



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18th, 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), Jeri Epstein (06), Detrick Campbell (07), and James Harnett (08) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Vice Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular September 2019 meeting agenda by unanimous consent. Without any objection the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular July 2019 meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Without any objection the minutes were adopted.

Election of a New Commission Secretary

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to elect Commissioner Campbell as the ANC’s new Secretary. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Captain Brian Bray, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, introduced himself to meeting attendees and 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.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

Sarina Loy, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans’ Office, gave updates from the Councilmember’s Office.

Consideration of a Resolution Acknowledging Former Commissioner Phil Schrefer’s Service to the ANC

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

Whereas, Commissioner Phil Schrefer served with distinction as ANC 2A05 for over four years, being elected to a full term in 2014 and winning re-election without opposition in 2016 and 2018;

Whereas, Commissioner Schrefer, a resident of St. Mary's Court, has ably represented the interests of seniors across the entire Foggy Bottom and West End communities – voicing a perspective in deliberations that enabled ANC 2A to be more broadly representative of its constituents;

Whereas, Commissioner Schrefer took particular interest in public safety issues and – through his work – prompted the Metropolitan Police Department to deliver reports to the ANC that presented a more realistic and accurate snapshot of crime incidents in our communities;

Whereas, Commissioner Schrefer was persistent and ultimately instrumental in getting the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to install a flashing beacon for people crossing Virginia Avenue at G Street NW, thereby improving pedestrian safety conditions along one of the most hazardous corridors in the neighborhood and the District of Columbia at-large;

Whereas, Commissioner Schrefer was a consummate team player, always offering to do whatever he could to support the Commission as a whole – including through his service as the ANC's secretary from 2016 until his resignation;

Whereas, the Foggy Bottom and West End communities -- and his Commission colleagues – therefore owe Commissioner Schrefer a tremendous debt of gratitude for his service to the neighborhood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in recognition of Commissioner Phil Schrefer's service, that ANC 2A hereby extends to him its grateful appreciation and best wishes for the years to come.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Goldin, Campbell, Harnett, and Epstein gave commissioner announcements.

Announcements and Public Comments

Inspector Wendy Cadell, a Ward 2 solid waste inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), and Marina Streznewski, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), gave announcements and public comments.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Ruth's Chris Steak House – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 2001 K Street NW

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

ANC 2A supports Ruth's Chris Steak House's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 2001 K Street NW.

Consideration of a Proposed Settlement Agreement for the Charles E. Smith Center at 600 22nd Street NW

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the ANC's proposed settlement agreement for the Charles E. Smith with the addition of language regarding the last call for alcoholic beverage purchases. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Matters Before the Zoning Commission

Zoning Commission Application for a Modification of Consequence to Extend the Third Expanded Use Groups for GW's Lerner Health & Wellness Center at 2301 G Street NW

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: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, ANC 2A supported – and the Zoning Commission approved – The George Washington University's ("University") request in Zoning Commission Case No. 02-26C (2014) that certain new classes of users be permitted access to the Lerner Health and Wellness Center ("Center") for a five-year term expiring in September 2019,

WHEREAS, this group included:

- Foggy Bottom and West End residents living in zip codes 20006 and 20037 (maximum 150 during the academic year with 100 additional memberships available during the summer months),
- Participants and spectators for primarily non-spectator-driven athletic events,
- Attendees at certain periodic or short-term events,
- Residents living in GW housing facilities during the summer term,

WHEREAS, the University is seeking to extend the eligibility of these groups to use the Center for an additional 16 months, to December 31, 2020, and use this time to evaluate future use plans for the Center,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A has not received any constituent complaints about objectionable impacts associated with the increased number of users eligible to use the Center, but notes that the West End Citizens Association has indicated that it opposes this request, and

WHEREAS, the University has committed to engaging in discussions with ANC and other community stakeholders in the course of this evaluation with the goal of setting permanent use conditions beyond the 16-month period.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in view of the Commission's support for this application five years ago, the lack of residential complaints regarding the Center's operations since, and the University's commitment to working with the community on permanent use conditions beyond the term of this temporary extension, ANC 2A supports this application.

