



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2014; 7:00 pm

GW's School of Media and Public Affairs, 805 21st Street NW, Room 309

### Call to Order

Chair Patrick Kennedy (01) called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Commissioners Rebecca Coder (02), Asher Corson (03), Armando Irizarry (04), Graham Galka (05), Florence Harmon (06), Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

### Community Forum

#### New Hampshire Avenue Streetscape Update

Ian Swain, the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) representative on the New Hampshire Avenue project, was present. He talked about updates with the section of New Hampshire Avenue closest to the north side of Washington Circle becoming a two-way street, saying that the conversion process went smoothly. He also told meeting attendees to let their Commissioners know if there are any problems with the avenue that needed fixing.

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

Kevin Stogner, General Counsel for Councilmember Jack Evans, was present to give the report. He said that a vote on the proposed FY 2015 DC Budget should take place later that week. He also said that a hearing on the proposed soccer stadium deal for D.C. United would take place that Thursday.

#### Update from the Ward 2 Education Network

Chris Sondreal, ANC 2A's representative to the Ward 2 Education Network, was present to give an update on the network. He said that the Deputy Mayor for Education's school boundary proposal was out, and that the Commissioners had been sent a summary of the proposal's impacts to Foggy Bottom and the West End.

With regards to updates at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, Mr. Sondreal said that the Home and School Association (HSA) at Francis-Stevens' first annual auction had been scheduled for the fall. He added that the HSA is continuing to work on the details of the planned school modernization. He also said that Francis-Stevens was leading the city in terms of re-enrollment rates for the upcoming school year.

Chair Kennedy asked what effects the proposed boundary changes would have for the middle school grades at Francis-Stevens, and Mr. Sondreal talked about the changes' effects on the current Ross Elementary boundaries.

## **General Agenda**

### Presentation by the U.S. General Services Administration on the Initiation of a Master Planning Process Regarding Development by the State Department at Navy Hill/Potomac Annex

Stephanie Leedom, Project Leader for the Potomac Hill Master Campus Plan, was present, along with multiple other project representatives. Ms. Leedom said that the team was in the process of developing a master campus plan for Potomac Hill, the property across 23rd Street NW from the State Department.

Ms. Leedom said that the control of property was transferred over to the General Services Administration (GSA), and that part of the transfer required the development of a campus master plan for the site.

Ms. Leedom handed out a fact sheet going over how the public could give input on the developing master plan.

Jill Springer, a representative from the General Services Administration, talked about their upcoming public meeting on the project, which would be on July 9th at St. Mary's Church.

Chair Kennedy asked how the DC Preservation League's historic preservation application for the site was being considered with the development of the master plan. The representatives said that they were currently studying the application to determine how it would affect the campus plan.

### Application by The River Inn/Dish (924 25<sup>th</sup> Street, ABRA-001782) for a Substantial Change to its Class CH license and a Stipulated License to Permit the Installation of a Summer Garden and Sidewalk Café

and

### Application for a Public Space Permit by River Inn/Dish (924 25<sup>th</sup> Street) for the Installation of a 44-Seat Sidewalk Café

Commissioner Corson said that, at his request, the River Inn had withdrawn both the liquor license and public space applications.

### Presentation by Colleen Hawkinson on moveDC

Colleen Hawkinson from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) was present to give a presentation on moveDC, the city's recently-released long range transportation plan.

Ms. Hawkinson said that development of the plan began more than a year and a half ago. She said that DDOT has done an unprecedented amount of outreach, including live meetings and webinars, in formulating the plan. She added that the plan took into account commitments made in the Sustainable DC plan.

Ms. Hawkinson said that pedestrians had been prioritized in the plan. She added that the plan supports the creation of cycletracks, dedicated freight lanes, and dedicated bus lanes. The plan also combines all the other existing transportation master plans. She said that the moveDC plan was released at the end of May and could be found on the moveDC website.

Ms. Hawkinson then went over some of the opportunities the public had to weigh in on the final plan, adding that the public comment period ends on July 7<sup>th</sup>. She also gave out maps to the Commissioners which go over the planned changes to the Foggy Bottom area.

ANC 2A took no action on this matter.

#### Presentation by Sarah Fashbaugh from the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Sarah Fashbaugh, a Community Resource Advisor for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), was present to give the presentation. She first went over upcoming Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board hearings that affect the Foggy Bottom area. She added that grocery stores and markets that only sell beer and wine had their license renewals coming up.

Ms. Fashbaugh then went over updates to the protest process for licenses. She also talked about the activities of the Noise Task Force, as well as the availability of the noise complaint hotline.

