



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8th, 2017; 7:00 p.m.
Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Call to Order

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

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Amy Johnson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Nick DelleDonne (2B04), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Kari Cunningham (2B07), and Nicole McEntee (2B08).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner DelleDonne gave an overview of the ANC's previous vote to support the introduction of legislation that would promote the creation of public restrooms across the city. He said that Councilmember Brianne Nadeau has since introduced DC Council Bill B22-0223 - the "Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2017," which also seeks to promote the creation of public restrooms. He said that hearings regarding the legislation should be announced soon, and that the ANC may have a commissioner testify during the hearings. He distributed flyers regarding the proposed legislation to meeting attendees.

Commissioner Johnson said that Mandu at 1805 18th Street NW, which experienced a fire a few months ago, is hoping to reopen in early 2018. She added that the Heurich House at 1307 New Hampshire Ave NW will be holding its 5th Annual Christkindlmarkt on the weekend of Friday, December 1st through Sunday, December 3rd.

Commissioner Cunningham said that the Ross Elementary School PTA will be holding its 10th Annual Ross Elementary School Tree Sale on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd. She said that trees can be pre-ordered through the Ross Elementary School website. She added that local residents can also purchase trees for donation to local families in need.

Commissioner Cunningham said that the third community meeting for the Stead Park Recreation Center renovation project will be on Thursday, November 30th at 6:30 pm at Foundry United Methodist Church, 1500 16th Street NW.

Commissioner Warwick said the ANC will soon be co-hosting a joint ANC town hall on the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) dockless bikeshare demonstration program. He said that local residents will be able to ask questions and offer feedback regarding the demonstration program during the town hall. He added that the details for the town hall will be announced soon.

Update Regarding the District Department of Transportation's 17th Street NW Bike Lane Proposal

Commissioner Warwick said that the ANC's Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee discussed DDOT's concept for a 17th Street NW protected bike lane during the committee's last meeting. He said that the proposal will be coming through the ANC in the upcoming several months. He said that local residents can reach out to Commissioner Downs, co-chair of the TPI Committee, to further discuss the concept. He added that DDOT hopes to have a final proposal for the protected bike lane for the ANC to consider in January or February of 2018.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Joe Florio, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that Department of Public Works (DPW) inspectors recently inspected the alleyway between the 1700 blocks of Church Street and P Street NW. He said that the inspectors will be issuing tickets for violations that were found during the inspection. He said that the inspection will help tackle some of the neighborhood's rat issues.

Jerry Chapin, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that Mayor Bowser will be conducting a Ward 2 community walk on Monday, November 13th at 3:00 pm. He said that the walk will begin at Dupont Circle and end at Ross Elementary School. He said that the walk will focus on rodent issues. He added that it is currently leaf collection season and that he left newsletters in the back of the meeting room that include DPW's leaf collection plan.

Susan Volman, a representative for the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), said that DCCA recently held a successful house tour event. She thanked the community for its support of the event.

Abigail Nichols, a local resident, said that she objects to the way that ANC 2B is currently handling alcohol licensing when there are neighborhood protests taking place. She said that in the last two months the ANC has signed settlement agreements with Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) applicants that have preempted the protests of neighborhood groups. She suggested that the ANC considers reestablishing an ABRA policy and licensing committee, which could create methods for the ANC's handling of ABRA applications.

Bonnie Garrity, a representative for Restore Massachusetts Avenue, said that the organization has been working for ten years to improve Massachusetts Avenue NW by restoring the double row of trees along the avenue. She said that the organization has contributed to a 13% increase in

tree cover along the avenue over the last ten years. She said that much of this progress has occurred on the Embassy Row section of Massachusetts Avenue. She said that the organization wants to be a partner with DDOT regarding the agency's Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project. She added that the project as described thus far would create risks for the trees that are currently in place along the avenue.

Presentation by the District Department of Transportation Regarding the Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project

Huntae Kim, a representative for DDOT, gave a visual presentation regarding DDOT's Rehabilitation of Massachusetts Avenue NW Project.

Mr. Kim said that, as part of the project, DDOT is planning to rehabilitate the roadway, improve the overall streetscape, and create a safer corridor for motorists and pedestrians. He said that the project area runs from 20th Street to Waterside Drive along Massachusetts Avenue NW.

