



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 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 Schreffer (05), Florence Harmon (06), and James Harnett (08) were present. Commissioner Detrick Campbell (07) arrived at 7:04 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda by unanimous consent. Without any objection the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular June 2018 meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Without any objection the minutes were adopted.

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, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

Daniel Bassett, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans’ Office, gave an update from the Councilmember’s Office.

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), gave an update from the Executive Office of the Mayor.

Report from the West End Library

Kevin Osborne, the Branch Manager for the West End Library, gave an update from the library.

Report from the Department of Public Works

Inspector Wendy Cadell, a Ward 2 Solid Waste Inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), gave an update from the agency.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Harnett and Chair Smith gave Commissioner updates.

Introduction by Marina Streznewski, the Ward 2 Representative for DC’s Pedestrian Advisory Council

Marina Streznewski, the Ward 2 Representative for DC’s Pedestrian Advisory Council, introduced herself and gave an overview of the organization.

Announcements and Public Comments

There were not any announcements or public comments.

General Agenda

Discussion with Jeff Marootian, Director of the District Department of Transportation, and Agency Staff Regarding Safety Concerns in ANC 2A

The Commissioners and meeting attendees engaged in a discussion with Jeff Marootian, Director of the District Department of Transportation, regarding safety concerns in the ANC.

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

ANC 2A requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) identify and implement – in short order – aggressive changes to the roadway geometry and vehicle travel regulations at the intersection of M Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW in order to make this intersection safer for pedestrians and bike riders traversing the area.

The Commission notes with sadness the passing of Jeffrey Hammond Long, a bike rider hit and killed on the afternoon of Saturday, July 7th by a truck making a right turn from westbound M Street to northbound New Hampshire Avenue NW. Mr. Long is the second individual to have been killed at this intersection in the last two years, the first of whom – David Narvaez – was struck in a crosswalk by a hit-and-run driver who remains at-large.

This intersection has been well-known for some time as one of the most dangerous in the District of Columbia, a dubious distinction made worse by the fact that the fatality rate here has increased since DDOT completed the New Hampshire Avenue streetscape project in 2014 – a project which included this intersection in its scope, and a major goal of which was to make the corridor safer for non-automotive users.

In recognition of Mayor Bowser’s commitment to Vision Zero principles, the Commission requests that:

- DDOT work expeditiously to design changes at this intersection in order to shorten crossing distances for pedestrians on the northern and eastern sides,
- DDOT de-conflict the incidence of vehicles making wide right-turns from westbound M Street onto northbound New Hampshire Avenue NW, across the

protected bike lane which has the right-of-way on the north side of the intersection,

- The Commission notes that this could be implemented in a manner similar to that of the bicycle traffic signal and right-turn arrow at the intersection of M Street and 22nd Street NW one block away,
- unless and until the above-referenced turning movement is properly de-conflicted, that right-turns be prohibited at all times,
- safety changes made per the above recommendations be communicated to ANC 2A, ANC 2B, the Golden Triangle BID, and other affected stakeholders – and that after proper communication takes place, that said changes be implemented as quickly as possible through the use of temporary materials such as plastic bollards, paint, and parking stops – in anticipation of permanent infrastructure,
- the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) increases the frequency of its presence at the intersection for the express purpose of conducting traffic safety enforcement activities, and
- MPD evaluate the placement of speed and/or red-light cameras at this intersection in order to improve vehicular compliance with traffic safety regulations on a permanent basis.

The Commission notes with appreciation the representations that DDOT officials have made regarding the agency’s commitment to addressing the problems at this intersection, and supports the already-completed removal of all on-street parking spaces on the north side of M Street just prior to the intersection.

The ANC notes, however, frequent non-compliance with the above-stated removal of parking spaces through illegal vehicular stopping and standing, and requests that a more rigorous engineered solution – even a temporary one – be deployed immediately in order to improve the efficacy of this action, which is critical to improving visibility in the vicinity of the intersection.

Finally, ANC 2A encourages DDOT to evaluate, report back on, and suggest changes to unsafe conditions at other intersections along the New Hampshire Avenue NW corridor – in particular the intersections at 22nd Street and L Street NW and around Washington Circle NW – so that other deadly intersections can be made safer proactively in alignment with the District’s goal of having zero traffic fatalities by the year 2024.

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to approve expenditures up to \$5,000 for the study of traffic patterns on the 2100 block of H Street NW. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. Commissioner Harnett withdrew the motion and it was not voted on.

Discussion Regarding the Supposed Renting of Rooms by the Night at the Varsity on K at 950 24th Street NW

The Commissioners and meeting attendees engaged in a discussion with Matthew Funston, General Manager of the Varsity on K, regarding the supposed renting of rooms in the building by the night.

Regulatory Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Request to Amend the Settlement Agreement for Flavors of India / Marshall's Bar at 2524 L Street NW

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to support an amendment to the ANC's settlement agreement with Flavors of India / Marshall's Bar that would remove the prohibition on the establishment having a jukebox. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Flavors of India / Marshall's Bar's request to remove Section 6 (which pertains to "Entertainment Devices") of the ANC's settlement agreement with the establishment.