#### Application for a Substantial Change by the Fairmont Hotel (2401 M Street, ABRA-060618) to their Class CH license to Permit Expanded Hours of Operation, Hours of Live Entertainment, and the Addition of a Summer Garden

A representative from the Fairmont Hotel was present, stating that the hotel is seeking three changes to their current liquor license:

1. Changes to the interior service hours, however no change to alcohol sale hours
2. An expanded indoor entertainment endorsement for 6 pm- 2 am every day
3. An expansion of summer garden hours

Commissioner Coder made a motion of non-objection on the updated alcohol service hours. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

#### Application for a Public Space Permit for a Bench Installation

No one was present representing the applicant so the ANC took action on this matter.

#### Request by GCDC for a Letter of Support to Permit the Installation of a Sidewalk Café (1730 Pennsylvania Avenue)

Steven Klores from GCDC was present. He said that the restaurant was seeking approval for a 22-seat outdoor café on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. He said that the hours of operation for the sidewalk café would be from 8 am to 9 pm daily.

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to send a letter of support for the project. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

#### Updates on the West End Library and Fire Station Projects

No one from the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development's (DMPED) office or Eastbanc was present to talk about the matter.

#### Designation of ANC Representative Before the D.C. Council on PR 20-819 and PR 20-820, Relating to the Disposition of the Stevens School Property (1050 21<sup>st</sup> Street)

Chair Kennedy made a motion to designate Commissioner Harmon as the ANC's representative to appear in front of the DC Council to support the disposition agreement for the Stevens School property. Commissioner Harmon asked for a friendly motion to allow Chair Kennedy to go as an alternate in case she could make it. Chair Kennedy accepted the friendly amendment.

Commissioner Harmon seconded the final motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1).

#### Consideration of a Letter to D.H.C.D. Regarding Funds for Affordable Housing

*Commissioner Harmon recused herself from discussing and voting on this matter.*

Commissioner Coder went over Eastbanc's commitments to affordable housing as part of the Eastbanc projects at the West End library and fire station development sites. She said that Eastbanc needed to make up for a gap in public-private funding to create the required affordable housing at the sites, and that they were currently applying for funding from the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Commissioner Coder added that she and Councilmember Evans' office had already submitted letters of support for Eastbanc to receive funding from DHCD, and she passed out a resolution so that ANC 2A could also give its support for the funding.

Commissioner Coder made a motion to pass the resolution as presented. Commissioner Galka seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0).

#### Application by Hillel and G.W.U. for Zoning Relief and a Related Campus Plan Amendment for Subject Property (2300 H Street)

*Commissioner Sacco recused himself discussing and voting on this matter.*

David Avitabile, GW Hillel and GW's representative on the matter, was present and gave an overview of the project proposal, as well as GW's proposed involvement in the final building. He added that proposal would be presented to the Zoning Commission on the coming Monday night.

Mr. Avitabile said that there were currently three matters in front of the Zoning Commission on the project:

1. The variances that GW Hillel was asking for to build the building
2. GW's proposed special exception for the campus plan use
3. GW's proposed clarification of a campus planned unit development (PUD) order

Mr. Avitabile added that the variances that GW Hillel was requesting included a variance from the rear yard requirement, a variance to occupy one hundred percent of the lot, a variance for the parking requirement, a small floor area ratio (FAR) variance, and a special exception for the required roof structure setback.

Mr. Avitabile said that the current construction agreement that GW Hillel had reached with St. Mary's Church included all the usual elements of a sound construction management agreement and then some additional ones.

With regards to GW's occupancy in the building, Mr. Avitabile went over the agreement by GW to limit use of the top two floors of the building to student life space with no staff offices. He also went over the agreement to remove the Square 77D development site from the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan development list in order to swap for the amount of density that GW would gain by using the top two floors of the building.

Stephen Markus, St. Mary's Church's representative on the matter, was present to talk about St. Mary's viewpoints on the agreements with GW Hillel. He said that St. Mary's was asking the ANC to request a 30 day extension of the upcoming Zoning Commission hearing to allow for further discussions with GW Hillel and GW.

Mr. Markus talked about the history of St. Mary's Church, as well as the damages that the church endured during the construction of GW's Health and Wellness Center.

Mr. Markus then said that St. Mary's Church's specific concerns on the project were:

1. The history of the use of an easement on GW Hillel's property to access the back of St. Mary's Church, adding that the north gate access would be removed if GW Hillel buildings were extended all the way to the property line
2. The new entrance to the GW Hillel building would be moved on 23rd Street NW right next to the St. Mary's Church Rector's house.
3. A piece of GW Hillel's proposed building that sticks out over 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW would take away from the aesthetics of St. Mary's Church.
4. There were some outstanding concerns with the construction management agreement.

