



# **GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

## **Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 8th, 2021; 7:00 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

### **Call to Order**

The regular December 2021 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Matthew Holden at 7:03 pm.

### **Introduction of Commissioners**

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Meg Roggensack (2B01), Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Robin Nunn (2B03), Mo Pasternak (2B04), William Herbig (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Michael Scott McKernan (2B07), Matthew Holden (2B08), and Kyle Mulhall (2B09).

### **Announcements and Public Comments**

#### **Update on the ANC's Website**

Chair Holden gave an update on the ANC's website.

#### **Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioners Roggensack and Nunn gave commissioner announcements.

#### **Committee Updates**

Commissioner Pasternak, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), and Commissioner Herbig, Chair of the ANC's Land Use Committee (LUC), gave committee updates.

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

Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office; Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA); Joe Florio, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS); Diane Quinn, a Board Member for the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA); Susan Volman, the President of DCCA; and a local resident gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

### **Land Use Agenda**

1457 Swann Street NW – Application for Special Exceptions from the Penthouse Requirements, Penthouse Setback Requirements, and Rear Addition Requirements to Construct a Two-Story Rear Addition with Basement and Penthouse to an Existing, Attached, Two-Story with Basement Principal Dwelling Unit

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Roggensack seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-3-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Jacob Hensley has submitted Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application #20585, seeking support for special exceptions from the penthouse occupancy requirements, the penthouse setback requirements, and the rear addition requirements for a proposed two-story rear addition and penthouse at 1457 Swann Street NW, located in ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed this application at its duly-noticed monthly public meeting on December 1, 2021, which was held in-person and via Zoom,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and the ANC 2B Land Use Committee considered and provided guidance regarding concept-level plans in July 2021,

WHEREAS, the LUC continues to find that the proposed rear addition is inconsistent with the character and context of neighboring residential structures along this segment of Swann Street NW,

WHEREAS, the LUC continues to suggest that the applicant considers alternatives for reducing the length of the proposed rear addition to the by-right limit, and

WHEREAS, the LUC continues to suggest that the applicant meaningfully engages with affected neighbors in order to address and resolve the myriad of concerns expressed through public testimony and letters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B is opposed to the request for a special exception from the rear addition requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not oppose the requests for special exceptions from the penthouse occupancy requirements and the penthouse setback requirements.

1410 Hopkins Street NW – Application for a Special Exception from the Rear Yard Requirements and Area Variances from the Floor Area Requirements, Lot Occupancy Requirements, and Access Requirements to Construct a Rear Deck Addition to an Existing, Attached, Three-Story with Basement Principal Dwelling Unit

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Dickinson Miller, the applicant for Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application #20610, is seeking support for special exceptions and area variances to construct a rear deck addition to an existing, attached, three-story with basement, principal dwelling unit at 1410 Hopkins Street NW, located in ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed the application at its duly-noticed monthly public meeting on December 1, 2021, which was held both in-person and via Zoom,

WHEREAS, the LUC did not oppose the package of special exceptions given the variety of existing conditions and degree of nonconformity present along the block, and

WHEREAS, adjacent neighbors expressed support for the package of special exceptions as presented through public testimony and letters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not oppose the BZA application for 1410 Hopkins Street NW.

1713 Q Street NW – Concept / Three-Story Rear Addition, Roof Addition, Front Areaway, Garage

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Nunn seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, a concept review application has been submitted to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for a proposed new three-story rear addition and penthouse, plus alterations to the public parking area and a partially enclosed parking pad abutting the alley, at 1713 Q Street NW, located in ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed plans at its meeting on November 3, 2021 and subsequently on December 1, 2021,

WHEREAS, the LUC expressed appreciation for the applicant's response to technical assistance provided by the group following the initial review in November, and

WHEREAS, the LUC suggested that the applicant preserves as much fenestration and/or historic fabric as possible; considers design solutions for mitigating potential public safety hazards with the addition of an enclosed parking pad adjacent to the rear alley; and continues to work with relevant agencies to not exceed lot occupancy requirements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not oppose the Historic Preservation Review Board application for 1713 Q Street NW subject to addressing the aforementioned concerns.

1719 and 1723 N Street NW – Concept / Four-Story Plus Basement and Penthouse Addition

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, a concept review application has been submitted to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for a proposed new four-story addition plus basement and penthouse alterations at 1719 and 1723 N Street NW, located in ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed plans at its duly-noticed monthly public meeting on December 1, 2021, which was held both in-person and via Zoom,

WHEREAS, the LUC does not oppose the historic design aspects of the application, and

WHEREAS, the LUC suggested that the applicant considers the design of the exterior lighting in order to highlight the beauty of the buildings while providing a greater level of illumination along this portion of N Street NW; maintains the operational hardware of all doors along the N Street NW facade; utilizes clear, transparent vision glass for the full extent of the new "hyphen" bridging 1719 and 1723 N Street NW; refines plans for concealing the proposed ADA ramp and railings from the sidewalk; and explores preservation, to the extent possible, of the old growth vines fronting N Street NW between the 1719 and 1723 N Street NW properties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not oppose the Historic Preservation Review Board application for 1719 and 1723 N Street NW subject to the aforementioned suggestions.

