



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 14th, 2022; 7:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular September 2022 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Meg Roggensack at 7:01 pm.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Meg Roggensack (2B01), Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Christopher Davis (2B04), William Herbig (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Randy Downs (2B07), and Kyle Mulhall (2B09).

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Announcements and Public Comments

Public Safety Update from Commander Duncan Bedlion and Commander James Boteler, Commanders of the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District and Third District

Commander Duncan Bedlion and Commander James Boteler, Commanders of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District and Third District, gave a public safety update.

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Roggensack and Commissioner Downs gave commissioner announcements.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Herbig, Chair of the ANC's Land Use Committee (LUC); Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC); and Commissioner Mulhall, Co-Chair of the ANC's Education and Parks Working Group, gave committee updates.

Reports from DC Government Representatives

Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, and Declan Falls, a Constituent Services Specialist for Chairman Phil Mendelson’s Office, gave DC Government reports.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets (HDCMS), and Susan Volman, the President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

La Tia Pepa – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 801 18th Street NW (ABRA-120905)

Commissioner Silverstein moved to take no action regarding the matter. Commissioner Mulhall seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Land Use Agenda

1837 19th Street NW – Application for a Special Exception from the Lot Occupancy Requirements to Construct a Two-Story Rear Addition to an Existing, Semi-Detached, Two-Story with Cellar, Principal Dwelling Unit (BZA #20784)

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Circle, L.L.C., the applicant for Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application #20784, is seeking a special exception from the lot occupancy requirements to construct a two-story rear addition to an existing, semi-detached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit in the RA-8 zone at 1837 19th Street NW, located in ANC 2B08. This addition would be combined with the conversion of the existing single-family home into multiple dwelling units,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B’s Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed plans requiring the special exception at its duly-noticed monthly meeting held via Zoom on September 7, 2022,

WHEREAS, the committee reviewed the updated conceptual design for the rear addition,

WHEREAS, the committee reviewed letters of support from neighbors, recognized the withdrawal of formal opposition from the south-neighboring property, and commended the applicant’s efforts to adapt the project plans through community input,

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks relief via special exception to increase the lot occupancy to 69.8%, pursuant to Subtitle F § 5201.1, and

WHEREAS, the committee finds the project plans to be harmonious with the intent of the Zoning Regulations and considers the project to be a positive contribution to the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports BZA application #20784 seeking special exception from the lot occupancy requirements at 1837 19th Street NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the ANC's Chair, the Land Use Committee's Chair, and the ANC's Executive Director be sent copies of the action as finally approved by BZA and/or relevant agency staff.

1133 19th Street NW – Application for a Special Exception from the Penthouse Use Requirements to Construct an Eating and Drinking Establishment in the Penthouse of an Existing, Semi-Detached, 12-Story, Mixed Use Building (BZA #20819)

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Foulger Pratt Development, LLC, the applicant for Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application #20819, is seeking a special exception to construct an eating and drinking establishment in the penthouse of an existing, semi-detached, 12-story, mixed use building in the D-6 zone at 1837 19th Street NW, located in ANC 2B06. This application pairs with the applicant's planned conversion and renovation of the existing office tower on site into a residential building, which is allowed by-right under the zoning ordinance,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed plans and the conceptual design requiring the special exception at its duly-noticed monthly meeting held via Zoom on September 7, 2022,

WHEREAS, the committee expressed excitement about the project and commended the developer for undertaking an office-to-residential conversion project in the context of a desire to transition downtown DC into a more mixed-use neighborhood in a post-COVID world,

WHEREAS, the eating and drinking establishment will be a private amenity for residents. The applicant noted that the hours of opening for the facility will be designed to not disrupt the residents, as the management of the facility will be the same as those of the residential building,

WHEREAS, the requirements for the D-6 zone do not include any mandatory inclusionary zoning (IZ) minimums for new residential construction and the applicant does not plan to include any below-market-cost housing units in the renovated building, and

WHEREAS, the committee finds the project plans and special exception to be harmonious with the intent of Zoning Regulations and considers the project to be a positive contribution to the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports BZA application #20819 seeking a special exception from the penthouse use requirements at 1133 19th Street NW, pursuant to the following suggestion that:

- The applicant considers including a percent of inclusionary zoning (IZ) units in the development, provided that said units do not increase the rental price of non-IZ units.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports actions that can be taken to promote IZ development in the Dupont Circle area, to expand IZ applicability to more zones, and to promote a range of affordable housing options at large.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the ANC's Chair, the Land Use Committee's Chair, and the ANC's Executive Director be sent copies of the action as finally approved by BZA and/or relevant agency staff.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by Rockrose for Streetscape Improvements, Including ADA Improvements, New Street Trees, and the Relocation of a Bus Stop and Bike Racks, at 1776 I Street NW and 801 18th Street NW (DDOT #400999)

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Rockrose's public space application for streetscape improvements, including ADA improvements, new street trees, and the relocation of a bus stop and bike racks, at 1776 I Street NW and 801 18th Street NW.

