



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 19, 2014; 6:30 p.m.

School Without Walls – 2130 G Street NW

### Call to Order

Chair Patrick Kennedy (01) called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Commissioners Rebecca Coder (02), Armando Irizarry (04), Florence Harmon (06) Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present. Commissioner Asher Corson (03) arrived at 6:47 pm. Commissioner Galka (05) was absent.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0).

### Community Forum

#### Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

Kevin Stogner, General Counsel for Councilmember Jack Evans, was present. Mr. Stogner talked about a bill Councilmember Evans was supporting which would incentivize businesses to work with each other to purchase communal trash compactors to control the rat population.

#### Report from the Ward 2 Education Network

Chris Sondreal, ANC 2A’s representative to the Ward 2 Education Network, was present. Mr. Sondreal said that the Network had a meeting at Garrison Elementary School the previous Saturday about the MySchoolDC enrollment process. He added that EduFest was coming up on Saturday, November 22. He also said that the DC Public Schools enrollment lottery started on December 15.

Mr. Sondreal said that the Network was hoping to co-sponsor an event on Language Immersion at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

With regards to the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, Mr. Sondreal thanked the ANC for the grant it recently gave to the school’s Home and School Association (HSA). He also said that the annual Francis-Stevens HSA Holiday Tree Sale was coming up, and that free delivery and on-site sales would be happening during the first two weekends of December.

Chair Kennedy asked about how the HSA’s recent auction went. Erin Martin, an organizer for the auction, who was also present, went over the fundraising totals and thanked GW for their support.

## Report on the Development of the West End Library and Fire Station Parcels

Benjamin Sonnet, the Development Manager for Eastbanc, was present. Mr. Sonnet said that the construction of the temporary fire station next to the Stevens School was complete and that the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS) had acquired a Certificate of Occupancy for the site. He added that the library site (Square 37) was currently going through the environmental abatement process.

Mr. Sonnet said that demolition of the two properties would begin in mid December, and that the demolition process would be a selective demolition, completed by hand without a wrecking ball.

Mr. Sonnet said that Eastbanc had a 24-month construction timetable for the library site (Square 37), with the delivery of housing units at the site set to begin in December 2016. He added that the units at the fire station site (Square 50) should also be delivered by December 2016.

Commissioner Harmon asked if there were any updates on the rat problem at the two sites. Mr. Sonnet said that a rat control company was going out more frequently to treat burrows and empty rattraps.

Commissioner Coder asked who residents should go to at Eastbanc if they had questions during the construction process. Mr. Sonnet said that the ANC commissioners could give the residents his contact information. He added that Eastbanc would also publish the contact information for the on-site manager, and may start a monthly email newsletter.

A local resident said that there needed to be regular communication between Eastbanc and the surrounding neighbors since it was a large project on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, a major street for traffic. In response, Mr. Sonnet said that there would be no lane closures on 23rd Street during the construction process, and that construction staging for the project would be on L Street in the existing parking lane.

## **General Agenda**

### Consideration of a Resolution Requesting Non-Police Patrols by George Washington University of the Foggy Bottom Historic District

Commissioner Corson handed out copies of a resolution he had written on the matter. He went over the extent of the issue, saying that GW had denied requests to implement a neighborhood patrol system similar to the one already being used at Georgetown University. He added that multiple residents in Foggy Bottom had reached out to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to confirm whether or not Georgetown University's system was legal under DC law. He said that MPD confirmed that Georgetown University's system was a legal system.

Ken Durham, a local resident, further went over the extent of the situation and also talked about the current Foggy Bottom neighborhood patrol that multiple local residents had set up.

Commissioner Corson read the enacting clauses of his resolution aloud.

Britany Waddell, the Director of Community Relations for GW, who was present, said that her office had been in contact with some of the neighbors over this issue in the past. She added that the University's stance on the issue was that improvements in educational outreach and judicial policies had been recently implemented, and that the University would like to wait until the end of the semester before making any additional changes in order to see whether those improvements were working or if new methods were needed.

Commissioner Harmon asked for a friendly amendment to the resolution to include Schneider Triangle in the neighborhood patrol area that was specified in the resolution.

Commissioner Coder suggested changing the language that specified the neighborhood patrol area to simply state "the broader area of ANC 2A" and to then finalize the details through the process of working with GW on the matter.

Sara Maddux, a local resident, suggested addressing the letter to GW President Steven Knapp.

Marina Streznewski, a local resident, said that, based on her own data, there had been a decline in reported student misconduct cases over the course of the semester.

Commissioner Sacco asked whether or not Ms. Streznewski's data showed a decline in reports from year to year.

Mr. Durham said that the University's policy changes this semester did have a positive effect. He added that it was tough to have to rely on local residents to go out at midnight to report a violating residence to the University.

Commissioner Corson gave a brief overview of how Georgetown University's neighborhood patrol system worked.