**Public Space Committee Agenda**

Public Space Application by the Golden Triangle BID for the Installation of Four Sculptures Adjacent to the Newly Constructed Rain Gardens at 19th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Herbig seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the Golden Triangle BID's public space application for the installation of four sculptures adjacent to the newly constructed rain gardens at 19th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

## **General Agenda**

### **Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Symbolic Designation of the 1600 Block of New Hampshire Avenue NW in Honor of Roman Bondarenko**

Chair Holden moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Roggensack seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Roman Bondarenko was a 31-year old amateur painter and resident of Minsk, Belarus who died on November 12, 2020 from injuries he received after a scuffle with unidentified persons while trying to protect displays of protest against the dictatorship of Alexander Lukashenko,

WHEREAS, the authorities tried to suppress information related to this tragic event by arresting Artsiom Sarokin, a doctor who worked at the hospital where Roman was treated, and Katsiaryna Barysieovich, a journalist who reported on Roman's death,

WHEREAS, these events led to large, anti-Lukashenko protests and rallies in the Square of Changes neighborhood of Minsk which ended in mass arrests, including two Belarusian journalists, Katsiaryna Andreyeva and Darya Chultsova, who were later sentenced to prison for live streaming the protests,

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.Res. 124 and the U.S. Senate has introduced S.Res. 241, which acknowledges this incident, and the 116th Congress passed the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, an earlier version of which DC's own Congresswoman Norton cosponsored,

WHEREAS, members of the Belarusian American community have requested that the 1600 block of New Hampshire Avenue NW be symbolically renamed Roman Bondarenko Way to respect Roman's memory and show support for Belarusian democracy and the freedom of the press, and

WHEREAS, the Belarussian Embassy is located within the borders of ANC 2B, and there is precedent for such as renaming. The streets fronting the Russian, Chinese, and Saudi Embassies have been named for Boris Nemtsov, Liu Xiaobo, and Jamal Khashoggi respectively.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the section of New Hampshire Avenue NW in front of the Belarusian Embassy at 1619 New Hampshire Avenue NW, between R Street and Corcoran Street NW, be honorarily designated as "Roman Bondarenko Plaza", and calls on the DC Council and Mayor Muriel Bowser to take any and all steps to immediately enact this necessary and meaningful action as a tribute Roman Bondarenko and the Belarusian community and as an expression of support by the residents of the District of Columbia for democracy in Belarus and for the indispensable value of a free and independent press.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for the Closure of the Northeast Slip Lane at the Intersection of 16th Street, U Street, and New Hampshire Avenue NW

Commissioner Pasternak moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Holden seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

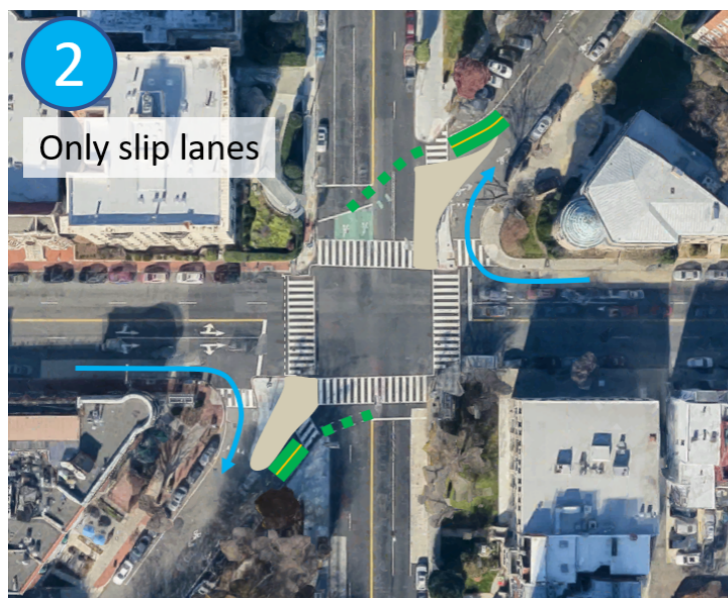
WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has issued Notice of Intent (NOI) #21-266-TESD to close the slip lane that allows drivers to turn north onto New Hampshire Avenue from U Street NW without entering the 16th Street, U Street, and New Hampshire Avenue NW intersection complex,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B passed a resolution in July 2021 asking DDOT to evaluate this intersection, and