Allen Yang, an engineer for the project, gave an overview of the current pavement conditions along the roadway. He said that many portions of the roadway are classified as "poor" or "fair" and that few portions are classified as "excellent." He showed photos of the current pavement conditions along the roadway.

Mr. Yang gave a visual presentation regarding DDOT's proposed redesigns for several intersections along the roadway. He said that streetscape upgrades that are being proposed as part of the project include new ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps, multi-space parking meters, higher visibility crosswalks, turf and permeable pavers for highly trafficked treeboxes, bioretention ponds and flow-through planters, bike racks, trash receptacles, and benches.

Mr. Kim said that the project team is currently wrapping up the preliminary engineering design for the project. He said that the project team hopes to start construction on the project during the first quarter of 2019.

Chair McEntee said that she appreciated DDOT's proposed improvements to the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Q Street NW. She asked if DDOT was adding any additional crosswalks along the avenue. Mr. Kim said that the project team is proposing to add two additional crosswalks.

Commissioner Warwick asked, due to the 50-foot width of the avenue, if DDOT had considered adding a two-way protected bike lane along the avenue. Mr. Kim said that, due to DDOT's standard for the minimum width of bike lanes, the avenue would be too narrow to include a two-way bike lane.

Commissioner Silverstein said that the proposed bioretention ponds could foster the creation of rat burrows, leading to additional rat issues in the neighborhood. He said that the bioretention ponds would need proper maintenance in order to address the rat issues.

Presentation Regarding the Stead Park Recreation Center Project

Outerbridge Horsey, an architect for the Stead Park Recreation Center Project, gave a visual presentation regarding the proposed plans for the renovated Stead Park Recreation Center. He said that a sizable portion of the proposed project focuses on a large addition to the west side of the recreation center. He said that the project also proposes to add a solar array over the existing basketball court, which could provide shade to the basketball court users.

Mr. Horsey said that project team is proposing to add a public garden to the roof of the building addition, as well as a green roof and event space on the roof of the existing recreation center building. He said that the project will include upgrades to the existing playground, and that the selection of the final playground equipment will be made by the community.

Mr. Horsey said that the area in front of the existing recreation center building will be opened up in order to provide a welcoming entrance to the renovated recreation center. He said that the project team is proposing to add a basement to the renovated recreation center in order to provide further event space.

Mr. Horsey showed renderings of the proposed interior of the renovated recreation center. He said that an elevator will service all floors of the building in order to make the site fully accessible. He said that there will continue to be a public restroom that will be accessible from the exterior of the building.

Mr. Horsey said that the project team needs further input on what programming the community wants to see in the renovated recreation center. He said that the project team will be sending a programming survey out to the public soon.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Update Regarding the ANC's Signing of a Settlement Agreement with Safeway at 1701 Corcoran Street NW

Commissioner Johnson said that the ANC and several community groups and groups of residents who protested Safeway's alcoholic beverage license application continue to have ongoing discussions with the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board regarding the settlement agreement that the protesting parties signed with the applicant. She said that an ABC Board status hearing regarding the application has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th. She added that she will provide an update regarding the status of the application during the ANC's regular December 2017 meeting.

Bangkok Thai Dining – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 2016 P Street NW

Commissioner Warwick moved to protest Bangkok Thai Dining's substantial change application based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, subject to the signing of a settlement agreement with the applicant. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests Bangkok Thai Dining’s application for a substantial change to the establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, until a settlement agreement has been successfully negotiated between the ANC and the applicant.

Chef Brian’s Comfort Kitchen – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1020 19th Street NW

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

WHEREAS, Fork & Knife, LLC t/a Chef Brian’s Comfort Kitchen has applied for a new Retailer’s Class “D” Restaurant license at 1020 19th Street NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed location is within the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District and Single Member District 2B06 of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, the applicant has an establishment serving fast casual food with a seating capacity of 30 inside and a sidewalk café with 12 seats (DDOT permit #PA1042177),

WHEREAS, the proposed hours of operation and alcoholic beverage sales, service, and consumption for the premises are Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 am, and Friday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 3:00 am, and

WHEREAS, the proposed hours of operation and alcoholic beverage sales, service, and consumption for the outdoor sidewalk cafe are Sunday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Chef Brian’s Comfort Kitchen’s request for a stipulated license.

