



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 18th, 2018; 7:00 p.m.

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

Call to Order

Chair William Kennedy Smith (04) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Marco Guzman (03), Philip Schrefer (05), Detrick Campbell (07), and James Harnett (08) were present. Commissioner Florence Harmon (06) arrived at 7:30 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular April 2018 meeting agenda. Commissioner Guzman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular February 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Guzman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lt. Darren Haskis, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, was present. He gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Presentation by Councilmember Jack Evans Regarding Ward 2 and Citywide Updates

Councilmember Jack Evans was present. He gave an overview of the various hats he wears, including his roles as Ward 2 Councilmember, the Chair of the DC Council’s Committee on Finance and Revenue, the Chair of the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) Board of Directors, DC’s Democratic National Committeeman, and the father of three children. He said that he has seen an enormous change in the city since 1991 when he first joined the DC Council. He gave an overview of the region’s recent success in committing to a dedicated funding source for WMATA.

Councilmember Evans said that although the city is currently doing well, it still struggles with the same problems that many cities struggle with, including the need to improve schools, create affordable housing, address homelessness, and improve road conditions. He said that the future of the city is very bright, especially given all the development that is occurring across the city. He said that Washington continues to be a place where people want to move to.

Councilmember Evans gave an overview of the DC Council’s efforts to reduce property taxes, especially for the city’s seniors. He also said that the DC Government has struggled to conduct oversight of its programs to create and preserve affordable housing in the city.

Councilmember Evans gave an overview of his efforts to improve WMATA's finances. He gave an overview of the recent legislative actions taken by Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia to set aside a combined \$500 million in dedicated funding for WMATA. He said that the dedicated funding will help WMATA complete much-needed maintenance to the Metrorail system.

Barbara Kahlow, a local resident, said that the neighborhood's homeless situation has worsened. Councilmember Evans said that the DC Government is aware of the extent of the homeless situation in the neighborhood.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Richard Livingstone, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), was present. He said that the DC Council is currently reviewing Mayor Bowser's proposed FY 2019 budget. He said that the Mayor's proposed budget includes a \$1,000 annual tax refund per child for families who sign up their children for childcare. He said that the budget also includes \$26 million for the repaving of local roads in Ward 2.

Mr. Livingstone said that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is currently in the middle of its regular Potholepalooza season. He encouraged local residents to report potholes through the city's 3-1-1 system.

Mr. Livingstone said that the Mayor will be holding a citywide cleanup day on Saturday, April 21st. He encouraged local residents to cleanup a place in the neighborhood that is special to them, even if just for five minutes.

Mr. Livingstone said that the Mayor's Office will be hosting the Every Day Counts! Attendance Summit on Saturday, April 21st from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School, 4800 Meade Street NE.

Sara Maddux, a local resident, said that she is concerned about the ever-expanding security boundaries that are required for marathons in the neighborhood. Mr. Livingstone encouraged the ANC to let the Mayor's Special Event Task Group know about any community issues regarding specific special events.

Report from the West End Library

Kevin Osborne, the Branch Manager for the West End Library, was present. He said that Bluestone Lane's sidewalk cafe seating and beer and wine sales should be open in about three weeks. He gave an overview the recent library usage statistics, including the usage statistics for Emancipation Day when the West End Library was the only library in Ward 2 that was open.

Mr. Osborne said that the West End Library Friends will be collecting book donations for the organization's book sale. He said that donations can be brought to the West End Library Friends office inside of the library on Saturday, May 5th from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Schrefer said that DDOT recently fixed the gaps that were present in the median fence along the 2300 and 2400 blocks of Virginia Avenue NW. He thanked the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Evans' Office for their help in ensuring that the gaps were fixed.

Update Regarding the ANC's Protest of FoBoGro's Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "B" Grocery License at 2140 F Street NW

Commissioner Kennedy said that the ANC recently signed a settlement agreement with FoBoGro regarding the establishment's license renewal application. He said that the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board approved the settlement agreement with some changes.

Update from the George Washington University Regarding the University's Recent Issuance of \$795 Million in New Bonds

Kevin Days, the Director of Community Relations for the George Washington University (GW), was present. He said that GW recently published \$795 million in bonds, which will allow the university to refinance some of its existing loans, conduct renovations to Thurston Hall, and build a new residence hall in order to provide swing space while Thurston Hall is renovated. He said that some of the funding will also be set aside for President LeBlanc's own initiatives, including improving the student experience.