Commissioner Harmon talked about the possibility of utilizing an unofficial MPD program that allows for off-duty MPD officers to be hired to patrol the neighborhood.

Commissioner Corson made a motion to adopt his amended resolution. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

#### Presentation by GW on its Merger with the Corcoran Gallery

Susi Cora, GW's Director of Campus Planning, was present. Ms. Cora started by talking about the history of GW's merger with the Corcoran College of Art and Design. She said

that the most recent class of new Corcoran College students had been admitted as Corcoran College students under the tuition rates and graduation requirements of the old, pre-merger Corcoran College.

Ms. Cora said that the University was working with the National Gallery of Art to maintain the gallery spaces in the Corcoran's 17<sup>th</sup> Street Building. She added that GW was continuing to use the Corcoran's 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Georgetown buildings for academic space. She said that the Georgetown facilities would be consolidated into the 17th Street building and other GW campus facilities at the end of the academic year. She also said that GW was currently planning for repairs and renovations of the 17th Street building.

Ms. Cora said that GW's legal analysis of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan had concluded that campus plan approval was not needed in order to operate the 17th Street building for academic use, as the building was outside of the campus area designated by the campus plan.

Ms. Cora said that GW was proposing a minor campus plan modification to account for Corcoran College students that may take classes on GW's Foggy Bottom campus. She said that the campus plan modification would also ensure that Corcoran College students who were living on the Foggy Bottom campus but were only taking classes in the 17th Street building would be counted under the University's Foggy Bottom campus head counts.

Barbara Kahlow, a local resident and Secretary-Treasurer for the West End Citizens Association (WECA), said that WECA had already registered its objection to the fact that GW was treating the campus plan modification as a minor campus plan modification. Ms. Kahlow said that WECA believes the modification should be a major campus plan modification. She further cited the "Build Up, Not Out" philosophy of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, adding that GW's proposed modification went against this philosophy.

Commissioner Corson said that he was concerned about the formula GW used to count enrollment on GW's campuses, including the fact that many students are counted on the University's Mount Vernon campus even though they spend most of their time on the Foggy Bottom campus. In response, Alicia Knight, GW's Senior Associate Vice President of Operations, explained the intricate process of how the Foggy Bottom enrollment number was calculated.

Chair Kennedy asked when GW was going to file the modification. Ms. Knight said that it would most likely be in December or January.

Ms. Kahlow said that she received confirmation that the ANC would only have seven days to object to the modification being filed as a minor campus plan modification.

Commissioner Corson made a motion to authorize the ANC Chair to file an objection to the modification being filed as a minor campus plan modification once the modification

was filed. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

#### Presentation and Updated on Changes to the 30-Line and Bus Stop Configuration at 26th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue

Chair Kennedy said that he and Commissioner Coder had completed a walk-through of the site with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) bus officials a few weeks ago and it went well.

A representative from WMATA's bus stop team, which was responsible for installing and maintaining the bus stops, was present. He explained why the bus stop consolidation was happening, stating that the consolidation was based on a 2009 WMATA study which aimed to improve the look and feel of WMATA bus stops. He added that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) had asked WMATA to enhance bus services by consolidating bus stops and limiting them to 4 or 5 per mile.

Jamie Cepler, a Bus Operations Specialist for WMATA, was also present. Mr. Cepler said that his team took a look at the bus stops on the 30s bus routes due to existing bus line restructuring that was taking place. He showed attendees a map of the routes and explained why the stop at the intersection of 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue was being removed.

Rozanne Weisman, a resident in the Westbridge Condominiums, which is adjacent to the bus stop being discussed, said that she was concerned with both the removal of the bus stop and the recent changes in the 30s bus routes. She added that she was also concerned with WMATA's lack of community outreach on the changes.

Chair Kennedy said that he was in communication with Councilmember Jack Evans' office on the issues with the bus stop removal.

Commissioner Coder reiterated that the ANC had passed a resolution at its September meeting stating that the ANC was opposed to the removal of the bus stop.

#### Update on Traffic Conditions at Washington Circle

Commissioner Harmon said that representatives from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) would be back to the ANC for its December meeting to discuss the Washington Circle traffic conditions. She added that the lights at the intersection of K and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets were now working and that DDOT was still evaluating the traffic conditions on Washington Circle.

Ms. Weisman said that it was very hard to cross Pennsylvania Avenue at 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Chair Kennedy said that he would ask DDOT to look into the pedestrian signal timing for the intersection.

### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Sidewalk Repairs in the Foggy Bottom Historic District

Commissioner Corson distributed copies of a resolution he had written on the matter. He said that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) recently repaired multiple sections of sidewalk brickwork in the neighborhood, however there were still many sections that needed repairs.

Commissioner Corson read his resolution aloud. He then went over multiple problems with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance on the narrow sidewalks on K Street between 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Streets. He said the Director of ADA Compliance at DDOT had recently completed a site inspection with him, and that DDOT now wants to address the entire section of K Street all at once.

