



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 27th, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Jeri Epstein (06) called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners Yannik Omictin (01), Joel Causey (02), Trupti Patel (03), Donna Barbisch (04), Evelyn Hudson (05), and Adam Friend (07) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Barbisch made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Epstein made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular November 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Election of 2021 Commission Officers

Commissioner Friend made a motion to elect Commissioner Epstein as the ANC’s Chair for 2021. Commissioner Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-1).

Commissioner Hudson made a motion to elect Commissioner Causey as the ANC’s Vice Chair for 2021. Commissioner Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-2).

Commissioner Causey made a motion to elect Commissioner Omictin as the ANC’s Secretary for 2021. Commissioner Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Commissioner Friend made a motion to elect Commissioner Patel as the ANC’s Treasurer for 2021. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant Bredet Williams, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Joe Florio, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave updates from the Mayor's Office.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Barry Weise, the Legislative Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, and Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Coordinator for the councilmember's office, gave updates from the councilmember's office.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Epstein and Commissioners Omicini, Causey, Patel, Barbisch, Hudson, and Friend gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

John George, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), and two local residents gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Discussion Regarding COVID Vaccine Distribution Progress

The commissioners and meeting attendees had a discussion regarding COVID vaccine distribution progress.

Update from the District Department of Transportation Regarding the Agency's H Street and I Street NW Bus Lanes Project

Yohannes Eagle Bennehoff, a Transportation Management Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave a presentation regarding DDOT's H Street and I Street NW Bus Lanes Project.

Presentation Regarding a Proposed Change in the DC Comprehensive Plan Designation for Columbia Plaza at 2400 Virginia Avenue NW

Emily Vaias and Kyle DeThomas, counsel for the owners of Columbia Plaza, gave a presentation, answered questions, and responded to comments regarding a proposed change in the DC Comprehensive Plan designation for Columbia Plaza at 2400 Virginia Avenue NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the George Washington University's Bicentennial

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

WHEREAS, the George Washington University (GW) has dedicated two centuries of pioneering scholarship, research, teaching, and service to both Washington, DC and greater society,

WHEREAS, GW has conducted its principal operations for more than a century in Foggy Bottom, infusing the neighborhood with intellectual pursuits, high-minded ideals, and youthful energy,

WHEREAS, GW strives to maintain deep ties between Foggy Bottom's academic and residential communities and to be an indispensable partner as it promotes economic, civic, and cultural quality of life and helps the neighborhood grow and thrive,

WHEREAS, GW continues to act as an agent of positive change by rectifying the historic shortcomings inherent in any 200-year-old institution and demonstrating its ongoing commitment to social, economic, and racial equality and inclusiveness,

WHEREAS, GW has made concerted efforts to increasing access of higher-education opportunities to numerous highly-qualified District of Columbia high school students, regardless of their financial circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the George Washington University ventures into its third century ready to generate new knowledge and new generations of leaders that will positively impact us all for centuries to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A recognizes and commends the George Washington University on the occasion of its Bicentennial for its impact on the people, businesses, and organizations throughout Foggy Bottom and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A cites this resolution as the "George Washington University Bicentennial Celebration Resolution of 2021".

Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Boston Properties' Request for an After-Hours Permit for Utility Work as Part of the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Construction Project

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

ANC 2A supports Boston Properties' request for an after-hours permit for utility work as part of the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW construction project.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by the George Washington University for the Construction of Curb Ramps, the Installation of a Crosswalk, and the Installation of a Flashing Beacon System on the 700 Block of 22nd Street NW

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

ANC 2A supports the George Washington University’s public space application for the construction of curb ramps, the installation of a crosswalk, and the installation of a flashing beacon system on the 700 block of 22nd Street NW.

Public Space Application by the George Washington University for the Construction of Curb Ramps and the Installation of a Flashing Beacon System on the 2000 Block of G Street NW

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

ANC 2A supports the George Washington University’s public space application for the construction of curb ramps and the installation of a flashing beacon system on the 2000 block of G Street NW.

Public Space Application by the George Washington University for the Replacement of the Hippo Plaque at the Intersection of 21st Street and H Street NW

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

ANC 2A supports the George Washington University’s public space application for the replacement of the hippo plaque at the intersection of 21st Street and H Street NW.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B24-0024 – the “Ruth Bader Ginsburg Way Designation Act of 2021”

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

ANC 2A supports DC Council Bill B24-0024 – the “Ruth Bader Ginsburg Way Designation Act of 2021”.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B24-0022 – the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021”

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

ANC 2A supports DC Council Bill B24-0022 – the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021”. The ANC further notes that the Commission previously supported this proposal through a resolution adopted in November of 2018.

Matters Before the DC Board of Elections

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Filling ANC Vacancies During the COVID Public Health Emergency

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

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners serve essential roles in our communities, providing critical advice to agencies, amplifying community voices on public policy decisions, and acting as the most direct line of access to DC government for residents,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A presently has a vacancy in single member district 2A08, which inhibits that district’s residents’ rights to direct representation in the ANC and places an undue burden on the Commissioners from surrounding districts to handle the business of the vacant district,

WHEREAS, there are vacancies in several other single member districts (4B05, 5A04, 7E03, 7F07, 8B07, and 8E03), none of which can be filled during a public health emergency under DC Code 1-309.06(d)(1), which states: “No [Advisory Neighborhood Commission] vacancy shall be filled if it occurs ... during a period of time for which a public health emergency has been declared by the Mayor ...”,

WHEREAS, 2A08’s population is almost entirely students of the George Washington University, a constituency that has historically been underrepresented on ANC 2A,

WHEREAS, the vacancy in 7F07, a seat representing mostly residents of the DC Jail, occurred because the candidate who had received the most write-in votes for the position, Joel Caston, had been erroneously registered to vote in Ward 8,

WHEREAS, Joel Caston notes that a jail employee had instructed him to use his former address in Ward 8, and that there is a significant lack of accurate and accessible elections information being distributed to the voters at both the DC Jail and the Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter, and

WHEREAS, continued vacancies disenfranchise residents in districts lacking a commissioner, diminishing their voice in critical neighborhood decisions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on the DC Council, in consultation with the DC Board of Elections, to eliminate statutory language that prohibits filling vacancies in a public health emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on the DC Board of Elections and the DC Council to make reforms to sustain representation, especially in single member districts with unique constituencies (such as single-member districts whose boundaries include university dormitories or jails), such as:

- Greater information sharing and communications for residents and potential candidates to fully understand elections procedures and requirements, especially regarding residency, and
- Specialized support and training for commissioners with technological or logistical barriers to attending meetings and fulfilling the duties of an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A designates Commissioner Yannik Omictin, ANC 2A01, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Commissioner Patel made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 1 financial report. Commissioner Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's Participation in the 2021 ANC Security Fund

Commissioner Patel made a motion to approve the ANC's participation in the 2021 ANC Security Fund. Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

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

Commissioner Patel made a motion 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 Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's 2021 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Friend made a motion to approve the ANC's 2021 meeting schedule. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 20th, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 17th, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment

Chair Epstein adjourned the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yannik Omictin', written over a faint grid background.

Yannik Omictin
Secretary, ANC 2A01