Commissioner Harnett asked if a location has been finalized for the new residence hall. Mr. Days said that GW is planning to build the residence hall at a site at the intersection of 20th Street and H Street NW. He said that the site has been designated as a residence hall site under the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan. He added that GW will provide additional updates to the ANC as the plans for the new residence hall are formulated.

Commissioner Harnett encouraged GW to involve students in the planning process for the new residence hall and for the renovations to Thurston Hall.

Ms. Kahlow asked about GW's recent submissions as part of DC's Comprehensive Plan amendment process to change the university's student enrollment cap. Mr. Days said that GW is not seeking to change the current enrollment cap under the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan.

Update from Sarah Fashbaugh, Community Resource Officer for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, Regarding the Current License Renewal Season

Sarah Fashbaugh, the Community Resource Officer for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), was present. She gave an overview of ABRA's enforcement hotline, which can be reached at (202) 329-6347. She said that the hotline is manned from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am, seven days a week. She encouraged local residents to report any complaints that they have regarding specific licensees through the hotline so that ABRA is aware of the matter.

Ms. Fashbaugh said that ABRA is currently in the middle of renewal season for all of the city's liquor stores. She gave an overview of the protest process for local residents who would like to protest any renewal applications.

Update from the Department of Public Works

Inspector Wendy Cadel, a representative for the Department of Public Works (DPW), was present. She encouraged local residents to submit requests for DPW's Helping Hands program, which lends tools out to community groups for neighborhood cleanups, through the city's 3-1-1 system. She said that DPW's Fort Totten Transfer Station is offering free compost for local residents to pick up.

General Agenda

Presentation by the DC Fire and EMS Department Regarding the Department's "Right Care, Right Now" Initiative

Dr. Robert Holman, the Medical Director for the DC Fire and EMS (FEMS) Department, was present. He said that FEMS currently receives many 9-1-1 calls that are classified as non-critical medical calls and would be best handled by a primary care doctor. He said that on Thursday, April 19th at 10:00 am FEMS will launch a nurse triage line within the 9-1-1 system, where many of the non-critical medical calls will be routed to a nurse. He said that the nurse will perform a lengthy interview over the phone and will have the option of transferring callers to a medical clinic if their situation is non-critical. He said that, as part of this new system, the city will arrange for callers to be transported to local medical clinics, the funding for which will be provided by DC's Department of Health Care Finance and the city's Medicaid Managed Care Organizations.

Dr. Holman said that the triage line will originally be available from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm each day of the week. He said that, after six months, FEMS will increase the amount of calls that can be handled through the triage line each day.

Commissioner Campbell asked if FEMS has changed its internal Patient Bill of Rights as a result of the new triage line. Dr. Holman said that the Patient Bill of Rights has been changed in acknowledgement that many patients who are transferred to the triage line will not be transported by an ambulance.

Ms. Maddux suggested that FEMS conduct additional community outreach throughout the city regarding the new triage line and how it works.

Presentation by DC Water Regarding Sewer Rehabilitation and Water Meter Replacement Efforts in the Neighborhood

April Bingham, a Customer Service Manager for DC Water, was present. She gave an overview of DC Water's water meter replacement project. She said that, as part of the project, DC Water is replacing approximately 90,000 water meters in DC during an 18-month period of time. She said that the project contractor is currently replacing approximately 5,000 water meters per month, and that DC Water is planning on finishing the project by the end of July.

Ms. Bingham said that the vast majority of the water meters that are being replaced are located on public space. She said that, for the water meters that are located inside of homes, the project contractor will work with homeowners to arrange for the meter to be replaced. She said that the new water meters will be much more technologically advanced than the current meters.

Ms. Bingham said that local residents can contact her via email to april.bingham@dcwater.com if they have any questions or concerns regarding the project.

Tanya Hedgepeth, a Construction Outreach Coordinator for DC Water, was present. She gave an overview of DC Water's sewer rehabilitation project in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. She said that the project involves performing preventative maintenance to the sewer mains in certain parts of the neighborhood. She said that DC Water will be re-lining the sewers in order to extend their lifespans, and will also be repairing 25 manholes. She added that some local residents may smell an odor as a result of the sewer re-lining process.

Ms. Hedgepeth said that some sewer pumping will occur as part of the project, which thus may create some odors in the neighborhood. She said that some lane closures may occur in order to store project equipment.

