



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

September 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2024; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular September 2024 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission of ANC 2B) was called to order by Vice Chair Adams at 7:01.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Z Stein (2B05), Matt Johnson (2B06), Libby Franklin (2B07), Zachary Adams (2B08), and Christopher Davis (2B09).

Adoption of the Agenda

Vice Chair Adams moved to amend the agenda to add 1509 Carolina St to the Land Use Agenda. Vice Chair Adams adopted the ANC's meeting agenda by unanimous consent.

Announcements and Public Comments

Reports from Government Representatives

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, and Lieutenant Sharmika Gatewood, representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District provided updates.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Johnson provided an update.

Public Announcements and General Comments

Bill McLeod, Director of the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District, provided an update.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public space application for New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed located at 1837 M Street NW (DDOT-11071713) (2B05) (10 mins)

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

WHEREAS, Dog Haus ("Dog Haus", "Applicant") has applied for use of a sidewalk café space at 1837 M Street NW, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has a standard guideline that a minimum of 10 feet of sidewalk be maintained between the outer edge of a sidewalk seating area and the nearer of the curb, or fixed object(s) including tree boxes, parking meters, bike racks, lampposts;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B may consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis where a proposed seating area is next to a staircase, stoop, or is consistent other DDOT-permitted sidewalk occupancy on the block, provided pedestrians (including those using wheelchairs, baby carriages, wheeled luggage, personal shopping carts) are able to safely pass the entire proposed seating area;

WHEREAS, the sidewalk on the north side of the 1800 block of M Street NW (where the Applicant's restaurant is located) is quite narrow and many buildings have stairs that make it even narrower at points, creating challenges for pedestrians, especially those using wheelchairs or carriages for children;

WHEREAS, the Applicant's previous plan submission extended beyond the stairway line, leaving 5 ("five") feet or less of clearance, and also did not accommodate existing trash and recycling storage;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and other agency reviewers stated the only supportable configuration of the café would be few small tables seating 2 persons, placed against and parallel to the building front to remain within the envelope created by the stairways;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and other District Government agency reviewers requested the Applicant submit new plans to address our consistent concerns;

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2024, the Applicant submitted new plans that conform with the requested changes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that **ANC 2B SUPPORTS WITH CONDITIONS Public Space Permit Application # 11071713** by Dog Haus Restaurant for use of public space for a sidewalk café at 1837 M Street NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC requests that the permit specify the seating plan shall remain as presented in the plans and that the café area shall at no time extend beyond the stairway line.

Commissioners Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02@anc.dc.gov) and Meg Roggensack (2B01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Land Use Agenda

2121 Ward Place NW- Office to residential conversion (2B06) (10 mins)

The Commission took no action.

1509 Caroline Street NW- Project Concept (HPA 24-433)

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

ANC 2B supports plans as presented pertaining to 1509 Caroline Street NW, HPA 24-433.

Commissioner Davis (2B09@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

General Agenda

Consideration of a resolution concerning Council Bill B25-0922, the "Strategic Parking Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2024" (10 min)

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

WHEREAS, parking in the District is in short supply and frequently is subject to high contention by competing needs. This condition is especially acute in high-density neighborhoods such as Dupont Circle with significant commingled interests of residential, commercial, hospitality, entertainment, and nightlife uses.

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works ("DPW") perennially is deprived of adequate financial and human resources, and strategic planning, to adequately and effectively provide Parking Enforcement services beyond regular business hours, beyond certain priority areas.

WHEREAS, in 2018, the District Department of Transportation ("DDOT"), engaged with ANC 2B to identify needs and priorities for improving our parking and curbside management needs. ANC 2B presented a resolution containing our recommendations, which had been crafted so as to be scalable to similar neighborhoods. DDOT had indicated several pilots in the ANC would be advanced. Necessary Mayoral and Council actions were not executed, which prevented DDOT from proceeding, and then the pandemic put everything on hold.

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, parking enforcement was largely suspended. In addition, a number of societal changes altered the uses and needs for parking and curbside management, and attitudes towards parking regulations.

WHEREAS, Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, recognizing the need for action to address the need for increased parking enforcement action, has introduced Council Bill B25-0922, the "Strategic Parking Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2024" ("SPE") to implement a reimbursable enforcement officer program for specific service assignments based upon MPD's Reimbursable Detail Officer ("RDO") program used by many ABCA-licensed establishments.

WHEREAS, SPE would only provide citation issuance, not booting or towing, out of state scofflaws are unlikely to improve compliance with our parking regulations.

WHEREAS, it is not yet known how many officers would be available for the program or how many requests for SPE could be satisfied on a continuing basis.

WHEREAS, it has not yet been determined if the cost of overtime pay will be an effective use of limited funds versus compared to increasing Parking Enforcement staff and operating hours.

WHEREAS, SPE would accept requests for specific enforcement assignments by a business, group of businesses, a promoter or organizer of a licensed special event, a Business Improvement District, a DC Main Streets Program, and other entities designated by the Mayor, and utilize off-duty parking enforcement officers working overtime for enforcement.

WHEREAS, SPE presumably will be focused on prominent commercial and mixed-use zones during peak times of parking demand. It is not clear how areas not having a BID or Main Streets organization representing them, such as smaller commercial strips or residential areas, could benefit.

WHEREAS, it has not yet been defined how SPE and Parking Enforcement support of Nightlife Task Forces would be structured and maintained.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B appreciates and supports Councilmember Nadeau's leadership on improving parking enforcement and offering this Bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends careful consideration of the cost benefit for SPE compared to investing in strategic growth of the Parking Enforcement staff, operating hours, and coverage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends adding ANC review of SPE requests, as well as ANCs to the list of those who may request SPE assignments for their area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends coordination of SPE and the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture ("MONC") focus areas for the most effective and supporting uses of resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends SPE assignments cover the entire block where deployed, including cross streets. This can identify additional violations often associated with the principal focus locations.

Commissioners Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02@anc.dc.gov) and Meg Roggensack (2B01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's regular August 2024 meeting minutes (2 min)

Commissioner Adams moved to adopt the August 2024 ANC 2B regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Rueckgaur seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 25 Budget (2 min)

Commissioner Slatt moved to adopt the proposed ANC 2B FY 25 budget. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Committee Updates

Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), provided updates.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.