



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.
Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

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

The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Daniel Warwick (2B02), Stephanie Maltz (2B03), Nick DelleDonne (2B04), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), and Nicole Mann (2B08).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Downs said that the Friends of Stead Park are working to expedite city funding for the planned renovations to the Stead Park Recreation Center. He thanked Councilmember Evans for his support of the proposed project.

Commissioner Downs said that the ANC's Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee will be meeting next Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 pm at the Dupont Circle Resource Center, 9 Dupont Circle NW. He said that the meeting agenda includes storm drain murals, Zipcar parking spaces, an update on the Dupont Underground, and an update on a neighborhood LGBTQ history project.

Commissioner Maltz recognized Commissioner Warwick for his work in representing the ANC during a recent Office of Planning meeting regarding the office's proposed updates to DC's Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Mann said that the ANC will be participating in the 2017 Capital Pride Parade on Saturday, June 10th.

Chair Mann said that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is working to implement a temporary cooling solution for the Farragut North and Dupont Circle Metrorail stations during the upcoming summer months. She said that more information regarding the solution will be available at the ANC's June meeting.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Richard Livingstone, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that on Friday, May 12th the Mayor will be attending the ribbon cutting for West End Fire Station at 2225 M Street NW. He added that on Saturday, May 13th the Mayor will be attending a tree planting event at Francis Field at the intersection of N Street and 25th Street NW.

Tom Lipinsky, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that the DC Council continues to review DC's proposed FY 2018 budget.

Susan Volman, the Treasurer of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), said that DCCA will be holding a cleanup of the streets surrounding T Street Park on Saturday, May 13th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. She also said that the developer for the project at 2126-2128 N Street NW will be donating the townhouses currently located on the site to any organization that would like to repurpose them. She said that DCCA is spreading the word about the availability of the townhouses.

Pat Powell, the Director of Operations and Preparedness for the Golden Triangle BID, said that the BID has 147 public events scheduled through the end of September. He said that the BID's "Picnic in the Park" series of events will be starting soon, and that the BID's outdoor movie series in Farragut Square will be starting in June.

Presentation by Steve Callcott and Michael Robb from DC's Historic Preservation Office

Steve Callcott, the Deputy Preservation Officer for the Office of Planning, introduced Michael Robb, a Historic Preservation Specialist for the Office of Planning. Mr. Callcott said that Mr. Robb will be replacing Kim Elliott, an Architect for the Office of Planning, as the Office of Planning's representative for the Dupont Circle Historic District, as Ms. Elliott is about to go on maternity leave.

Mr. Robb gave an overview of his professional background, including his background in historic preservation. He said that he has previously worked on historic preservation matters in DC and is familiar with the Dupont Circle area.

Mr. Callcott gave an overview of the ANC's previous inquiries into the "great weight" responsibilities of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). He said that the Office of Planning has talked with HPRB members, the Office of the Attorney General, and Councilmember Anita Bonds' Office regarding the matter. He said that the Office of Planning is reiterating the importance of "great weight" to its HPRB members and office staff.

Mr. Callcott said that the chair of HPRB now opens each board meeting with a declaration about the importance of "great weight." He added that Office of Planning staff is working to address ANC resolutions on the record for each HRPB application. He gave an overview of how the public can watch HPRB meetings live and after-the-fact online.

Mr. Callcott said that the Office of Planning is implementing a requirement that HPRB applicants must notify their immediate property owners about any applications that they are

filing. He said that the Office of Planning is using a GIS application to obtain addresses of the property owners who the notifications are required to go to. He added that the Office of Planning is also working to create a central database where applicants can file applications online and the public can see the application plans online.

Commissioner Silverstein said that the ANC's relationship with HPRB and the Office of Planning has noticeably improved over the last few years. He reiterated the importance of historic preservation to the Dupont Circle neighborhood.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

B & B – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1351 Connecticut Avenue NW

Chair Mann moved to protest B&B's application for a new license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to the negotiation of a settlement agreement. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests B&B's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 1351 Connecticut Avenue NW based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to the 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

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda

1761-1763 N Street NW – Application by the Middle East Institute for Special Exceptions from the Off-Street Parking Requirement and the Long-Term Bicycle Parking Space Requirement to Construct a Rear Addition to an Existing Three-Story Building

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

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is requesting a parking variance as well as a variance from the long-term bicycle parking requirements,

WHEREAS, the project is an expansion of the Middle East Institute, which is a long-time neighbor in Dupont Circle and is not reducing the number of parking spaces at the site,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that if anyone is to request a parking variance for more limited parking, it should be an entity on this block, which is highly transit-, biking-, and walking-oriented, and which already has parking garages for those who choose to drive,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B would typically be uncomfortable with relief from the long-term bicycle parking requirements, this applicant is providing twice the required long-term bike parking spaces under an overhang, which ANC 2B believes is an adequate solution, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B urges the applicant to consider provisioning short-term bicycle parking spaces on their property rather than in the public right of way.

