



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Jeri Epstein (06) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Yannik Omictin (01), Joel Causey (02), Trupti Patel (03), Donna Barbisch (04), Evelyn Hudson (05), and Adam Friend (07) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Barbisch made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Omictin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Causey made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular April 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Yannik seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant Bredet Williams, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Joe Florio, 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 Brooke Pinto

Barry Weise, the Legislative Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, gave updates from the councilmember’s office.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Epstein and Commissioners Omictin, Causey, Patel, Barbisch, Hudson, and Friend gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

James Harnett, a former commissioner for ANC 2A08; Margaret McDonald, a candidate for ANC 2A08; and a local resident gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Update from GW Regarding the University's Student Housing Plans for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Kevin Michael Days, GW's Director of Community Relations, gave an update regarding the university's student housing plans for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's 15th Street NW Bike Lanes Project

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

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has requested comment from the public and ANC 2A on Notice of Intent (NOI) #21-87-PSD, which proposes a concept for the extension of the 15th Street NW cycle track from its current terminus at Pennsylvania Avenue NW to East Basin Drive SW, linking with a National Park Service (NPS) cycle track that proceeds to the 14th Street NW Bridge, and

WHEREAS, the perimeter of the White House, along both 17th Street and 15th Street NW, suffers from deeply inadequate safe bicycle facilities, rendering it a dangerous section of the city for tourists, workers, and other bicycle riders.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the proposed concept in this NOI as presented and proposes the following modification:

1. Vendors receiving permits on 15th Street NW should be given preferential access to nearby vending locations, or otherwise have the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) find new locations for lottery spaces.

Discussion Regarding Rodent Issues in the Vicinity of 1099 22nd Street NW

Chris Labas, the Property Manager of West End Place at 1099 22nd Street NW, gave updates regarding rodent issues in the vicinity of West End Place.

Discussion Regarding Solutions to Homelessness with Government Agencies and Local Organizations Serving Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Laura Zeilinger, the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS); Karen Malovrh, a Staff Attorney for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless; Kate Coventry, a Senior Policy Analyst for the DC Fiscal Policy Institute; Qaadir El-Amin, a representative for the People for Fairness Coalition; and John George, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association, engaged in a discussion with commissioners and meeting attendees regarding solutions to homelessness.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Georgetown Inn West End / Casta's Rum Bar – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1121 New Hampshire Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A protests Georgetown Inn West End / Casta's Rum Bar's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 1121 New Hampshire Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

Riverside Liquors – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 2123 E Street NW

The commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

McReynold's Liquors – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 1776 G Street NW

The commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Watergate Vintners & Spirits – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 2544 Virginia Avenue NW

The commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Atrium Cafe, Beer Wine & Spirits – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 1255 23rd Street NW

The commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for Special Exceptions from the Court Requirements, the Lot Occupancy Requirements, and the Rear Yard Requirements to Construct a Four-Story Rear Addition to an Existing Five-Story, Semi-Detached, Multi-Use Building at 2519-2525 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A supports the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 2519-2525 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by MRP Realty for Streetscape Improvements, Including Paving, Expanding Tree Planting Areas, Relocating Bollards, and Installing Fixed Furniture, at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A supports MRP Realty's public space application for streetscape improvements at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Public Space Application by the Federal Reserve Board for Streetscape Improvements, Including Paving, Installing Bike Racks, and Landscaping, at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW and 2000 Constitution Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A supports the Federal Reserve Board's public space application for streetscape improvements at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW and 2000 Constitution Avenue NW.

Public Space Application by the Federal Highway Administration for Roadway Improvements, Including Paving, Installation of Signage, and Landscaping, to the Rock Creek Parkway and Rock Creek Park Trail

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

ANC 2A supports the Federal Highway Administration's public space application for roadway improvements to Rock Creek Parkway and the Rock Creek Park Trail.

Matters Before the Mayor's Office and the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Department of Employment Services' Budget Priorities

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

WHEREAS, in May of 2020, ANC 2A voted 7-0-0 in favor of prioritizing FY 2021 budget funds to update the Department of Employment Services' (DOES) antiquated IT infrastructure,

WHEREAS, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, new unemployment insurance (UI) claims in the District of Columbia, as of May 14, 2021, have reached an unprecedented level, with 201,430 new claims,

WHEREAS, DOES needs to immediately prioritize the backlog of 13,000 unemployment claimants who had their benefits interrupted when DOES adjusted for the America Rescue Plan,

WHEREAS, these challenges are due to some of the following reasons:

- lack of properly trained DOES staff,
- incorrect and conflicting information by DOES staff, and
- outdated IT structure,

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 unemployment insurance claimants have had their benefits interrupted since March of 2021 with no resolution as of today,

WHEREAS, DOES still has several thousand claimants who have not received back UI claims when their benefits were interrupted in September of 2020 when claimants were transitioned to Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation due to having combined wages from working in neighboring states in the tri-state region, and

WHEREAS, DOES should match in scale their response to the urgency that this crisis has inflicted upon claimants with regards to food and housing insecurity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urgently encourages the DC Council's Committee on Labor and Workforce Development to allocate funding for the modernization of the DOES unemployment insurance system and comprehensive training for all staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to introduce legislation to cut through the red tape so that thousands of unemployment insurance claimants may receive their direly needed funds.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Police Reform Commission's 2021 Report

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

WHEREAS, in June of 2020, ANC 2A voted 5-0-2 in favor of reallocating FY 2021 budget funds from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to social programs,

WHEREAS, as a result of the protests in the summer of 2020 over the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and numerous others, the DC Council held hearings regarding MPD which elicited 16,000 witness statements,

WHEREAS, in July of 2020, the DC Council passed the “Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2020”, which established the DC Police Reform Commission (the Commission) to “re-envision” policing,

WHEREAS, the Commission would create a report that, while not exhaustive, served as a road map that would outline specific recommendations that are grounded and would not be classified as “quick fixes” but would shift the District’s approach to public safety,

WHEREAS, the Commission outlined 90 recommendations with multiple sub-parts within eight specific sections,

WHEREAS, the Commission’s recommendations outlined for Section I: “Meeting Crisis with Specialized Skill and Compassion” should be accepted as outlined,

WHEREAS, the Commission’s recommendations outlined for Section II: “Strengthening the Safety Net and Decriminalizing Poverty” should be accepted as outlined,

WHEREAS, the Commission’s recommendations outlined for Section V: “Embracing a Harm-Reduction Approach to Policing” should be accepted as outlined, and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s recommendations outlined for Section VIII: “Holding Police Accountable” should be accepted as outlined.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urgently encourages the DC Council’s Committee of the Whole and Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety to redirect funding from MPD to IT infrastructure upgrades and to various DC agencies to better serve the public and properly address the crises vulnerable communities face.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to fund and make permanent the specific recommendations amplified in this resolution.

Adjournment

Chair Epstein adjourned the meeting at 11:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yannik Omictin', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Yannik Omictin
Secretary, ANC 2A01