



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 12th, 2022; 7:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular January 2022 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Matthew Holden at 7:02 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

Election of 2022 Commission Officers

Commissioner Roggensack nominated Commissioner Holden to serve as the ANC's Chair for 2022. Commissioner Mulhall seconded the nomination, which was approved by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Mulhall nominated Commissioner Roggensack to serve as the ANC's Vice Chair for 2022. A roll call vote was requested. The nomination was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-2-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Commissioner Rueckgauer nominated Commissioner Silverstein to serve as the ANC's Secretary for 2022. A roll call vote was requested. The nomination was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-2-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Commissioner Silverstein nominated Commissioner Mulhall to serve as the ANC's Treasurer for 2022. Commissioner Nunn nominated Commissioner McKernan to serve as the ANC's Treasurer for 2022. A roll call vote was requested. The nominations were voted on and Commissioner Mulhall was elected (VOTES: 6 (Mulhall) - 2 (McKernan) - 1 (Abstain)). The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Announcements and Public Comments

Presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation Regarding Upcoming Activities

Christopher Dyer, an External Affairs Program Analyst for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), gave a presentation regarding the agency's upcoming activities.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioners Herbig, Silverstein, and Nunn gave commissioner announcements.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Pasternak, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), gave committee updates.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

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

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Rosemarino D’Italia – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1714 Connecticut Avenue NW

Commissioner Silverstein moved to table consideration of the matter until the ANC’s regular February 2022 meeting. Commissioner Nunn seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Land Use Agenda

1709 17th Street NW – Application for a Special Exception from the Rear Yard Requirements to Construct a Rear Addition to an Existing, Attached, Three-Story with Basement, Mixed Use Building

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Pasternak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-2). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Abdollah Poozesh, the applicant for Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application #20603, is seeking support for a special exception from the rear yard requirements to construct a one-story, two-level rear addition to an existing, attached, three-story with basement, mixed use building at 1709 17th Street NW,

WHEREAS, the BZA hearing on this project is scheduled for February 2, 2022,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B’s Land Use Committee (LUC) is concerned that the applicant claims reasonable justification for receiving a zoning exception to construct this addition while the application demonstrates that is not the case particularly as it could adversely affect light and air, as well as the viability of the adjacent residential units as expressed through public testimony and letters,

WHEREAS, the LUC is concerned with the applicant’s inability to work with the owner of the abutting residential property at 1637-1641 R Street NW and earn their support,

WHEREAS, the LUC acknowledges that there is a housing inventory and affordability crisis within the Dupont Circle neighborhood and throughout Washington, DC, and ANC 2B prioritizes the provision of viable residential units over supplemental commercial storage, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B finds that the proposal is not in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations and zoning maps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, as currently submitted, ANC 2B opposes the request for a special exception from the rear yard requirements.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by the Qatar America Institute for Culture for the Installation of a Little Free Library at 1319 18th Street NW

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:

ANC 2B supports the Qatar America Institute for Culture's public space application for the installation of a little free library at 1319 18th Street NW.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Safety Enhancement on the 1500 Blocks of Connecticut Avenue NW and 19th Street NW at Dupont Circle

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

WHEREAS, vehicles often park illegally at the south end of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW at the junction of Dupont Circle, protruding into the crosswalk and travel lane, thereby preventing safe passage of traffic, including Metrobuses and delivery vehicles,

WHEREAS, there have been incidents where vehicles were unable to proceed on Connecticut Avenue NW until an illegally parked vehicle moved,

WHEREAS, vehicles park illegally in the roadway at the south end of the 1500 block of 19th Street NW between the stretary barricades and the pedestrian refuge island at the junction of Dupont Circle, causing merging delays or conflicts with traffic in the circle, and

WHEREAS, there have been incidents where vehicles have incurred damage from contact with an illegally parked vehicle, causing further delay to traffic in the circle.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) promptly deploys a durable traffic-shaping solution, such as a micromobility corral, to ensure adequate clearance and prevent vehicles from parking

illegally at the junction of the south end of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW and Dupont Circle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT promptly adjusts the junction of the south end of the 1500 block of 19th Street NW, possibly by repositioning the barricades or emplacing sufficiently durable and aesthetically complementary planters, to prevent vehicles from being able to park illegally there.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Streetscape Improvements on U Street Between 14th Street and 18th Street NW

