



**Foggy Bottom & West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A**
(www.anc2a.org)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 18, 2013 6:30 pm Heart House
2400 N Street NW Washington, DC

Call to Order

Chair Florence Harmon (06) called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Rebecca Coder (02), Asher Corson (03), Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present.

Chair Harmon made a motion to adopt the agenda, with a resolution on the Whitehurst Freeway added to the Regulatory Agenda and an update on the Shadow Room litigations added to the Administrative Agenda. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0).

General Agenda

Update on DC Zoning Rewrite

Commissioner Kennedy gave an update on the zoning rewrite being facilitated by the DC Zoning Commission. He said that the Zoning Commission has granted the ANCs and the public more time to weigh in on the zoning rewrite, including the creation of a hearing in January at the Wilson Building specifically for ANC commissioners. Commissioner Kennedy suggested that the ANC may want to consider adding supplemental comments to the record at its January meeting.

DDOT: Update on New Hampshire Avenue Project

Ian Swain from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) was present to give an update on the New Hampshire Avenue resurfacing project. Mr. Swain said that DDOT is almost finished with Washington Circle. He said that the asphalt has been poured on the Circle, and that DDOT is still working on a few side streets off of the Circle.

Mr. Swain then said that Washington Gas is currently working at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and 24th Street NW. He said that DDOT will be paving both sides of the street while the section of New Hampshire Avenue is blocked for Washington Gas. Mr. Swain further said that two-way traffic on New Hampshire Avenue between Washington Circle and 24th Street NW will be restored during the second week of January.

Barbara Kahlow asked what was being done with the sidewalks going across Washington Circle, saying that there is no clear pedestrian access to the circle. Mr. Swain said that DDOT is waiting on PEPCO to finish work on Washington Circle before they can complete the new crosswalks.

Ellie Becker, a Foggy Bottom resident, called on DDOT to improve the light posts in the city.

Ward 2 Education Network Update

Chris Sondreal, a member of the Ward 2 Education Network, was present to give an update on the Network. He said that the next Network meeting will be on January 11th at Ross Elementary, and the group will hear a presentation on the Next Generation Science Standards.

Mr. Sondreal also said that the February meeting will be on February 8th, and the group will be discussing the upcoming school boundary changes with the Deputy Mayor for Education.

With regards to School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens activities, Mr. Sondreal said that the next enrollment open houses at the school will be on January 11th and February 3rd.

Mr. Sondreal also talked about the launch of myschooldc.org, the new universal lottery website for DC's public traditional and charter schools. He said that the deadline to enroll for pre-K through grade 8 is March 3rd, and the deadline for grades 9 through 12 is February 3rd.

Public Comments

Marina Streznewski, president of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), said that the FBA will be holding a Rat Summit on Saturday, January 11th from 1 to 4 pm at St. Paul's Parish in Foggy Bottom.

Regulatory Agenda

ABRA License Renewals

There were no upcoming ABRA license renewals to discuss.

DC Council Proposal, B20-0567: Prohibition Against Selling Tobacco Products To Individuals Under 21 Amendment Act Of 2013

Commissioner Sacco gave an overview of the proposal, which aims to prohibit tobacco sales to anyone under the age of 21 in the District. He said that our ANC could have an interest in the proposal since ANC 2A represents smokers between the ages of 18 and 21 who are students at GW. He said that the Council will not discuss the proposal until, at earliest, spring of 2014, and thus there would be no need to take action tonight.

Whitehurst Freeway Resolution

Chair Harmon said that Councilmember Jack Evans (Ward 2) has a plan to redevelop K Street, and concerns had been expressed that this may include changes to the Whitehurst Freeway. She said that the ANC should try to find out more about Councilmember Evans' plans that could compliment the ANC's efforts to improve the K Street passage to Georgetown, but constituents were also worried about the impact of these plans on the Whitehurst Freeway.

Joy Howell, a Foggy Bottom resident, provided the ANC with a resolution she worked on. The resolution reiterated the ANC and neighborhood's commitment against tearing down the Whitehurst Freeway. The resolution also called on local residents to find out more about the issue

and to go on record about it.

Commissioner Corson expressed concerns with the resolution, saying that he would like to work with Ms. Howell and the affected parties to strengthen the resolution.

Barbara Kahlow said that she has all the old copies of previous ANC resolutions regarding the Whitehurst Freeway. She also said that she would like to work on the resolution with Commissioner Corson, Ms. Howell and the affected parties.

Commissioner Coder talked about previous conversations on the issue that the ANC had with Harriet Tregoning, the head of the DC Office of Planning, who agreed that the Whitehurst Freeway did not cut off access to the Georgetown waterfront.

MedStar Ambulatory Service Certificate of Need

Bob Gilbert from MedStar was present. Mr. Gilbert gave an overview of the planned MedStar Health Center at Lafayette Center on 21st Street NW. He said that the new center will combine the MedStar Surgery Center and other physician services in the area.

Mr. Gilbert also said that MedStar will be redeveloping the Washington Racquetball Center on the site as a new sports center, which is planned to open in early 2016.

Commissioner Sacco asked where the main entrance would be located and how transport ambulances would enter the facility. Mr. Gilbert said that the main entrance would be on the corner of the 21st Street NW and the central plaza of Lafayette Center. He also said that transport ambulances would have access to a small receiving dock beside the building.

Chair Harmon made a motion to support MedStar's Certificate of Need with the standard ANC Certificate of Need support letter. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0).

Hyatt Place Hotel Addition to Washington Marriott

No one from the Hyatt Place Hotel was present to speak about the project.

Environmental Impact at George Washington National Forest

Chair Harmon recused herself from discussing and voting on the matter.

