



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 19th, 2022; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – West End Library, Meeting Room, 2301 L Street NW

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

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

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Causey made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular September 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epstein 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 McHauley Murphy, 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 Brooke Pinto

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, gave updates from the Councilmember’s Office.

Update from Chairman Phil Mendelson

Chairman Phil Mendelson gave an update regarding his work on the DC Council.

Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Julius Terry, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave updates from the Mayor’s Office.

Commissioner Updates

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

Announcements and Public Comments

Denise Vogt, an At Large Member of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), and several local residents made announcements and public comments.

Matters Before the Zoning Commission

Zoning Commission Application by the George Washington University for a Modification of Consequence for Further Processing to Remove the Canopy from the Approved Design for Thurston Hall

Commissioner Omicini 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 the George Washington University's Zoning Commission application for a modification of consequence for further processing to remove the canopy from the approved design for Thurston Hall at 1900 F Street NW.

Matters Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application by SNH Medical Office Properties Trust for a Special Exception from the Penthouse Setback Requirements to Construct a Penthouse Addition to an Existing, Attached, 9-Story with Penthouse and Below-Grade Parking, Commercial Building at 2141 K Street NW

Commissioner Epstein 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 the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 2141 K Street NW provided that the applicant enters into a construction management agreement with nearby neighbors.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by the American Institute of Architects for Streetscape Improvements, Including a Framed Walkway and Stair, Signage, Walkway Lighting, Planting Areas, and New Bike Racks, at 1735 New York Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of the American Institute of Architects' public space application for 1735 New York Avenue NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

Public Space Application by Bottles for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 7 Tables and 14 Seats at 2500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A supports Bottles' public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café at 2500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Matters Before the Historic Preservation Review Board

Historic Preservation Review Board Application for an Amendment Nomination for the Lockkeeper's House at Constitution Avenue and 17th Street NW

Commissioner Omicini 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 the Historic Preservation Review Board application for an amendment nomination for the Lockkeeper's House at Constitution Avenue and 17th Street NW.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Ristorante La Perla – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 2600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW #0201

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Flavors Of India / Marshall's Bar – Application for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License at 2524 L Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Report on the District of Columbia Housing Authority

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-2-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) conducted an on-site assessment of the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) from March 7, 2022 to March 11, 2022 that included interviews with board members, employees, and Director Brenda Donald, in addition to inspections of public housing units and analyses of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program,

WHEREAS, the 72-page audit by HUD of DCHA, the public housing agency that serves 50,000 residents, found that the agency is failing in some of its most basic tasks due to cumulative problems resulting from years of management neglect at the agency,

WHEREAS, HUD auditors also found that DCHA's 12-member Board of Commissioners are untrained and uninformed, often voting through resolutions in "block" without individual debate or review, leading to poor oversight and transparency,

WHEREAS, the audit describes systemic failures; an agency so mismanaged that tenant files were not updated and waiting lists were locked, while others sat untouched for a decade. Additionally, those living inside public housing are left to raise families in apartments overrun by bugs, mice, mold, and rats,

WHEREAS, the report says that DCHA is failing in virtually every function it performs: management of the HCV program, property management, tracking of finances and procurements, and oversight from the Board of Commissioners and the executive leadership,

WHEREAS, some of the most shocking determinations involve the housing units, stating that those failures have prevented DCHA from fulfilling its responsibility of providing "decent, safe, and sanitary" housing for its customers: DC's lowest income residents,

WHEREAS, as of June 2022, the occupancy rate for DCHA's public housing was 76.4 percent, the lowest of any large housing authority in the entire country; out of the 8,084 public housing units DCHA owns, 1,628 are vacant,

WHEREAS, HUD identified 82 deficiencies, made 26 recommendations, and documented another 5 "observations" that amount to "serious violations",

WHEREAS, DCHA's public housing program has steadily deteriorated in the five years between 2016 and 2020 and the director's "consolidated financial reporting" to the board obscured the program's poor performance,

WHEREAS, the Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) sued DCHA twice because of its abject failures to follow the law and care for DC residents,

WHEREAS, the end result reads like a top-to-bottom indictment of the entire agency from executive leadership to the Board of Commissioners to the employees, many of whom, the audit found, are not properly trained to do their jobs, and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2022 the DC Council unanimously passed the Housing Authority Accountability Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 in response to the HUD audit report.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges that all 26 recommendations in the HUD audit be implemented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2E urges members of the DC Council to prioritize legislation that provides in-depth comprehensive reform of DCHA.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2022 Quarter 4 Financial Report

Commissioner Patel made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2022 Quarter 4 financial report. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of Expenditures for Office Supplies

Commissioner Barbisch moved to approve expenditures up to \$1,000 for the purchase of an ANC laptop, contingent on the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) allowing the ANC to purchase the laptop. Chair Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2023 Budget

Chair Causey made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2023 budget. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0).

Adjournment

Chair Causey adjourned the meeting at 10:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Yannik Omictin
Secretary, ANC 2A01