Application by the Acton Academy Foundation for a Minor Modification to the Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Approved by BZA Order No. 19748 to Permit a Private School at 2430 K Street NW

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to support the Acton Academy Foundation's Board of Zoning Adjustment application for a minor modification at 2430 K Street NW. Chair Smith seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Acton Academy's application for a minor modification to the student drop-off and pick-up approved by BZA Order No. 19748.

Public Space Application by the George Washington University for the Construction of an Exterior Deck Level with the Sidewalk Along the H Street Side of Gelman Library at 2130 H Street NW

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to support GW's public space application for the construction of an exterior deck at 2130 H Street NW. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the George Washington University's public space application for the construction of an exterior deck level with the sidewalk along the H Street side of Gelman Library at 2130 H Street NW.

Consideration of a Resolution to Attorney General Karl Racine Regarding Cyber Threats to Electoral Infrastructure

Commissioner Harmon recused herself from voting on this matter.

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion and made a friendly amendment to add himself as a representative

for the resolution. The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, information technology (IT) systems are inherently insecure and there is no IT system currently publicly- or privately-operated that has not been breached in some form or fashion by hackers at one time or another,

WHEREAS, U.S. electoral systems have never been identified as critical infrastructure and are constituted by a hodgepodge of disparate components of varying ages that are operated at the state and local levels,

WHEREAS, the cyber threat has only increased with the release of sophisticated National Security Agency (NSA) hacking tools to the international market,

WHEREAS, only a small number of votes in key districts need to be changed in order to impact an election,

WHEREAS, in 2016 Russian agents targeted voter systems in at least 21 states, compromising systems in at least 7 of them,

WHEREAS, no additional evidence needs to be presented to confirm that Vladimir Putin has both the means and the will to impact future elections,

WHEREAS, since the 2016 election, the Trump Campaign has been the subject of an investigation by a Special Prosecutor for possible collusion with the sophisticated and wide-reaching campaign by the Russian Government to alter the 2016 election results and, in July of 2018, that investigation resulted in the indictment of 12 Russian intelligence officers,

WHEREAS, Donald Trump and other members of the Executive Branch have publicly attacked law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the Special Prosecutor who was investigating Russian election interference, and provided no leadership in addressing the underlying vulnerabilities of our electoral system,

WHEREAS, the investigation of Russian election interference and the U.S. response by the Intelligence Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has been described by participants as hyper-partisan and ineffective, and Senate Majority leadership has shown, with few notable exceptions, little inclination for independent action,

WHEREAS, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media companies have already taken steps to combat election interference on social media platforms but no similar effort has been launched relative to U.S. electoral infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the integrity of the voting system is the cornerstone of U.S. democracy at the local, state, and national levels, and the ballot box is the optimal means of addressing transgressions by public officials, including a sitting President.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on Attorney General Racine, with the support of Mayor Bowser, to work with law enforcement representatives from other

states to appoint a Blue-Ribbon Panel, whose members shall be comprised of U.S. information technology leaders, representatives of leading-edge technology companies, political scientists, and distinguished public officials, to elucidate the scenarios and examine the strategies by which District of Columbia and other state electoral infrastructure might be compromised by illegal cyberattacks in the future and to provide recommendations for strengthening it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on Attorney General Racine, with the support of Mayor Bowser, to convene, together with other states, a national conference hosted at some suitable venue in the nation's capital to bring together key actors from the public and private sectors, as well as academia, to examine the best means of ensuring the integrity of the vote in the face of future cyber-attacks and the ways in which public and private sector actors may best provide assistance to election officials at the state and local levels in monitoring the threat and designing, updating, and hardening electoral infrastructure.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Ballot Initiative 77

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

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2018, the District of Columbia held a primary election in which a ballot question – Initiative 77 – was proposed for consideration by all voters,

WHEREAS, Initiative 77 passed city-wide by a vote of 47,230 to 37,504 (56 percent to 44 percent), and passed in Ward 2 by a vote of 51 percent to 49 percent,

WHEREAS, over the period leading up to the vote, community members, activists, Commissioners, and Councilmembers had the opportunity to publicly make powerful and passionate arguments both for and against the initiative,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A did not vote to adopt a position on Initiative 77 prior to the primary election, in deference to the will of the voters, and

WHEREAS, ballot initiatives represent a unique and valued form of direct, participatory democracy and the outcome of such initiative is therefore entitled to respect by elected officials at all levels of government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the withdrawal of DC Council Bill B22-0913 – the “Tipped Wage Workers Fairness Amendment Act of 2018.”

Presentation and Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B22-0904 – the “CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018”

The Commission tabled consideration of a resolution regarding this matter.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2018 Quarter 3 Financial Report

The Commission tabled this matter until a future ANC meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Philip Schrefer
Secretary, ANC 2A05