Commissioner Harmon requested that DC Water provide advance notice to the ANC regarding specific construction activities taking place as part of the project. Ms. Hedgepeth said that DC Water can provide two-week "look ahead" emails to the ANC to alert commissioners about upcoming project work in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Smith asked about the process for restoring project work sites after the work is completed. Ms. Hedgepeth said that DC Water completes a temporary restoration after each individual work site is completed, and then will complete a final restoration once the larger project has been completed.

Presentation by the District Department of Transportation Regarding the Proposal to Install Bike Lanes on 20th Street, 21st Street, and/or 22nd Street NW

Megan Kanagy, a Transportation Planner for DDOT, was present. She gave an overview of DDOT's proposal to install bike lanes on 20th Street, 21st Street, and/or 22nd Street NW. She said that this is one of three major bike lane proposals that DDOT is working on right now.

Ms. Kanagy said that there is currently a big gap in DC's north-south bike network which results in the lack of a safe way for bicyclists to travel from Dupont to Foggy Bottom and the National Mall. She said that, as part of this bike lane study, DDOT is exploring whether a single street or a combination of the three studied streets would be best suited for the installation of the bike lanes.

Ms. Kanagy said that some options that DDOT is examining as part of this bike lane study include the installation of two-way bike lanes on one street, the installation of one-way bike lanes on two different streets, and whether the bike lanes should go on the east or west side of an individual street. She said that, as part of the design phase for the project, DDOT will be creating three different alternatives to bring to 10% project design. She said that DDOT will then select one design to advance to 30% project design. She said that DDOT is hoping to pick one design by the end of 2018.

Ms. Kanagy said that, as part of this bike lane study, DDOT will be examining parking access, bus stop access, hotel taxi stand access, and traffic patterns on each of the three studied streets. She said that DDOT has already had stakeholder meetings with the U.S. Department of State and GW regarding the project.

Ms. Kanagy said that DDOT will be holding a community meeting regarding the project on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm at the West End Library, 2301 L Street NW.

Chair Kennedy gave an overview of the benefits of installing the bike lanes on 20th Street NW, including the wider roadway and lesser amount of hotel loading zones and residential parking spaces when compared to 21st Street and 22nd Street.

Commissioner Harmon said that she has significant concerns regarding the proposal to put a bike lane on 22nd Street NW, especially given the loss of residential street parking that would result from the proposal.

Commissioner Harnett said that concerns about how students use the streets surrounding the GW campus should be included in the proposal for selecting a bike lane path.

Ms. Maddux raised multiple concerns regarding the proposed bike lanes on 21st Street and/or 22nd Street NW.

Ms. Kahlow asked if an environmental assessment has been conducted regarding the proposed bike lanes on 21st Street and/or 22nd Street NW. Ms. Kanagy said that DDOT will ensure that the proposals are in full compliance with all appropriate environmental regulations.

Update Regarding the Stevens School Development Project

Mr. Livingstone said that plan for the re-opening of the Stevens School continues to be that the school will serve as an expansion of the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, with space also set aside for an early childhood center.

Matters Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)

Application by the Acton Academy Foundation for a Special Exception Under the Use Requirements and the Private School Requirements to Permit a Private School at 2430 K Street NW

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

ANC 2A recommends that Acton Academy's application for special exception be approved.

Matters Before the Zoning Commission (ZC)

Presentation by Brookfield Hotel Properties Regarding the Proposal to Rezone The Wink Hotel Property at 1143 New Hampshire Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A supports BSREP II Dupont Circle, LLC's Zoning Commission application for a map amendment from RA-5 to MU-10 at 1143 New Hampshire Avenue NW, provided that the application is consistent with the presentations that ANC 2A has received from the applicant.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by the West End Place Condominium for the Replacement of Balconies Projecting over Public Space at 1099 22nd Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the Mayor's Special Events Task Group (MSETG)

Special Event Application for the DC Bike Ride on May 19th, 2018

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to support the special event application for the DC Bike Ride. Chair Smith seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the special event application for the DC Bike Ride on May 19th, 2018.

Special Event Application for the Lawyers Have Heart 10K & 5K on June 9th, 2018

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to support the special event application for the Lawyers Have Heart 10K & 5K. Chair Smith seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the special event application for the Lawyers Have Heart 10K & 5K on June 9th, 2018.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)

Market Of Columbia Plaza – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 516 23rd Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Arrowine – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 2175 K Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Administrative Matters

Approval of Expenditures

Commissioner Harmon made a motion to approve up to \$200 in expenditures for the moving of the ANC's file cabinets from the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens to the ANC's office at

the West End Library. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. J. Schrefer".

Philip Schrefer
Secretary, ANC 2A05