Capitale – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub License at 1730 M Street NW

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

WHEREAS, Capitale has applied for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub license at 1730 M Street NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed location is within the club central area and single member district 2B05,

WHEREAS, Capitale is proposing an establishment with a total occupancy load of 280 and a sidewalk café with 10 seats,

WHEREAS, the hours of operation inside the premises and for the sidewalk cafe will be Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 am to 3:00 am, and Friday through Saturday, 6:00 am to 4:00 am,

WHEREAS, the hours of alcoholic beverage sales, service, and consumption inside the premises and for the sidewalk cafe will be Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 am, and Friday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 am, and

WHEREAS, the hours of live entertainment inside the premises will be Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 am, and Friday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 am.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B protests Capitale's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Nightclub license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, until a settlement agreement has been successfully negotiated between the ANC and the applicant.

Imperial Liquors – Application to Transfer the Establishment's Existing Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License to 1033 Connecticut Avenue NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Consideration of Several Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal Applications for Grocery Stores and Markets

Chair McEntee moved to protest Prego Again's license renewal application based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood; adverse impact on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety; adverse impact on residential real property values; and the establishment's record of compliance with the establishment's license conditions. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests Prego Again's application for renewal of the establishment's Retailer's Class "B" license based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood; adverse impact on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety; adverse impact on residential real property values; and the establishment's record of compliance with the establishment's license conditions.

Historic Preservation and Zoning Agenda

1711 New Hampshire Avenue NW – Application of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for a Two-Year Time Extension of BZA Order No. 19131A Approving a Variance from the Non-Profit Organization Requirements, and a Special Exception from the Non-Profit Organization Requirements, to Permit the Use of an Existing Residential Building for Non-Profit Office Use

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

1529 16th Street NW – Concept / Additions, Rooftop Penthouse and Rear

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

WHEREAS, the Edlavitch District of Columbia Jewish Community Center (EDCJCC) is within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is proud to have the EDCJCC in our neighborhood and appreciates its contributions to our community,

WHEREAS, the EDCJCC proposes to renovate its building to allow for the consolidation of classrooms and to allow for new programs and activities,

WHEREAS, as part of this renovation, the EDCJCC proposes to add a habitable penthouse addition and a small addition in its parking lot for an elevator,

WHEREAS, the rooftop addition will not be visible from the street from the primary perspectives across 16th Street and Q Street NW from the building,

WHEREAS, while the rooftop addition will be slightly visible from the areas of the street and the historic 16th Street NW corridor, ANC 2B believes that, along with planned upgrades to HVAC equipment, the penthouse may be more compatible with the built environment than currently existing conditions, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the elevator addition in the parking lot would not detract from the historic fabric of the building.

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

1615 Riggs Place NW – Concept / Basement Addition, Demolition and Construction of Rear Addition with Balcony

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

WHEREAS, the project at 1615 Riggs Place NW is located within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B,

WHEREAS, the property is on Riggs Place NW, which is one of the best preserved historic streets within Dupont Circle, and the house was designed by Harvey L. Page and is one of a series of rowhouses that were built in the 1890s,

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes the demolition of a currently-existing rear addition on the first floor, to be replaced by a new addition which has less massing than the currently-existing addition,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is concerned with the placement of the windows in the rear addition and the use of fiber cement lap siding for the exterior of the rear addition, and

WHEREAS, some portions of the plans are difficult to follow without full demolition plans and context photographs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project as proposed and would encourage the applicant to consider different facade materials which are more compatible with the surrounding context and consider replacing the first floor horizontal window with a vertical window which mimics the historic windows on the building and the block.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by Ted's Bulletin for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 Tables and 22 Seats at 1818 14th Street NW

Commissioner Warwick moved to request a 30-day delay of the Public Space Committee's consideration of Ted's Bulletin's public space application. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Ted's Bulletin has applied for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe at 1818 14th Street NW,

WHEREAS, the applicant's establishment is under new ownership and the applicant has thus requested that ANC 2B ask for a delay in the review of its application for a sidewalk cafe,

WHEREAS, this is the second time that the applicant has requested that the ANC ask for a delay from the Public Space Committee regarding this application, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B may have concerns with the proposed sidewalk cafe and thus requests that the Public Space Committee not approve this public space application without receiving a letter from ANC 2B.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of Ted's Bulletin's public space application in order to allow the

Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant, including the applicant's new ownership.