Commissioner Carnes gave an update on a proposal by the U.S. Forest Service to allow hydraulic fracturing, a form of underground natural gas extraction, in George Washington National Forest. He then provided a resolution to the ANC, which opposes the Forest Service proposal.

Dusty Horwitt, a local resident, was present to go over the Forest Service proposal and the distributed resolution. Mr. Horwitt is a senior analyst at EarthWorks, a non-profit that works to help protect communities from the effects of oil and gas drilling. He said that George Washington National Forest is at the headwaters of the Potomac River, which is the main source of DC's drinking water.

Mr. Horwitt said that George Washington National Forest is located between 70 and 100 miles west of DC in Virginia. He said that the forest sits on the Marcellus Shale, which is targeted for

hydraulic fracturing, otherwise known as “fracking.” He further described “fracking” as a process where water and chemicals are injected into the shale deep underground in order to extract the natural gas deposits from the shale. He said that the chemicals used for injection could potentially pollute nearby water sources.

Mr. Horwitt said that the U.S. Forest Service prohibited “fracking” in their 2011 draft management plan for George Washington National Forest. He also said that the Forest Service received a lot of pressure from oil and gas companies, and has since indicated that they might change their minds before releasing their final 2014 management plan.

Commissioner Corson asked who the resolution should be sent to. Mr. Horwitt said the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as well as the Regional Forester for the Forest Service. Commissioner Corson also suggested that the resolution be sent to the director of the U.S. Forest Service, the Congressional committee overseeing the Forest Service, and Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC).

Barbara Kahlow said that Mr. Horwitt should figure out when the public comment period closes for the Forest Service decision, and then ask if the ANC resolution can be accepted late if the comment period has already closed. Commissioner Kennedy suggested that the ANC attach a cover letter to the resolution, asking if the Forest Service can accept the resolution as part of the record for public comments.

Commissioner Carnes made a motion to pass the resolution he distributed to the ANC. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTE: 5-0, Chair Harmon recused).

Mayoral Candidate Forum

Chair Harmon and Commissioner Kennedy recused themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.

Marina Streznewski, president of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), said that the FBA, along with the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and ANC 2B, is hosting an upcoming mayoral candidate forum. The forum will be on Tuesday, February 25th, from 7 to 9 pm at the Heart House. Ms. Streznewski said that the FBA is asking that ANC 2A become a co-sponsor for the event.

Commissioners Sacco, Corson, Coder, and Carnes discussed the ethical and legal implications of co-sponsoring the event.

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to co-sponsor the candidate forum. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0, Chair Harmon and Commissioner Kennedy recused).

Administrative Agenda

Update on Bylaws Rewrite

Commissioner Kennedy gave an update on the bylaws rewrite process. He said that the Bylaws Committee looked at the ethics standards of the Georgetown and Dupont ANCs and has reflected the standards in the proposed ANC 2A bylaws.

Adoption of Minutes

The ANC postponed reviewing the October and November minutes until the January ANC meeting.

Website Presentation and Related Expenditure Approval

Commissioner Sacco gave a presentation on the new prototype website he designed for the ANC. He said that the new website is easier to use and more functional than the current one that the ANC is using. He said that the working prototype can be found at:

<http://pesacco.wix.com/anc2awebiste>

Commissioner Sacco showed the prototype on the projector screen in the room. He pointed out the more user-friendly homepage and the use of Google calendar on several different pages. He also showed the pages for all of the ANC's resolutions, minutes, financial reports, budgets, and bylaws that the ANC passes.

Barbara Kahlow asked about website security on the new website, as well as how often the new website would be updated. Commissioner Sacco said that the new website is managed by Wix, an online website design and hosting service. He said that Wix has a secure server, and that it is much easier to use, making it easier to rapidly update the website.

Commissioner Sacco said that if anyone has any questions or suggestions for the new website, they should contact him.

Chair Harmon made a motion to approve a \$200 expenditure to launch and host the new website for 12 months. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0).

Grant Fund Presentation

Commissioner Sacco gave a presentation on the proposed ANC grant fund. He mentioned that ANC 2A had previously allocated a small amount of money for community-driven grants, and that he carried out research into best practices from other ANCs in order to set the policies and procedures for ANC 2A's grant fund.

Commissioner Sacco distributed several documents on findings from other ANCs with grant funds, including what percentage of their budgets were allocated for grants, what size grants they gave out, and what procedures they followed for the grant application and distribution process. He also distributed a policy brief from ANC 2B, which detailed the official policies on ANC grant funds set by the DC Council. Finally, he also distributed several example grant applications from ANCs across the city.

The Commissioners discussed what policies and procedures should be set for ANC 2A's grant fund. They agreed to do more research on other ANC grant funds, and then come to the January ANC 2A meeting ready to discuss such points as the size of ANC 2A grants, how much ANC 2A should allocate for grants, what the application and distribution process should be, and what the application should look like.

Shadow Room Update

Chair Harmon gave an update on the Shadow Room litigation discussions. She said that if DDOT limited evening and night parking on 22nd Street NW to residents only, the issue surrounding loud noise as Shadow Room customers return to their cars on 22nd Street could be improved.

Chair Harmon made a motion to authorize the chair to send a resolution to DDOT requesting residential parking restrictions on 22nd Street NW. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-1, Commissioner Kennedy abstained).

Chair Harmon made a motion to pay off an outstanding bill of \$3,297.67 to law firm Hunton & Williams, LLP. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0).

Chair Harmon adjourned the meeting at 9:19 pm

Respectfully submitted by **Peter Sacco**, ANC 2A Secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Sacco". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.