



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Patrick Kennedy (01) called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners Nicole Goldin (02), Trupti Patel (03), Evelyn Hudson (05), Jeri Epstein (06), Detrick Campbell (07), and James Harnett (08) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular May 2020 meeting agenda by unanimous consent. Without any objection the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldin made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular April 2020 meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Without any objection the minutes were adopted.

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Captain Renato Caldwell, 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

Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave updates from the Mayor’s Office.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Goldin, Harnett, and Epstein gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

Florence Harmon, a local resident; Yvette Alexander, a representative for Capitol Breathe Free Sinus & Allergy Centers; and Chris Taylor, Pepco’s Senior Manager for Strategic Initiatives & Advocacy, gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Presentation by the DC Board of Elections Regarding the Upcoming Ward 2 Primary and Special Elections

Rachel Coll, the Public Information Officer for the DC Board of Elections; Alice Miller, the Executive Director of the DC Board of Elections; and Michael Bennett, the Chair of the DC Board of Elections, gave a presentation regarding the upcoming Ward 2 primary and special elections.

Presentation by the Friends of Francis Field Regarding Field Updates

Gary Griffith, the President of the Friends of Francis Field, gave a presentation regarding field updates.

Matters Before the Historic Preservation Review Board

Historic Preservation Review Board Concept Application for the New Construction of a Single-Family House at 0 Snow's Court NW

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

ANC 2A requests a 30-day delay of the Historic Preservation Review Board's review of the historic preservation application for 0 Snow's Court NW in order to allow the applicant to further discuss the proposed project with adjoining residents.

Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

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

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Harnett 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 extension of their after-hours permit until the end of July 2020 as part of the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW construction project.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by Proper 21 for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe with 21 Tables, 63 Seats, and 5 Umbrellas at 2033 K Street NW

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

ANC 2A supports Proper 21's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe at 2033 K Street NW.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Exchange, LTD. – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the District Department of Transportation

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Election Day One-Hour Free Parking

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is committed to safe voting, with maximum participation for all residents of the District of Columbia,

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19, the number of same-day in-person voting centers has been dramatically reduced from 144 to 20 centers citywide,

WHEREAS, the two voting centers established in Ward 2 sit at the far boundaries of the Ward, and neither these nor any other centers are in walking distance for the majority of the residents of the Ward, and

WHEREAS, the use of Metrorail or Metrobus to access the polls at these locations may not be possible or wise, given the need to ensure safe social distancing, the need to protect frontline workers, and the significantly reduced service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 2A requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) designates the block(s) surrounding all open voting centers citywide as 1 hour only free parking on all in-person voting election days (excluding early voting days) during the 2020 calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages all residents who are able to, to request mail-in ballots for all upcoming 2020 elections, as recommended by the DC Board of Elections.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council Committee on Labor and Workforce Development's Upcoming Budget Oversight Hearing on the Department of Employment Services

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

WHEREAS, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, new unemployment insurance claims in the District of Columbia, as of May 19, 2020, have reached an unprecedented level, with 100,588 new claims in just eight weeks,

WHEREAS, the Department of Employment Services (DOES) needs to immediately prioritize the long-delayed modernization and properly allocate funds so that unemployment benefits are processed and dispensed in a timely fashion,

WHEREAS, the DOES unemployment insurance portal operates on an antiquated website, best accessible to the public on severely outdated browser software, and with a need to rapidly scale the software, it failed, resulting in confusion and an overwhelmed hotline which resulted in wait times of as long as 11 hours,

WHEREAS, these challenges exacerbate anxiety among workers who are unable to access benefit payments and are unable to pay time-sensitive bills,

WHEREAS, the FY 2020 budget allotted \$46 million for the modernization of the unemployment insurance portal, but no part of that modernization was substantially complete before this crisis began,

WHEREAS, learning from the lessons of HealthCare.gov and the 2014 Veteran Affairs scandal, cities, states, and the federal government have created digital service response teams to rebuild and rethink public-facing government technology tools, and

WHEREAS, if the District of Columbia had a team of technologists that had the authority to oversee and manage agency and cross-agency technology projects, challenges we have seen in scaling digital tools, like the DOES unemployment insurance portal, would be more resilient in future crises.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urgently encourages the DC Council's Committee on Labor and Workforce Development to develop a plan to prioritize the modernization of the DOES unemployment insurance system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to introduce legislation to create a District Digital Service, outside of the Mayor's Office or the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), to address other longstanding government technology challenges before they need to be depended on in a crisis.

Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (Continued)

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding MCM Build's Request for an After-Hours Permit to Work on the Memorial Day, Independence Day (Observed), and Labor Day Holidays as Part of the Stevens School Construction Project at 1050 21st Street NW

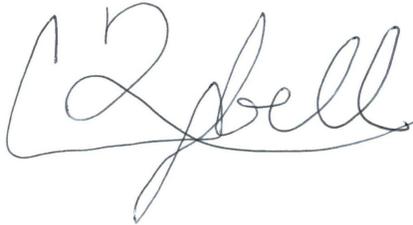
Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports MCM Build's request for an after-hours permit to work from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Memorial Day on Monday, May 25th, 2020, on Independence Day (observed) on Friday, July 3rd, 2020, and on Labor Day on Monday, September 7th, 2020 as part of the Stevens School construction project at 1050 21st Street NW.

Adjournment

Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Detrick Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "C".

Detrick Campbell
Secretary, ANC 2A07