Public Space Application by Five Guys for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 5 Tables, 20 Seats, and 5 Umbrellas at 1140 19th Street NW

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, ANC 2B recognizes that there are two major construction projects pending on the west side of the 1100 block of 19th Street NW, one involving the demolition of the corner office building at 1900 M Street NW and one involving the construction of a boutique hotel on the former site of Smith and Wollensky's at 1112 19th Street NW. Both of these projects will have major impacts on the current pedestrian passageways on this heavily traveled block,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that the pedestrian passageway in front of 1140 19th Street NW does not meet the ANC's Public Space Guidelines, as there is only eight feet of passageway between the treebox and the planters, but Five Guys' sidewalk cafe application is for a relatively small area that does not abut the planters, and

WHEREAS, the major construction work already underway on the block provides both the need and opportunity to revisit the issues of pedestrian passage along the entire block in order to allow for both sidewalk cafes and orderly pedestrian passage. ANC 2B intends to work with property owners and the Public Space Committee to make necessary adjustments to ensure public safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Five Guys' public space application for 1140 19th Street NW as submitted.

Public Space Application by the Renwick Gallery for the Installation of a New Exterior Sign at 1661 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Chair McEntee 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 Smithsonian American Art Museum Renwick Gallery has submitted a public space application which is proposing the replacement and installation of two exterior gallery signs,

WHEREAS, the Renwick Gallery is a branch of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, located at 1661 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, housed in a National Historic Landmark building and in a historic district, and focused on American craft and decorative arts from the 19th to the 21st century,

WHEREAS, the proposed signs maintain the same distinctive font and design as the current signs, but eliminate internal illumination and reduce the size of the letters significantly to conform with regulatory requirements and input received,

WHEREAS, the Renwick Gallery also plans to remove several additional existing signs in order to present a less cluttered appearance in the front yard area,

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the DC State Historic Preservation Office have all approved the present sign design, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that public space use is a privilege, not a right.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Renwick Gallery's public space application.

Public Space Application by the Dupont Underground for the Installation of a New, Freestanding Sign at 19 Dupont Circle NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed Creation of a Dupont Business Improvement District (BID)

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, ANC 2B is proud to represent the livable, walkable, urban neighborhood of Dupont Circle,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B strongly believes in the power of placemaking and place management to improve the vibrancy and built environment of our neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID) boundary is proposed to include portions of 22nd Street, P Street, Dupont Circle, Massachusetts Avenue, and Connecticut Avenue NW within ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, across the District of Columbia, business improvement districts are powerful allies with neighbors in managing and improving neighborhoods,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports the goals of the Dupont Circle BID:

- To increase sales and occupancy

- To increase property values
- To improve the perception of the area, both for consumers and investors
- To increase visitation to area attractions and businesses
- To improve the retail mix and quality of retail
- To raise the stature of the area with public sector leaders and agency directors
- To improve the public space, including parks and streetscapes, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is excited for the Dupont Circle BID to manage the planned “cap park” over the Connecticut Avenue NW underpass.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the establishment of a Dupont Circle Business Improvement District through the passage of DC Council Bill B22-0559 – the “Dupont Circle Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2017.”

Administrative Matters

Approval of the Regular October 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC’s regular October 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-1).

Approval of the ANC’s FY 2017 Quarter 4 Financial Report

Commissioner Warwick moved to approve the ANC’s FY 2017 Quarter 4 financial report. Chair McEntee seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Update Regarding the Dupont Circle Resource Center Renovations

Commissioner Silverstein said that the ANC received an invoice from Monarc Construction for the remainder due for the Dupont Circle Resource Center renovation project. He said that the ANC needs to arrange for a walk-through with Monarc Construction before the invoice is paid.

Adjournment

Chair McEntee adjourned the meeting at 10:06 pm.