Consideration of a Proposed Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement with GW that Would Help Mitigate the Temporary Impacts Associated with GW's Proposed Thurston Hall Renovation Project at 1900 F Street NW

and

Zoning Commission Applications for a Campus Plan Modification of Significance, a Campus Plan Further Processing, a First-Stage Planned Unit Development Modification of Significance, and a Modification of Significance to a Planned Unit Development as Part of GW's Proposed Thurston Hall Renovation Project at 1900 F Street NW

Vice Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter and to authorize Chair Smith to sign the ANC's proposed voluntary neighborhood agreement with GW pending Chair Smith checking on the status of current construction activity at One Washington Circle Hotel. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The George Washington University (GW) is a private research institution located in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, GW has announced a strategic initiative that will shrink its neighborhood footprint by reducing undergraduate enrollment by approximately twenty percent over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, as part of a complementary strategic initiative to enhance the undergraduate student experience, GW has sought the support of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (ANC 2A) in its application for temporary relief from Condition C6; Condition P-8 and Condition 8 of the 1959 E Street PUD so as to provide temporary housing for students displaced by the renovation of Thurston Hall, a 91-year-old building that is a major component of the first-year student's campus residential experience; and

WHEREAS this request for temporary relief was made in the context of GW's largest dorm and one whose current conditions mark it as long overdue for renovation and refurbishment; and

WHEREAS, in discussions both GW and ANC 2A have characterized the Thurston Hall renovation as extraordinary and singular in nature; and

WHEREAS the ANC remains fully committed to maintaining the boundaries of the current campus plan and preventing the use of GW properties outside the boundaries of the campus plan as temporary "swing space" for future renovations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of extended negotiations, GW, the ANC 2A and the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) have entered into a Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement (VNA) that facilitates the renovation and re-visioning of Thurston Hall by supporting temporary relief for GW from the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan for a period not to exceed 24 consecutive months and specifies the management plan and penalties that would accompany any such relief; and

WHEREAS, after the end of the waiver period permitting the Temporary Housing Plan, the University intends to return the properties to their existing use; and

WHEREAS the Parties have agreed to certain conditions that will minimize objectionable impacts on the neighborhood to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS throughout discussions and negotiations on this issue GW personnel have made themselves fully available to the public and their conduct has been marked by professionalism, courtesy, and responsiveness to community concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the above and in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement, ANC 2A supports a proposed "Temporary Housing Plan" for GW granting relief from:

- 1) Condition C6 of the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, to permit the University to temporarily reduce the number of on-campus beds for full-time Foggy Bottom undergraduates, provided that the number of on-campus beds is within 99 bed of the requirement set forth in Condition C6; and
- 2) Condition P-8 of the related campus-wide First-Stage PUD in order to temporarily provide no more that 220 beds for undergraduate students at The Aston and no more than 330 beds at One Washington Circle; and
- 3) Condition 8 of the 1959 E Street PUD to temporarily provide beds for second-year students in the 1959 E Street residence hall while Thurston Hall is under renovation. (together the "Temporary Housing Plan").

It is the ANC's understanding that the properties in question shall be managed in accordance with the terms of the VNA and the total period of relief under the Temporary

Housing Plan shall not exceed 24 months without incurring the penalties set forth the Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement.

Matters Before the Historic Preservation Review Board

Historic Preservation Review Board Concept Application by the George Washington University for an Addition, Removal of Rear Wall, and Enclosure of Interior Court with Glass Canopy at 1900 F Street NW

Vice 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: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Thurston Hall (“Thurston,” 1900 F Street NW) is a contributing structure in the “George Washington University/Old West End Historic District,” (“Historic District”) created with the support of ANC 2A in 2014,

WHEREAS, Thurston was built as the Park Central Apartments in 1928 for developer Morris Cafritz and was the largest and densest residential building built in Foggy Bottom to that time and for many years after,

WHEREAS, it housed a large number of federal government employees with nearby offices (and their families) from the time it was built, through the Second World War, into the early-1960s when it was purchased by The George Washington University (“University”) for use as a student residential building,

