



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19th, 2019; 7:00 p.m.

West End Library, Main Meeting Room – 2301 L Street NW

Call to Order

Vice Chair Patrick Kennedy (01) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners Nicole Goldin (02), Trupti Patel (03), Philip Schrefer (05), Jeri Epstein (06), and James Harnett (08) were present. Commissioner Detrick Campbell (07) arrived at 7:09 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Vice Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular May 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Goldin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant LaToyia Heath and Captain Cheryl Crawley, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Commissioner Updates

Vice Chair Kennedy, Commissioner Harnett, Commissioner Goldin, and Commissioner Epstein gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

Marina Streznewski, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), and Kevin Days, the Director of Community Relations for GW, gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Presentation and Discussion Regarding Proposed Changes to the Fourth of July Celebration on the National Mall

Lieutenant Jason Bagshaw, a representative for MPD’s Special Operations Division, and Clint Osborn, the Operations Division Chief for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

(HSEMA), gave a presentation regarding the proposed changes to the Fourth of July Celebration on the National Mall.

Vice Chair Kennedy 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 is concerned about a lack of communication with the community regarding recent changes made to Independence Day programs on the National Mall by the Department of Interior – acting on President Trump’s behest – this year. The Commission’s concern is deepened by community anxiety regarding potential safety, security, and logistical impacts associated with President Trump’s appearance at the event, including the potential for protest activity associated with the event spilling over into the neighborhood.

Foggy Bottom is the residential neighborhood that traditionally sees the greatest impact from the Fourth of July celebrations on the Mall, including large crowds, extended street closures, traffic congestion, enhanced security measures, and noise impacts.

The community has grown accustomed to the accommodations made for, and the resulting impacts from, this event but generally regards its proximity to the celebration and other events of national significance on the Mall as being a great distinguishing asset for the neighborhood.

In particular, we greatly appreciate how – for a great many years – this event has been set up, managed, and secured by the National Park Service and a number of D.C. and federal agencies working together professionally in cooperation.

The Commission notes that this event has been safely and successfully held according to roughly the same specifications for well over a decade, and is concerned that recent changes – intended in part to significantly increase crowd size – without adequate planning or communication, introduce an element of confusion and complication that does not serve either the national or local interest.

We also note that the District of Columbia still has not been reimbursed for approximately \$7.3 million in costs it incurred during President Trump’s inauguration in 2017, that the expenses for this year’s event are anticipated to greatly exceed those of prior years, and therefore that – in addition to the logistical and communication challenges posed by this year’s changes – an excessive amount of local taxpayer resources will be siphoned to facilitate an event that appears to have an overtly political dimension.

Finally, ANC 2A objects to the extended closure of athletic fields in West Potomac Park that are heavily used by local residents and sports leagues between June 29th and July 6th – a time period that the fields are in peak use for summertime activities.

Presentation by DC Water Regarding DC's New Lead Water Service Line Replacement Programs

The Commission moved this matter to a future ANC meeting.

Discussion Regarding DC Water's Proposed Changes to the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge

The Commission moved this matter to a future ANC meeting.

Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Pepco's Request for an After-Hours Permit for Manhole Work at the Intersection of 22nd Street and Virginia Avenue NW

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to support Pepco's after-hours permit request for the intersection of 22nd Street and Virginia Avenue NW. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Pepco's request for an after-hours permit for manhole work at the intersection of 22nd Street and Virginia Avenue NW.

Pepco's Request for an After-Hours Permit for the Installation of a New Cable at the Intersection of 22nd Street and F Street NW

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to support Pepco's after-hours permit request for the intersection of 22nd Street and F Street NW. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Pepco's request for an after-hours permit for the installation of a new cable at the intersection of 22nd Street and F Street NW.

Matters Before the DC Public Service Commission

Presentation Regarding Pepco's Proposed Multi-Year Grid Modernization Plan and Related Rate Increase Filing

Marc Battle, Pepco's Regional Vice President for Washington, DC, gave a presentation regarding the company's proposed multi-year grid modernization plan and related rate increase filing.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Presentation by the DC Office of the People's Counsel Regarding Pepco's Recent Rate Increase Filing

Cheryl Morse, a Consumer Outreach Specialist for the DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC), and Anjali Patel, an attorney for OPC, gave a presentation regarding Pepco's recent rate increase filing.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the District Department of Transportation

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Funding for a Proposed Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Study of the H Street NW Corridor and Immediate Safety Improvements

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2A recognizes the need to address long-standing traffic and pedestrian safety concerns among students and other residents along H Street between 20th Street and 23rd Street NW (H Street corridor),

WHEREAS, students have been hit by vehicles for years along these blocks, including as recently as April of 2019 in the middle of the newly installed midblock crosswalk on the 2100 block of H Street NW with local news outlets pushing reports on at least a half dozen other injuries of pedestrians along that block since 2003, and at least 292 accidents along the H Street corridor have been reported to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) at or close to intersections along the corridor — not including accidents that occur in mid-block regions, for which complete data is not available — since 2003,

WHEREAS, there is also a significantly greater number of unreported accidents and near misses that endanger students and other residents, evidenced by sentiment research and feedback from the student body over at least the past two years,

