



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

June 16, 2014

Sharia Shanklin, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1250 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009
dpr@dc.gov

RE: Francis Recreational Area

Dear Mr. Shanklin,

At its regular meeting on June 11, 2014, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 6 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (6-0). The Commission approved the following resolution:

Whereas, ANC 2A, representing Foggy Bottom and the West End, and ANC 2B, representing Dupont Circle, are concerned about recent incidents and overall confusion involving dogs on-leash and off-leash in the park area along 25th and N Streets, NW.

This area is known as the “Francis Recreational Area.” Part is owned by National Park Service and is part of Rock Creek Park and part was deeded to the District during Home Rule and is managed by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. It includes Francis Field on 25th Street and the green space behind Francis-Stevens Educational Center. The area north of N Street is part of ANC 2B and the area south of N is part of ANC 2A.

In 2008-2009, a new master plan was approved for Francis Field, the land west of 25th Street in ANC 2A. The new plan included space for an off-leash dog park on DC’s portion of the land. West End Dogs filed and its application for a dog park was approved by Director Jesus Aguirre during the Fenty administration. However, no funding has been available for its construction during the Gray administration.

In 2009, ANC 2A passed an additional resolution unanimously supporting a dog off-leash time sharing arrangement on Francis Field until such time as the formal dog park was constructed. This is allowed per DC municipal regulations, and is currently in place at Friendship Playground in Chevy Chase.

Resolved that ANC 2A and ANC 2B will work with Francis Recreational Area stakeholders in order to ensure that dog owners have safe places for their dogs on-leash and off-leash. Additionally resolved that we urge the DC government to move forward with the funding of the off-leash dogpark on Francis Field.

Commissioners Will Stephens (will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net), Mike Silverstein (mike.silverstein@dupontcircleanc.net), and Noah Smith (noah.smith@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William F. Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Will Stephens
Chairman

cc:

Commander Michael Reese, DC MPD Second District
Lieutenant Donald Craig, PSA 207
Council Member Jack Evans, Ward 2