Commissioner Harmon asked for a friendly amendment to the resolution to add two sidewalks in the West End that needed repairs, and to, in turn, update the resolution's language to specify the "Foggy Bottom and West End" area.

William Kennedy Smith, a local resident, suggesting including a friendly amendment to add the sections of brick sidewalk on 24th, 25th, and L Streets that needed repairs, as well as the public park stairs near the north side of the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Virginia Avenue, which the Commission accepted as a friendly amendment.

Commissioner Corson asked for a friendly amendment to include language in the resolution that allowed the Chair to add additional locations after the resolution was passed.

Commissioner Corson made a motion to adopt his amended resolution. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Disposition of the Stevens School Property

Mr. Stogner said that the bill regarding the disposition of the Stevens School property would be marked-up soon. He added that Councilmember Evans' had been in contact with the DC Council's Committee on Economic Development with regards to the matter.

Commissioner Harmon said that she was concerned that the mark-up was taking so long.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to authorize the Chair to write a letter to the Committee on Economic Development, asking the Committee to ensure that the school was renovated as soon as possible. Commissioner Harmon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

### Application for a New Class CR license by Beefsteak (2200 I Street)

A representative from the ThinkFoodGroup, the parent company of Beefsteak, was present. He explained the concept and menu for the restaurant. He said that the restaurant was asking for an alcoholic beverage license to serve a limited selection of beer and wine. He added that the restaurant would be open 7 days a week from 10 am to 10 pm and would feature a 24 seat outdoor patio that would be covered under the license. He said that the restaurant was supposed to open in late January.

The representative said that the restaurant was also requesting a stipulated license.

Commissioner Carnes made a motion to support both the stipulated alcoholic beverage license and full alcoholic beverage license. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Legal Proceedings with the Shadow Room

Commissioner Harmon said that the owners of the Shadow Room were going to withdraw their application to terminate the establishment's current Settlement Agreement with the ANC if the ANC agreed to extend the establishment's holiday hours with a Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) police detail present during holiday hours. She added that this agreement would only stay in place until the time of the establishment's next license renewal.

Commissioner Harmon made a motion to authorize the Chair to issue a letter to ABRA withdrawing the ANC's protest petition to Shadow Room's application to terminate their Settlement Agreement with the ANC, conditional upon Shadow Room withdrawing their application. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Trash Truck Noise Issues at The Avenue (2201 I Street)

Alex Gallo, a resident of The Avenue, was present to talk about the details of the issue. He said that delivery and trash trucks were scheduled to come into the complex's loading dock area as early as 5:00 am, and sometimes came as early as 4:30 am. He said that this violated city laws on acceptable noise decibel levels and times of quiet hours.

Mr. Gallo asked for the ANC to file a protest letter with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) against the businesses in the complex that were arranging these early deliveries. He said that he had called the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs' (DCRA) trash truck line multiple times, and that DCRA had started issuing fines against the trash truck company that services Whole Foods.

Mr. Gallo suggested two additional actions that the ANC could take. The first action was for the ANC to inform neighborhood businesses that the ANC intended to protest their alcoholic beverage license renewals with ABRA if there continue to be problems related to noise at their establishments. The second action was for the ANC to coordinate the

signing of an agreement between the businesses located at The Avenue that they would fix the noise problems at their establishments.

Commissioner Carnes made a motion to adopt a resolution that states that the ANC intended to protest any ABRA alcoholic beverage license renewals for businesses located in The Avenue if the delivery and trash companies that service the businesses continued to violate DC noise laws, and to deliver the resolution to the businesses in The Avenue. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Kennedy Center Expansion Project Process

*Commissioners Harmon and Irizarry recused themselves from voting on this matter.*

Chair Kennedy made a motion to authorize the Chair to testify at the upcoming National Capital Planning Commission meeting regarding the Kennedy Center expansion project, and to reiterate the neighborhood's issues on the matter. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0).

#### Request for a Letter of Support by Children's National Medical Center for the Staging of the Third Annual "Race for Every Child" in September 2015

George Banker, a representative for the Race for Every Child, was present to go over the plans for the 2015 race. He started by giving the ANC a plaque, recognizing the ANC for its continued support of the Army Ten-Miler, an additional race he represents.

Mr. Banker then passed out a packet that gave an overview of the 2015 Race for Every Child, the proceeds of which benefit the Children's National Health System. He said that the race was scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 3, 2015, and that the race would be over by 10 am.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to support the Race for Every Child application with the clarification that no part of the proposed racecourse fell within the boundaries of ANC 2A. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

### **Administrative Agenda**

#### Approval of the Quarterly Financial Report for FY 2014 Q4

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to approve the quarterly financial report for FY 2014, Quarter 4. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).



Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 9:22 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 style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.