WHEREAS, the building has since traditionally been used to house a large portion of the University’s first-year student population,

WHEREAS, Thurston has therefore had an outsized role in shaping and defining the residential experience in Foggy Bottom over the course of its 90-year history,

WHEREAS, the University is seeking to do a thorough interior demolition of the building that will largely preserve the exterior walls and the building’s basic orientation around an interior court – features which define the structure in terms of its relationship to the surrounding built environment and as a community landmark at-large,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A believes that the University’s proposed renovations are both necessary from a building component lifecycle management standpoint and desirable in terms of improving the residential experience for the hundreds of students who live in the building each academic year,

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that the University’s proposal conforms to the design guidelines for the Historic District, and that the only demolition contemplated is not perceptible to the vast majority of people who would observe the building on street level, and

WHEREAS, the Commission further believes that the limited demolition's purpose – to create a “notch” on the rear parts of the upper floors – is exceptionally meritorious in that it will allow for natural light to penetrate the interior court and activate a space that is both important in defining the building's basic shape but unutilized and without benefit for building residents in its current configuration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the University's application as presented because it preserves the integrity of the features that define the building as a contributing historic structure while still enabling much-needed improvements to the quality of the residential experience for those who will live there moving forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission requests that the University undertake a photo survey for archival purposes to document the building's interior features prior to demolition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission also suggests that the University incorporate some kind of commemoration of the building's history as the Park Central Apartments into the renovated structure.

Matters Before the State Health Planning and Development Agency

Certificate of Need (CON) Application by GW Hospital for a Liver Transplant Program at 2131 K Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Davis Construction's Request for an After-Hours Permit to Work on Columbus Day on Monday, October 14th, 2019 and on Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, 2019 as Part of the 2050 M Street NW Construction Project

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

ANC 2A supports Davis Construction's request for an after-hours permit to work from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 14th, 2019 and on Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, 2019 as part of the 2050 M Street NW construction project.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Davis Construction's Request for an After-Hours Permit to Work on Columbus Day on Monday, October 14th, 2019 and on Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, 2019 as Part of the 2100 L Street NW Construction Project

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

ANC 2A supports Davis Construction's request for an after-hours permit to work from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 14th, 2019 and on Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, 2019 as part of the 2100 L Street NW construction project.

General Agenda

Update Regarding the 2100 L Street NW and Stevens School Development Project

David Toney, Vice President of Development for Akridge, gave an update regarding the 2100 L Street NW and Stevens School development project.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by Akridge for the Streetscape Plan as Part of the Construction Project at 2100 L 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: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Davis Construction's request for an after-hours permit to work from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 14th, 2019 and on Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, 2019 as part of the 2100 L Street NW construction project.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2020 Budget

The commissioners discussed the ANC's proposed budget for FY 2020.

The Commission will formally consider this matter during the ANC's regular October 2019 meeting.

Community Forum (Continued)

Consideration of a Resolution in Support of a Commemoration for Former Metropolitan Police Department Officer Gail Cobb

Vice 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: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on September 20, 1974, Officer Gail A. Cobb of the Metropolitan Police Department was slain in the line of duty in the parking garage of a building at 20th Street and L Street NW while pursuing a suspect in a nearby attempted bank robbery,

WHEREAS, Officer Cobb was the first female police officer killed in the line of duty in the United States,

WHEREAS, Officer Cobb came from a family with an extensive track record of government service and left behind – among other survivors – a four-year-old son,

WHEREAS, some of Officer Cobb’s surviving relatives are presently seeking to have the DC Council rename a portion of 14th Place NE in her honor, Councilmembers Ambrose and Brazil having previously introduced a bill to this end in 2000, and

WHEREAS, the Commission takes no position on the proposed re-designation of the block in question, since it lies outside the boundaries of ANC 2A and Ward 2, but does support efforts to keep the memory of Officer Cobb alive on the 45th anniversary of her passing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A, recognizing that Officer Gail A. Cobb sacrificed her life in defense of the West End community, expresses its support for a commemoration in her honor to recognize her service on the 45th anniversary of her passing.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:13 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 initial "D" and "C".

Detrick Campbell
Secretary, ANC 2A07