



**Foggy Bottom & West End  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A**  
([www.anc2a.org](http://www.anc2a.org))

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 7:30 pm St. Mary's Court  
725 24<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC

**Call to Order**

Chair Florence Harmon (06) called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Rebecca Coder (02), Armando Irizarry (04), Graham Galka (05), Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present.

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

**General Agenda**

**Safety Report**

No one was present to give the safety report.

**Public Comments**

Chair Harmon announced that GW had decided to increase the amount of ground floor retail space on the Square 77 site from 600 to approximately 1,000 square feet.

Chair Harmon also announced that DC's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was developing a 10-year master plan called Play DC. She said that local residents should go on to the Play DC website to answer a survey about the status of recreation facilities in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods.

Barbara Kahlow, a local resident, was concerned that GW was temporarily shutting down 24<sup>th</sup> Street by GW's School of Public Health construction project. Ms. Kahlow, along with Dina Modianot-Fox, another local resident, stated that they would like to see ANC 2A pass a resolution to call on GW to stop closing down 24<sup>th</sup> Street until the Washington Circle resurfacing project is finished.

**Regulatory Agenda**

**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 Project. Mr. Swain announced that a public stakeholders meeting for the project

would be held the next day. Mr. Swain also announced that he has walked through the Duke Ellington Park site with the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District to explain minor changes that will occur on the park site, including a slight reduction in the amount of green space.

One local resident asked Mr. Swain if it would be possible to install an electrical outlet in Duke Ellington Park to be used during periodic events, such as the annual Duke Ellington Birthday Concert. Mr. Swain said that he would talk to PEPCO to see if an outlet could be installed.

Mr. Swain announced that WMATA has asked local residents if they would like a concrete bus pad to be installed at the New Hampshire Avenue bus stop near Washington Circle. Mr. Swain said that WMATA is proposing to remove the bus stop at 23<sup>rd</sup> and L Street, and also add an additional stop in the area because bus routes are being re-routed due to the new Washington Circle configuration.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if DDOT had been working with GW to coordinate the construction dates for the stretch of New Hampshire Avenue outside of GW's School of Public Health construction site. Mr. Swain said that DDOT was in the process of working with GW on coordination.

Multiple neighbors also raised concerns over the out-of-place concrete island designs at New Hampshire Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Swain said that he would look into why the islands were designed the way they were.

#### IMF Headquarters Project Update

Representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were present to talk about the IMF's current renovation project, which has temporarily closed the section of H Street between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Streets. Marjorie Henriquez, public information officer for the IMF, explained that the IMF's Main Headquarters building (HQ1) was in need of a major renovation this year. DDOT had already approved a street closure for the section of H Street between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, which would act as a staging area for the internal construction project. Ms. Henriquez said that the sidewalk on the north side of the closed section of H Street would remain open to pedestrians; however the street would be closed for three years while the renovations were carried out.

Ms. Henriquez explained that the facade and windows of the building would remain the same, and that the building would be renovated on a floor-by-floor basis. She also said that all trees and bushes on the sides of the building would be replaced once the renovations were complete.

Commissioner Kennedy raised concerns over the possibility that the project would lead to a permanent closure of the affected stretch of H Street. Ms. Henriquez said that this would not be happening.

#### Historic Preservation Review Board presentation

Gretchen Pfaehler, Chair of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), was present to give an overview of the board.

Ms. Pfaehler said that HPRB has the last say on historic landmark development in the District of Columbia. She said that HPRB does design reviews for projects that are near historic districts and buildings, offering comments as they relate to historic preservation laws, and that HPRB also reviews federal projects in DC.

Ms. Pfaehler said that HPRB is now full with eight members on the board, including a nice mix of preservation architects, activists, and community members.

Ms. Pfaehler said that her goals for HPRB this year include working to unify historic preservation and sustainability, being more transparent and clear on what DC's historic preservation standards are, strengthening partnerships and communication with community groups, and working to balance smart growth with preservation.

Barbara Kahlow, a local resident, said that she wants to see HPRB give more notice to the ANCs when projects are initiated in a certain neighborhood.

#### Officer from the Washington Human Society

Monica Digiandomenico, a humane law enforcement officer from the Washington Humane Society, was present to talk about the organization.

Ms. Digiandomenico said that the Washington Humane Society is there to help with the care and wellbeing of animals in the District of Columbia. The society also serves as an educational resource for people who are looking for help with the care of their animal.

Ms. Digiandomenico said the Humane Society enforces DC laws regarding animal cruelty. She also said the Washington Humane Society does not fall under the Humane Society of the United States, which has their headquarters nearby on L Street.

#### Cardoza High School Education Forum Co-Sponsor

Stephanie Maltz, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for 2B03 from Dupont Circle, was present to talk about a new education initiative that local ANCs, neighbors, and education leaders were working on. Ms. Maltz talked about the informal Cardozo High School Education Forum group and asked for ANC 2A to be part of it.

Ms. Maltz explained how ANC 2B, ANC 2F, the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, and the Logan Circle Citizens Association have been hosting informal public education meetings for a few months now, and that many of the participants want to become more of a formal group. Ms. Maltz said that local residents want to see their neighborhood schools succeed, which justifies having the group.

Ms. Maltz presented an idea of having the group work with Councilmember Jack Evans to have him come out and inspect six Ward 2 schools a few weeks before school starts to show community support for education.

Ms. Maltz said that ANC 2B should be voting on the issue at their August meeting. Chair Harmon said that ANC 2A could consider passing a similar version of ANC 2B's resolution at ANC 2A's September meeting.

Multiple local parents and Commissioners present at the meeting expressed interest in having Chis Sondreal, a member of the PTA at the School Without Walls at Francis Stevens, serve as the ANC 2A representative to the education forum group.

Commissioner Irizarry made a motion to have ANC 2A participate in the informal Ward 2 Education Committee as described by Ms. Maltz. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to designate Chis Sondreal as one of ANC 2A's point persons for the informal Ward 2 Education Committee. Commissioner Kennedy accepted a friendly amendment that no one would be excluded from participating in the group's meetings. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

### **Administrative Agenda**

#### Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to adopt the May and June minutes. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

#### Third Quarter Financial Report

Commissioner Galka made a motion to approve the third quarter financial report. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

#### Bylaws Committee

Commissioner Kennedy said that the Bylaws Committee has gone through the first five sections of the bylaws, and that next committee meeting will be on Monday, July 22, 2013.

Chair Harmon adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.