Public Space Application by the Golden Triangle BID for the Installation of Four Permanent Public Artworks in Rain Gardens at 19th Street and L Street NW (DDOT #401025)

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the Golden Triangle BID's public space application for the installation of four permanent public artworks in rain gardens at 19th Street and L Street NW.

Public Space Application by the Dupont Circle BID for the Installation of Planter Boxes at 1501 Connecticut Avenue NW (DDOT #395828)

Commissioner Herbig moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID) has submitted public space application #395828, seeking to use public space on the sidewalk framing the turnaround lane between the service lanes in the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW above the underpass lanes, bordered by 1501 Connecticut Avenue NW to the east in single member district (SMD) 2B03 and 1933 Massachusetts Avenue NW to the west in SMD 2B02, to install a temporary display of moveable planters on the sidewalk,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed plans at its duly-noticed monthly meeting held via Zoom on September 7, 2022,

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks to improve the aesthetics and public experience of the neighborhood through a public planter installation at this location, "bookending" the existing installation of planters at the northern (Q Street NW) end of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the applicant intends the planters to be a temporary visual enhancement in advance of the Connecticut Avenue Deckover and Streetscape Project planned to commence in 2023,

WHEREAS, concern has been raised about the fate of unhoused neighbors residing in tents at both ends of the underpass in the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the applicant has been actively conducting outreach to unhoused neighbors in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, connecting people to resources and securing housing vouchers when possible,

WHEREAS, many of the individuals currently in tents have been granted housing vouchers but remain unhoused due to bureaucratic delays and inadequate support services by the DC Government,

WHEREAS, the applicant will only install planters in space that is or becomes available and is committed to not disturbing or forcibly removing any person or their property,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has been provided letters in support of the applicant's proposal from neighboring residents and businesses, and also positive feedback from unhoused people surveyed, and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee supports the project and the efforts to secure housing for unhoused community members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports public space application #395828 pursuant to the following:

- The applicant maintains its plan to install planters as space becomes available, avoiding any displacement of people living in tents, and communicates this condition to any contractor conducting the installation, and
- The ANC continues to work with Councilmember Pinto and other DC Government officials to expedite delivery of housing vouchers to people with housing; expedite transition of those ready for independent living into permanent housing; provide necessary assistance to those not yet ready for independent living situations; and raise awareness of the resources and support for people without safe and dignified housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the ANC's Chair, the Land Use Committee's Chair, and the ANC's Executive Director be sent copies of the action as finally approved by the Public Space Committee and/or relevant agency staff.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2022 17th Street High Heel Race

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Roggensack seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the High Heel Race on 17th Street NW is held each year on the Tuesday before Halloween and takes place entirely within the boundaries of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, the High Heel Race brings many thousands of visitors to our neighborhood in the spirit of good fun, excitement, and camaraderie, and

WHEREAS, the High Heel Race is a great benefit to the independently owned businesses along the 17th Street NW corridor and to the rest of Dupont Circle, and brings tens of thousands of dollars in tax revenue to the District of Columbia.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B enthusiastically supports the annual 17th Street High Heel Race planned for Tuesday, October 25th, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports all permit applications and requests waivers of any fees for the event.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Pedestrian Safety Initiative

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is an “all hands on deck” effort in the District of Columbia to achieve and maintain zero roadway fatalities and accidents within Washington, DC by 2024,

WHEREAS, the District’s Safe Routes to School program, part of the national Safe Routes to School program, was established in 2005 to improve safety and encourage children and parents to walk or bike to school while reducing car use, fuel consumption, traffic congestion, and pollution near schools,

WHEREAS, in 2020 Ross Elementary School issued a Safe Routes to School study that identified numerous intersections in ANC 2B that are hazardous for students and adults,

WHEREAS, a recent study by INRIX, cited by the Washington Post, indicates that drivers are disregarding school zone speed limits, putting pedestrians and cyclists in school zones, especially children, at risk of harm,

WHEREAS, the DC Council is currently considering initiatives to promote safer streets and school zones as part of an omnibus transportation safety bill, which includes two initiatives, the Safe Routes to School and “walk safely” measures, which ANC 2B strongly supports,

WHEREAS, while the District’s unique layout affords neighborhoods such as Dupont Circle great appeal, character, and walkability, it also creates unique challenges for providing safety for all users of streets and sidewalks, and

WHEREAS, improved signage, public awareness, and timely reminders of the “rules of the road,” especially at the beginning of the school year, all support the goal of keeping people safe.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B declares the month of September 2022 to be the first of an annual Pedestrian Safety Month campaign to raise awareness about pedestrian safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will partner with community organizations, including Ross Elementary School, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, and the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID), and neighborhood establishments to develop and distribute programming resources promoting pedestrian and cyclist safety in Dupont Circle as well as encourage children and parents to choose walking or cycling to school instead of driving when possible.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's Regular August 2022 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mulhall moved to approve the ANC's regular August 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of Expenditures for Pedestrian Signage

Chair Roggensack moved to approve expenditures up to \$500 for pedestrian signage. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 9:04 pm.