more compact spaces than are allowed by zoning, relief from the width of the garage driving lane at certain pinch points due to the placement of certain columns, a lower parking minimum than currently allowable, and an allowance to not cluster compact spaces together,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes the transit-proximity of the site which would have a lower parking minimum requirement under the new zoning regulations to be effective September 2016, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands the design challenges with converting a pool to a parking garage and supports the minimal changes so that a parking garage is feasible within the current footprint of the pool.

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

**Public Space Committee Agenda**

1800 N Street NW – Public Space Application for an Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe at Surfside

Commissioner Warwick moved to adopt the proposed resolution regarding the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Surfside taco stand at 1800 N Street NW is within the confines of the Dupont Circle Historic District,

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested a change to their public space permit to allow for an enclosure on public space,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is very concerned with the viewshed down N Street NW considering that the enclosure would jut out past the overhang of the neighboring buildings,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is significantly concerned with pedestrian throughput along the respective block of N Street NW and believes that the current public space permit does not conform with the actual use of the sidewalk public space, which feels like it has significantly less than ten feet of usable public space between the curb and the end of tables in front of the taco stand,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has a long-standing policy for public space applications which, without specific and special circumstances, requires ten feet of unimpeded walkway on a sidewalk within the ANC, above and beyond the six feet required by the Public Space Committee, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the enclosure as proposed is not compatible with the historic district.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B opposes the public space permit request for 1800 N Street NW.

### **General Agenda (Continued)**

#### **Presentation by Sheila Alexander-Reid, the Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs**

Sheila Alexander-Reid, the Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, talked about the recent community town hall that her office held with DC's transgender community in response to the recent killing of a transgender individual in Rockville, MD.

Ms. Alexander-Reid said that the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs helps homeless LGBTQ youth secure housing and personal support. She added that the office can also assist the ANC with any issues that impact the neighborhood's LGBTQ population.

Commissioner Smith asked Ms. Alexander-Reid to distribute the contact information for the staff member in the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs that helps LGBTQ youth find housing.

### **Public Space Committee Agenda (Continued)**

#### **1920 N Street NW – Public Space Application for Streetscape Improvements, Including the Installation of New Trees, ADA Ramps, and Bike Racks**

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support the public space application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the public space application at 1920 N Street NW.

1617 19th Street NW – Public Space Application for Streetscape Improvements, Including the Installation of New Trees, Benches, and a Fence

Commissioner Warwick moved to raise no objection to the public space application. The motion was seconded by Chair Mann. Passed 6-0-0. The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B raises no objection to the public space application at 1617 19th Street NW.

**Administrative Agenda**

Approval of April 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

*This matter was postponed until the Commission's regular June 2016 meeting.*

Consideration of a Nomination for Constance Lai to Serve on the ANC's Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee

The nomination for Constance Lai to serve on the ANC's Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee was approved by acclamation.

**Adjournment**

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.