



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

April 28, 2025

Janeese Lewis George
Councilmember, Ward 4 of the District of Columbia
Chair of the Committee on Facilities and Family Services
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 105
Washington DC, 20004

RE: Department of Parks & Recreation Performance Oversight Resolution

At its regular meeting on April 15, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A ("ANC 2A" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With all six commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Comer, adopted the following resolution by 4-2-0:

WHEREAS, there has been a long delayed park in ANC 2A that sits at the corner of 26th and K Street N.W.

WHEREAS, the project was announced in spring of 2023 with a budget of \$1 million;

WHEREAS, after much community engagement, the community strongly supported a vision of a park flip with an expanded footprint and this had the full support of the ANC;

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2024, the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) informed the community that the project was to be delayed by another year because the contractor hired for the project had gone bankrupt after some funds were spent acquiring equipment;

WHEREAS, DPR stated that funds were spent, but when community stakeholders asked how much of the funding has been spent there has not be a response;

WHEREAS, throughout 2024 ANC 2A was repeatedly informed that it was "lucky" that it was still going to get a park within budget, but it was not going to be the "dream" park that had been announced in the spring of 2023

WHEREAS, ANC 2A and the community were given various justifications for why the park plans had been truncated;

WHEREAS, DPR has subsequently avoided communicating directly with ANC 2A and the community to explain why it had retreated from pursuing the expanded project that it had



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announced in the Spring of 2023;

WHEREAS, rather than communicating directly with the Commission, DPR relied upon the District Department of General Services (DGS) and the District Department Of Transportation (DDOT) to come up with reasons for why the project could not be expanded.

WHEREAS, it was communicated to community stakeholders that the DDOT Urban Forestry Division (UFD) advised against the expansion because of potential adverse impacts on the roots of heritage trees.

WHEREAS, in fact, the Urban Forestry division approved the expansion.

WHEREAS, subsequent explanations modified this “excuse” but made no sense for the ultimate claim (i.e., a dog park required deeper drainage than a playground) had to be known way before the expanded project was announced in the Spring of 2023;

WHEREAS, ANC 2A has experienced that DPR’s sister agencies, including DDOT and DGS, were reluctant to share information about the modified project and instead often placed the blame;

WHEREAS, ANC 2A and members of the community felt that the real reasons for the proposed changes were being obscured or not adequately communicated;

WHEREAS, residents received visceral pushback to the questions around funding allocation from a DPR employee during a community meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2025 hosted by all sister agencies on the final plan for the park;

WHEREAS, this “little” project is a big deal for the community and the tone deafness and insensitivity of DPR on a project has lead many community members to question DPR’s commitment to serve the community;

WHEREAS, DPR exists to serve the community and should always be honest and straightforward in addressing community concerns around the project, leading many to suspect there has been a mismanagement of funds;

WHEREAS, the office of Urban Forestry voluntarily initiated and quickly completed plans to plant trees as barriers to help “screen” the playground from nearby traffic/

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 2A request that DPR respond to the community via the commission with the collaboration of the D.C. Council on the following question:



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Why did DPR present a plan to the community it couldn't execute?

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 2A requests that DPR uses their budget allocation to assure that the project is completed expeditiously and with full equipment and services, including access to a water source, which is required here.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Chairperson Trupti J Patel (she/her)
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
Historic Foggy Bottom
Single Member District 2A03

CC:

Phil Mendelson, Chairman, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Christiana Henderson, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Thennie Freeman, Director DC Department of Parks & Recreation
Tadai Abila, Ward 2 Manager, Mayor's Office of Community Relations