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

2121 Newport Place NW – Concept / Rear Addition Within Existing Footprint of Building

Commissioner Warwick 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 read as follows:

WHEREAS, the project at 2121 Newport Place NW is within the confines of the Dupont Circle Historic District and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates the applicant's revisions to the HPRB submission set, which include:

- moving the electric meters away from the street facade so that they are hidden from the street
- adopting wood materials for the front facade windows
- changing the exterior front stairway to an ornate cast iron which mimics the historic stairs

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B would normally not support new construction of stairs in public space to the cellar, these stairs are quite common within the context of Newport Place NW, and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B would normally not support a front roof deck, the Commission considers the proposed roof deck to be acceptable due to its setback so that it will not be visible from the street, and its small size of approximately 50 square feet.

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

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding an After-Hours Construction Permit Request for a Project at 1100 15th Street NW, which will Include the Closing of L Street NW

The Commissioner did not take any action regarding this matter.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Office of Planning's updates to DC's Comprehensive Plan for Dupont Circle

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

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning is conducting an update to DC's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan is the document which determines the framework of how the District of Columbia will evolve, grow, and change over the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2017, ANC 2B was the first of several ANCs to sign onto a priorities statement for the Comprehensive Plan as a whole (Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, since January of 2017, ANC 2B has endeavored to conduct outreach on the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to the Dupont Circle neighborhood framework of the Near-Northwest area; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B convened a meeting of several neighborhood groups, including Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, the Dupont Circle Conservancy, Dupont Underground, and the forthcoming Dupont Circle Business Improvement District, to determine shared priorities for the neighborhood over the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B additionally staffed a table for two weekends at the Dupont Circle Farmers Market to hear thoughts from people who live, work, and play in Dupont Circle; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B collected and organized over 70 ideas for Dupont Circle from this community outreach process, and these ideas are reflected in the Attachment B spreadsheet; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B reviewed the outcomes of this community outreach process and created a list of items that we urge the Office of Planning to include in the Comprehensive Plan for Dupont Circle.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the following are included in the Dupont Circle portion of the Comprehensive Plan:

- Completion of the "Cap Park" over Connecticut Avenue between Dupont Circle and Q Street NW

- Preservation and encouragement of arts, cultural, and LGBTQ history experiences within Dupont Circle through the sustained and active, likely city-subsidized, programming of park and community areas in the neighborhood, especially including the “Cap Park”, Dupont Circle, and Dupont Underground
- Creation of streetscapes along Connecticut Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue NW
- Creation of a new, expanded community center at Stead Park to include a children’s library
- Installation of additional protected bike lanes, including on 17th Street, 18th Street, and possibly Massachusetts Avenue NW
- Preservation of the historic character of Dupont Circle
- Encouragement of a livable community for diverse lifestages, including families and senior citizens
- Enhancement of transit connectivity to other neighborhoods, especially neighborhoods like U Street and Shaw, which are not directly served by Metrorail

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Possible Enforcement Actions by the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) for the Closure of the Embassy Sunoco Service Station at 2200 P Street NW

Commissioner Warwick 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 service station at 2200 P Street NW closed on January 1, 2017 due to an order to vacate executed by Marx Realty on December 6, 2016 (Attachment A),

WHEREAS, the service station closed due to the action of Marx Realty and not the action of the service station operator, who has expressed a desire to continue operating,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B urges that any action be taken against Marx Realty rather than the service station operator,

WHEREAS, the service station closure did not receive the approval of the Gas Station Advisory Board,

WHEREAS, DC law prohibits full-service retail stations from being “discontinued,...structurally altered, modified, or otherwise converted into non-full service facility or into any other use” (DC Official Code 36-304.01),

WHEREAS, the service station closed in direct violation of DC law,

WHEREAS, Councilmember Jack Evans’ Office requested a letter from the Attorney General to determine if the service station closure was in direct violation of DC law, and the letter determined that the closure of the service station was illegal (Attachment B),

WHEREAS, the letter identifies a civil infraction and \$20,000 fine assessed by the Department of Energy and Environment are the legal recourse for the District of Columbia in enforcing this law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that Marx Realty finds an operator to reopen the service station at 2200 P Street NW as a full-service retail station within 90 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if Marx Realty refuses to reopen the service station, ANC 2B requests the Department of Energy and Environment issues the civil infraction and fines Marx Realty \$20,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges that no entitlements are granted or permits are issued for any development at the site other than for the returning of the illegally-closed service station.