WHEREAS, vehicles routinely violate 'No Parking Anytime' rules along the H Street corridor, parking illegally and creating an unsafe environment for residents, students, and visitors crossing the street in which drivers cannot see pedestrians and vice-versa,

WHEREAS, to address those concerns, the Commission will consult with transportation safety experts on expanding accessible and walkable pedestrian space, minimizing the presence of vehicles through the elimination of curbside parking, using physical infrastructure like plant boxes to occupy the streetscape, leveling the streetscape with the sidewalk, dedicating space for food vendors and patrons on adjacent blocks or in/alongside parks, reducing the speed limit, and/or building tables and outdoor seating, among similar measures,

WHEREAS, in a physical environment where safe, walkable pedestrian space is prioritized over vehicles, pedestrians are less likely to be harmed — and by extension —

they can have a greater sense of community and neighborhood connectedness while using public space, and

WHEREAS, under the District's commitment to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce the public's dependence on cars and Mayor Bowser's commitment to eliminate pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries by 2024, it is the Commission's responsibility to highlight where significant work remains to be done to advance those goals in Foggy Bottom and the West End.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A allocates \$5,000.00 to commission a study on the traffic and pedestrian safety patterns of the 2000, 2100, and 2200 blocks of the H Street corridor (between 20th Street and 23rd Street NW), and to propose short, medium, and long term safety measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports DDOT implementing, by the end of December of 2019, the following measures on the 2100 block of H Street NW to improve pedestrian safety:

1. Replace all 'No Parking Anytime' with 'No Standing or Parking Anytime' zones.
2. Remove two two-hour pay-to-park parking spaces to create continuous and uninterrupted zones of 'No Parking Anytime', 'No Standing or Parking Anytime', and 'No Parking Except Police Vehicles Only' on applicable segments of both sides of the block.
3. Paint the streetscape with stripes and 'No Parking' text to indicate 'No Parking or Standing' zones and highlight where vehicles are prohibited from parking in 'No Parking Anytime', 'No Standing or Parking Anytime', and 'No Parking Except Police Vehicles Only' zones.
4. Restrict ridesharing (e.g. Lyft, Uber, Via, etc.) vehicles from picking up or dropping off passengers along the block using geofencing, in conjunction with the creation of dedicated curbside rideshare pickup and drop off spaces on nearby blocks, including on the south side of the 2100 block of I Street NW.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Funding Request for LGBTQ Grant Programs

Vice Chair Kennedy 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:

WHEREAS, fifteen LGBTQ organizations, ranging from SMYAL (Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League) to Mary's House for Older Adults, jointly petitioned the DC Council to increase funding in the FY 2020 budget by \$3 million for the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs,

WHEREAS, the request was for the creation of a competitive grant program focusing on health equity to support LGBTQ organizations. The programs were to focus on the most

vulnerable and at-risk: youth (especially homeless youth), trans people, and senior citizens,

WHEREAS, the DC Council declined to fund this request,

WHEREAS, Zoe Spears, a 23 year old trans woman of color, was murdered on June 13, 2019 along Eastern Avenue – less than three months following the murder of another trans woman of color, Ashanti Carmon, at nearly the same location,

WHEREAS, there has been a reported uptick in hate crimes directed at members of the LGBTQ community in recent weeks, including several incidents within close proximity to ANC 2A, and

WHEREAS, the frequency of these incidents and the coincidence of many of them with Pride Month brought renewed attention to the disturbing realities that still confront vulnerable members of the LGBTQ community – and create a sense of urgency regarding the need for additional, targeted resources to serve that population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly urges the DC Council and the Mayor to re-consider their determination regarding this funding request and use either a supplemental appropriation or reprogramming authority to target resources toward the \$3 million grant program sought, thereby supporting community-driven efforts to improve the health, safety, and well-being of DC residents.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Re-Introduction of DC Council Bill B22-0660 – the “Go Play Amendment Act of 2018”

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Councilmember Allen introduced a bill, titled the “Go Play Amendment Act of 2018,” with the stated description of “[...] requir[ing] the District Department of Transportation to create a process for pre-authorizing and expediting street play permits. It establishes that a resident 21 years or older may submit a street play permit pre-authorization application for a block on which the resident lives. It establishes what information must be included on the permit, including the signatures of 100% of the residents, owners, or businesses abutting the section of the street requested”,

WHEREAS, the legislation does not reasonably provide a process for residents within student dormitories to participate in a request for a pre-authorized street play permit, and

WHEREAS, given the impact of the George Washington University (GW) in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods, ANC 2A supports amendments to legislation that may be considered in this Council Period to outline how residents living in student residence halls may participate in the pre-authorization permit process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission supports amendments to similar street play legislation to be introduced in this Council Period that creates a process for internally elected Hall Councils, Residential Boards, or similar entities that represent the interests of the residents within a building, to act as authorized agents in requesting a pre-authorized street play permit on behalf of the residents of such a student dormitory or apartment building.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Char Bar Restaurant and Eli's Market – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant License at 2142 L Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Foreign Service Club – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Club License at 2101 E Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Campono – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 600 New Hampshire Avenue NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Detrick Campbell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Detrick Campbell
Secretary, ANC 2A07