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

WHEREAS, DC's FY 2022 budget contains \$1.7 million for "streetscape improvements" on U Street between 14th Street and 18th Street NW,

WHEREAS, this stretch of U Street NW has three particularly dangerous, highly trafficked intersections, including at 14th Street NW, 16th Street NW, and 18th Street NW, with pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle conflicts creating dangerous conditions for all road users, including from red-light running, high vehicle speeds, and dangerous lane-shifting maneuvers,

WHEREAS, very narrow sidewalks create mobility challenges for pedestrians and other sidewalk users, particularly between 17th Street and 18th Street NW,

WHEREAS, the presence of residential trashcans on the sidewalk further exacerbates the challenges that sidewalk users face,

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of bicycle infrastructure such as bike lanes; Capital Bikeshare stations, aside from the stations at the Reeves Center and at 17th Street and T Street NW; and bicycle and scooter parking facilities,

WHEREAS, inadequate street lighting contributes to safety concerns,

WHEREAS, there is already competition for on-street parking, and plans for the Reeves Center redevelopment may not include replacement public underground parking, which is important for small, locally-owned businesses along the corridor,

WHEREAS, Metrobuses experience delays caused by ride-share drop-offs and pick-ups, commercial loading, and illegal U-turns, and the DC Circulator is scheduled to begin service along the corridor soon, and

WHEREAS, recent experience has demonstrated the value of genuine public engagement by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on proposed street improvements

and the neighborhood residents' interest in being informed and offering input to the nature and timing of DDOT's plans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B invites DDOT to publish as soon as possible its schedule and process for public engagement with the residents of ANC 2B regarding these streetscape improvements, and how it plans to engage residents in neighboring ANC 1B and ANC 1C as well, including the holding of public meetings either virtually or in person to examine options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B strongly urges DDOT to base its design and public engagement on a quantified assessment of current traffic conditions; a review of current modal split, including bus, car, van, and bicycle; and examination of pedestrian traffic patterns and safety in the corridor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DDOT to consider altering the number of general travel lanes along the corridor and widening the sidewalks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DDOT to work with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and DC Health's Rodent and Vector Control Division on a better system for trashcan placement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DDOT to review lane markings and traffic signal timing to improve safety along the corridor.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's 2022 Meeting Calendar

Chair Holden moved to approve the ANC's 2022 meeting calendar. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The meeting calendar is as follows:

- Regular January Meeting: Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular February Meeting: Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular March Meeting: Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular April Meeting: Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular May Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular June Meeting: Wednesday, June 8th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular July Meeting: Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular August Meeting: Wednesday, August 10th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular September Meeting: Wednesday, September 14th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular October Meeting: Wednesday, October 12th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular November Meeting: Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 at 7:00 pm
- Regular December Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Approval of the ANC's Participation in the 2022 ANC Security Fund

Chair Holden moved to approve the ANC's participation in the 2022 ANC Security Fund. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Approval of the Addition of New ANC Officers as Signatories for the ANC's Checking Account

Chair Holden moved to add the ANC's new officers as authorized signatories on the bank signature card for the ANC's checking account and to remove the previous ANC officers. Commissioner Pasternak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Discussion of ANC Committees for 2022 and Appointment of Committee Chairs

Chair Holden nominated Commissioner Herbig to serve as the Chair of the ANC's Land Use Committee (LUC) for 2022. Commissioner Pasternak seconded the nomination, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Chair Holden nominated Commissioner Pasternak to serve as the Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC) for 2022. Commissioner McKernan seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Chair Holden moved to reinstate the ANC's Education and Parks Working Group for 2022. Commissioner Mulhall seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-2-0).

The commissioners discussed reinstating the ANC's previous COVID-19 Emergency Response Task Force but did not take any action regarding the matter.

Approval of the ANC's Regular December 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Roggensack moved to approve the ANC's regular December 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2022 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Commissioner Mulhall moved to approve the ANC's FY 2022 Quarter 1 financial report. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Holden adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.