Public Space Committee Agenda

919 19th Street NW – Public Space Application by Prequel for a New, In-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 32 Tables and 85 Seats

Commissioner Silverstein moved to support Prequel’s public space application. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Prequel’s public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café at 919 19th Street NW.

1501 K Street NW – Public Space Applications by Claudia’s for an Increase in Size and an Addition of Furniture / Equipment to the Establishment’s Application for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 9 Tables, 44 Seats, and 6 Umbrellas

Chair Mann 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:

ANC 2B does not support Claudia’s public space application for an increase in size and an addition of furniture / equipment to the establishment’s sidewalk cafe at 1501 K Street NW, based on the fact that the resulting sidewalk width along 15th Street NW would not meet the ANC’s Public Space Guidelines.

The Commission would support Claudia’s public space application if the applicant amended its application so that the resulting sidewalk width was at least 10 feet between the western edge of the sidewalk’s tree boxes and the eastern edge of the sidewalk cafe.

Presentation by Taylor Callaham of OTO Development Regarding the Public Space Plans for a New Boutique Hotel at 1112 19th Street NW

Taylor Callaham, the Senior Regional Director of Real Estate for OTO Development, said that the company is planning to build an AC Hotel by Marriott at 1112 19th Street NW. He said that the company will eventually be coming back to the ANC with a sidewalk cafe application. He added that the company is proposing to install a lay-by along the curb in front of the hotel to allow taxis to drop off guests safely outside of the busy travel lanes on 19th Street NW.

Mr. Callaham said that the company is looking to start construction on the hotel later this year. He added that the hotel will have a low-key bar and restaurant component.

Presentation by the Golden Triangle BID Regarding the BID Nightlife Taskforce's Proposed Curbside Management Parking Program

Chair Mann 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:

ANC 2B supports the pilot program proposed by the Golden Triangle BID and the District Department of Transportation to control curbside management in ANC 2B's "club central district" by creating no-parking zones on certain blocks in order to allow for ample space for loading and unloading of patrons.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Proposal to Install Rainbow Crosswalks on 17th Street NW for Capital Pride 2017

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 rainbow flag is an internationally-recognized symbol of awareness and acceptance of diversity as well as a symbol for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community,

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle neighborhood and the District of Columbia pride 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, many other cities have commemorated the special role of the LGBTQ community by painting crosswalks with the rainbow flag. In particular, San Francisco

had done so in the historic heart of their LGBTQ community on Castro Street, Seattle painted crosswalks in their Capitol Hill neighborhood, and Vancouver has done so at their Jim Deva Plaza,

WHEREAS, a majority of the businesses along Frank Kameny Way have expressed support for painting the crosswalks rainbow,

WHEREAS, installing temporary rainbow crosswalks on Frank Kameny Way would further showcase the Dupont Circle neighborhood and the District of Columbia's support for the LGBTQ community,

WHEREAS, various Councilmembers, 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 temporary rainbow crosswalks on Frank Kameny Way, and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the painting of the temporary rainbow crosswalks, District of Columbia representatives have indicated that the painting should be coordinated with the 2017 Capital Pride Parade.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the District of Columbia Government grant all appropriate permits and approvals for and support the implementation of painting temporary rainbow crosswalks on Frank Kameny Way for the day of the Capital Pride Parade on Saturday, June 10th, 2017.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the Regular April 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chair Mann moved to adopt the ANC's regular April 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Commissioner Maltz moved to approve the ANC's FY 2016 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of New Property Insurance Policy for the Dupont Circle Resource Center

Commissioner Maltz moved to approve the ANC's signing of a new property insurance policy for the Dupont Circle Resource Center with The Hartford, and to approve the respective \$747.00 expenditure for the insurance policy. Chair Mann seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of ANC Expenses for the 2017 Capital Pride Parade

Commissioner Silverstein moved to approve expenditures up to \$225.00 for car rentals, up to \$125.00 for the purchase of banners and supplies if needed, and up to \$150.00 for the purchase of candy for the ANC's participation in the 2017 Capital Pride Parade. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Update Regarding the Dupont Circle Resource Center Renovations

The Commission had did not have any updates regarding this matter.

Personnel Matters (Commission in Executive Session)

Discussion of Personnel Matters

The Commission went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Administrative Agenda (Continued)

Consideration of a Motion Based on Discussions During the Commission's Executive Session

Chair Mann moved to increase the salary for Peter Sacco, the ANC's Executive Director, to \$1,000 per month, beginning with work performed during the month of June 2017. Commissioner Warwick seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:56 pm.