WHEREAS, DDOT observed drivers using the slip lanes to travel north on 16th Street NW and avoid waiting at the traffic light, which involves crossing two unsignalized crosswalks, endangering pedestrians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports NOI #21-266-TESD as a short-term solution to the dangerous misuse of the slip lane, noting that it will produce immediate safety benefits for pedestrians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT conducts a comprehensive safety assessment and redesign of the entire intersection complex to eliminate dangers to pedestrians, personal mobility users, and vehicles. One such solution is below and would eliminate both the dangerous slalom maneuver and reduce the speed of turns onto New Hampshire NW.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that another potential solution that could improve pedestrian safety includes a Barnes Dance intersection where all vehicular traffic stops to allow pedestrians to cross in all directions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT shares with the ANC and the community the data collected as part of the study for this NOI.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Pausing Encampment Clearings Until the End of Hypothermia Season

Commissioner McKernan moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Nunn seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0-5). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Roggensack: Abstain  
Commissioner Rueckgauer: Abstain  
Commissioner Nunn: Yea  
Commissioner Pasternak: Yea  
Commissioner Herbig: Abstain  
Commissioner Silverstein: Abstain  
Commissioner McKernan: Yea  
Chair Holden: Yea  
Commissioner Mulhall: Abstain

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that all neighbors should be treated with dignity and respect,

WHEREAS, housing is a human right and all DC residents are entitled to safe, stable, and secure housing,

WHEREAS, the global public health pandemic caused by COVID-19 is now entering a new phase of uncertainty as a result of the omicron variant,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended allowing people who are living in encampments to remain where they are, because “clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers [...] increasing the potential for infectious disease spread”,

WHEREAS, the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, a partner in the DC Government’s efforts to end homelessness, has joined other advocacy organizations such as The Way Home Campaign in issuing a public statement strongly opposing Mayor Bowser’s current approach of clearing encampments via the CARE Pilot Program,

WHEREAS, the CARE Pilot program has a demonstrated history of violence at each encampment clearing undertaken so far, including striking a person with a bulldozer at the M Street NE location and an Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) employee physically assaulting a private observer at the New Jersey Avenue and O Street NW location,

WHEREAS, forcibly removing our unhoused neighbors is not necessary for them to receive housing and support,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that DMHHS should make every effort to proactively provide effective long-term housing solutions prior to declaring arbitrary eviction dates for encampment locations, and

WHEREAS, the DC Government can provide housing and support without traumatizing evictions, displacement, and destruction of personal belongings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports DC Council Bill B24-0544 – the “Encampments Protection and Public Health and Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2021” and urges all members of the DC Council to pass this critical legislation.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### **Approval of the ANC’s Regular November 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Roggensack moved to approve the ANC’s regular November 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-2).

#### **Approval of Amendments to the ANC’s Bylaws to Support the ANC’s Grants Program and Approval of Additional Rules Governing its Implementation**

Commissioner Nunn moved to add language to the ANC’s bylaws regarding the ANC’s grants program. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The added language reads as follows:

#### **Article VII GRANT REQUESTS**

##### **Section 1. Procedures for considering requests for assistance:**

Section 1(a). A grant request must be made on grant forms, which are approved by the Commission and which shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- I. A description of the proposed project of which the grant is requested; and
- II. A statement of expected public benefits; and
- III. The total cost of the proposed project, including other sources of funding, if any; and



- IV. Timetable of the project; and
- V. Identification of the group or organization (its officers, a financial statement, Tax Information, and description of its mission, as well as email, phone, and website if any), and a description of the citizen organization or group requesting the grant and its mission; and
- VI. Identification of any previous funding of the applicant by the Commission; and
- VII. Disclosure of any Commissioner(s) directly or indirectly involved in the project and/or the applicant.

Section 1(b). All grants are subject to the following approval procedures:

- I. The applicant shall make a presentation to the Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall explain how the grant shall serve a broad public purpose.
- II. The Commission shall approve or disapprove any request by a majority vote.
- III. The Commission may approve grants only to organizations that are public in nature and benefit persons who reside or work within the Commission area. The services provided by the grantee organization must not be duplicative of any that are already performed by the District Government.
- IV. Grants may not be awarded to individuals or governmental bodies, or for any purpose for which the Commission itself may not expend funds.
- V. Grant awards are subject to all applicable laws and regulations of the District of Columbia.
- VI. Grant applications shall be submitted to the Commission no fewer than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which such application is to be considered will be approved except under extraordinary circumstances that should be detailed at the Commission meeting.

Section 1(c). Grants are dependent upon the availability of funds.

## Section 2. Payments

Section 2(a). No payment shall be made without proper documentation, as required by the Commission.

Section 2(b). Payments may be made in installments at the discretion of the Commission.

Section 3. Within 60 days following the issuance of a grant, the grant recipient shall forward to the Commission a statement as to the use of the funds consistent with the grant application, complete with receipts which support the expenditures.

Section 4. Any unexpended funds shall be returned to the Commission.

Section 5. An applicant's eligibility for subsequent grants shall be subject to its compliance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 6. The Commission shall provide a copy of the Commission's current grants policy and grant form to each applicant.

Approval of the ANC's Regular January 2022 Meeting Date

Chair Holden moved to approve January 12th, 2022 as the ANC's regular January 2022 meeting date. Commissioner McKernan seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Holden adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.