Barbara Kahlow, the Secretary-Treasurer for the West End Citizens Association (WECA), was present and went over the concerns that WECA had with the project. She said that WECA was very supportive of the church, and that they had many concerns about the effects that the project would have on the church as well as GW Hillel's proposed one hundred percent occupancy of the lot.

Ms. Kahlow added that WECA was concerned about delivery trucks parking in the bus lane on H Street NW to make deliveries to GW Hillel. She said that WECA also believed there should be community amenities given for this planned unit development (PUD). She ended by saying that WECA encouraged the ANC to protest GW Hillel's proposal until there was a construction management agreement that both parties agreed to.

In response to both parties, Mr. Avitabile said that GW Hillel was carefully considering the 30-day extension request for the Zoning Commission hearing. He said that the request would be problematic because it would mean that there would be a two month delay on the start of construction for the project since the Zoning Commission did not meet in August

Mr. Avitabile also said that based on the agreement that GW and St. Mary's Church had reached with the construction of Amsterdam Hall, St. Mary's was allowed to cross GW property at a different location and thus avoid the use of easement near GW Hillel.

Commissioner Galka distributed a resolution he wrote on the matter, which stated that the ANC would give conditional support to the GW Hillel project, provided that St. Mary's Church and GW Hillel were able to reach an agreement on the project by the ANC's next regular meeting on July 16, 2014, that GW Hillel continued to work with St. Mary's Court to alleviate the project's negative impacts on light and air quality, that GW Hillel worked with a third-party vendor to alleviate issues with delivery vans using the bus drop off location on H Street NW for deliveries, and that GW Hillel alleviate community issues surrounding construction activities at the site.

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

#### Update on Signage Issues Related to an Appeal Filed by ANC 2A and 22 West Residences Regarding Hilton Garden Inn (2201 M Street)

Bruce Collins, Director of Development for OTO Development, the company that was developing the Hilton Garden Inn in the West End, was present. He went over the current signage application filed with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). He said that in order for the application to continue, the developers needed approval from the ANC.

Mr. Collins then said that the developers had reduced the dimensions of the sign's lettering after discussions with Sally Blumenthal from the 22 West Residences.

Commissioner Harmon made a motion to authorize Chair Kennedy to send a letter of support for the application. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Resolution regarding permit issuance for nighttime construction activity at Patton Boggs (2550 M Street)

Commissioner Coder said that the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) gave Patton Boggs a nighttime construction permit last summer. She said that nearby residents had measured the decibel level of the construction at night, and were successful in convincing DCRA to no longer issue nighttime permits to Patton Boggs.

Commissioner Coder said that nearby residents were afraid that DCRA may be asked to issue a nighttime permit again this summer. She distributed a resolution she wrote on the matter, which asked DCRA to not issue a nighttime construction permit to Patton Boggs. She added a friendly amendment to ask Patton Boggs to start morning construction and loading after 7 am.

Multiple local residents were present to support Commissioner Coder's resolution.

Commissioner Coder made a motion to adopt her resolution. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Request by Arts in Foggy Bottom for a Letter of Support in Order to Permit the Installation of a Sculpture in Public Space on a Light Pole near 26<sup>th</sup> and I Streets

Chair Kennedy said that one of the sculptures for the Arts in Foggy Bottom sculpture exhibit was originally placed in public space, and that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) made the Arts in Foggy Bottom team take it down. He said that the team was asking for the ANC to send a letter of support so that the sculpture could be installed again.

Commissioner Corson made a motion to send a letter of support. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Consideration of a Letter Regarding Enforcement of Leashed/Unleashed Dog Usage of Francis Field

Commissioner Coder went over the issue, explaining how there used to be a Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officer who issued many tickets to dog owners who were using the field with their unleashed dogs, which was allowed. She distributed a resolution she wrote on the matter, which sought to clarify the leash law for the field.

Commissioner Coder made a motion to adopt her resolution. Commissioner Carnes seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

**Administrative Agenda**

Approval of the Special April Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes for the special April ANC meeting, pending minor edits. Chair Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Approval of the Regular April Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes for the regular April ANC meeting, pending minor edits. Commissioner Galka seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Approval of the Commission's Policy on Grants

Chair Kennedy made a motion to approve the policies for the ANC 2A Grant Fund as specified. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Consideration of Revisions to the Commission's Bylaws

The Commission discussed the updated version of the proposed ANC 2A bylaws and made several minor edits.

Commissioner Sacco made a motion to adopt the bylaws edits on first reading. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0).

Chair Kennedy called the meeting adjourned at 10:46 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, flowing style.