

Minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

Meeting call to order

At 7:01 pm, Angela Allison, chair, called the meeting to order. Six of seven ANC1D commissioners were present, representing a quorum. The meeting was held via zoom and recorded. Spanish interpretation was provided.

SMD1D01 - Kelly Willis, present
SMD1D02 - Hannah Grigg, present
SMD1D03 – Erika Nunez, present
SMD1D04 - Yasmin Romero, not present
SMD1D05 - Omar Parbhoo, present
SMD1D06 - Angela Allison, present
SMD1D07 - Gary Decker, present

Administrative Tasks

Agenda approval

- Agenda approved with 6 votes with the following changes:
 - Public comment section added after the MPD speaker.
 - Move secretary and treasurer report to consent agenda, to be moved to their own agenda items when they had substantive updates.

January 2023 Meeting Minutes

- The January 2023 meeting minutes were approved with 6 votes and small administrative revisions.

DC Government Announcements

Jaqueline E. Castaneda (Brienne Nadeau's team) provided updates on Councilmember Nadeau's activities, legislative updates, and upcoming events in Ward 1, including:

- Ongoing performance oversight hearings, available live here <https://www.brienneknadeau.com/live>.
- Street Vendors Amendment Act 2023 – Nadeau reintroduced the bill with new support from Chairman Mendelson. The bill reforms DC vendors licensing regulation, formalizing the vending of food and artisanal goods. Notably, the bill will remove police from enforcing vending rules, and include licensing and training opportunities for vendors.
- Councilmembers Nadeau and Pinto wrote a letter of support to create a public library as part of a 16th/17th Street development project which is currently accepting community feedback.
- Councilmember Nadeau's next community office hours, open to the public, will be hosted at Buddy's.

Captain Solgat (MPD, Sector I of the Third District) briefed the commission on MPD's vision for public safety trends in 1D.

- Captain Solgat described MPD as inappropriate and under-trained to deal with many mental health requests, and provided the anecdote that in one recent day he received nine calls for

mental health service, the Department of Behavioral Health was unable to provide assistance each time.

- Commissioner Parbhoo asked about how to disentangle data on crime and to have communication grounded in reality, e.g. using accurate and relevant crime statistics.
 - Captain Solgat pointed out the potential bias or easy manipulation of different statistics.
 - As an example of data-driven law enforcement, Captain Solgat mentioned ticketing enforcement for double-parked and idling vehicles in areas where stolen vehicles happened to unattended or idling cars.
- MPD is exploring a “hire here” initiative to encourage local businesses to hire local residents.
- Commissioner Decker inquired as to how MPD tracks community satisfaction and how people feel, considering the bias of mostly interacting with residents during incidents.
 - Lack of calls is success, metric is reducing repeat numbers, reducing volume of calls per service, smallest police district because of high call volume (smallest in the city)
- Commissioner Decker asked Captain Solgat for suggestion as to how to support the Department of Behavioral Health.
- Commissioner Allison requested an explanation for long 911 response times.
 - Captain Solgat explained that 911 works on priority basis, averaging a one to two minute response time for highest priority calls (assault, life threatening situation) but much longer for property theft. He also recommended residents file their own police reports online or over the phone.
- Captain Solgat cautioned that, while it was too soon to cite metrics, his opinion is that the public safety in the area is improving. Positive developments included meetings with businesses owners, a recent arrest of a commercial burglar, and increasing familiarity with locals.
- In response to a question about the recent smashed windows on Mt. Pleasant street, Captain Solgat confirmed someone was arrested on 2/21.
- A resident expressed concern about a MPD describing taking a “vibes/feelings” based approach, because of the possibility that it will lead to an increase in criminalizing poverty, and noted that media coverage can exacerbate the issue.
- Commissioner Decker asked how MPD tracks calls the ultimately are not related to actual crimes.
 - Captain Solgat was unsure if that is tracked, and suggested sending the point to the Office of Unified Communications.
- MPD public hearing on Thursday 2/23.
- Captain Solgat raised the question for consideration to the ANC to define success related to public safety issues.

Ongoing Business

Commissioner Parbhoo presented on ANC1D’s proposed bylaw changes, available for review here <http://anc1d.org/s/ANC1DBylaws2023.docx>.

New Business

Commissioner Decker presented a drafted resolution regarding HPRB application for 1644 Park Road (*see annex item 1*)

- Some elements of the project need clarification (e.g. specify materials), nevertheless recommendation to approve the application.

- A representative from architect group RMCDG was present.
- Commissioner Nunez motioned to adopt the resolution, Commissioner Grigg seconded. The resolution passed with 6 votes, all in favor.

Commissioner Grigg presented a drafted resolution regarding HPRB application for 3500 Brown St (*see annex item 2*)

- Commissioner Nunez motioned to approve, the resolution passed with 6 votes, all in favor.

Commissioner Decker highlighted the ongoing District agency performance oversight hearings as an important opportunity.

- Link to the schedule and instructions for public participation - <https://www.dccouncilbudget.com/schedules>

Commissioner Willis presented a drafted resolution advising DDOT to address an unsafe crosswalk at 19th & Lamont Park (*see annex item 3*)

- Commissioner Willis noted that there is a formal request for review from DDOT via the TSI process scheduled to take place next quarter, and the recommendation is for precursory or mitigation access ahead of that schedule because residents have determined the current crosswalks to be inadequate to provide caution to incoming traffic.
- Commissioner Parbhoo motioned to adopt the resolution, Commissioner Decker seconded. The resolution passed with 6 votes, all in favor.

Public Comment

Resident Mark Simon, community representative on the Bancroft Local School Advisory Team, presented regarding the Bancroft Elementary Safe Street initiative to address an unsafe pick up and drop off situation at Bancroft Elementary

- The plan would temporarily close the one block of Newton Street from 8:00am to 9:00am and again from 3:00pm to 4:00pm each weekday. The DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) will provide barriers. Six volunteers from the Bancroft PTO and the Mt. Pleasant Village will assist the two DDOT crossing guards to maintain safety and order. DDOT will provide the barriers and vests for the volunteers. The tentative start date will be Monday, April 3rd and will continue for the remainder of the school year.
- DDOT is working with Bancroft, the Bancroft PTO, and the Mt. Pleasant Village to organize, monitor, and adapt based on what we learn along the way about how to make the temporary closing of the block in front of the school safe and efficient. Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau and Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George have both sponsored bills that passed the DC Council, the "Safe Routes to School Act" and the "Walk Without Worry Act." So the DC Council has identified pedestrian safety as a big problem and will hopefully see Bancroft's initiative as a model for the city.
- Cited root causes as 1) the increased number of students at Bancroft (currently, 726, 100 more than last year), 2) covid protocols that prohibit parents from entering the school to drop off or pick up students and cause families gather and line up outside the school, 3) the school's location in morning traffic patterns.

The Commission took the information on board, and Commissioner Decker and Nunez expressed interested in local community outreach for affected residents and in keeping the root causes of the issue in mind.

Treasurer's Report

Upcoming Expenses once the Treasurer has check-writing capabilities

- February interpretation, \$200
- February postering, \$215
- January postering, back pay, \$65
- Zoom reimbursement, Chelsea Allinger, \$58.29
- Business cards reimbursement, Angela Allison, \$268.20
- GoDaddy reimbursement, Jack McKay, \$61.32
- Quickbooks reimbursement, Hannah Grigg, \$7.95

Spanish Translation Costs

- \$.15/word
- Full translation of poster and minutes, approximately \$525/month
- Commissioner Grigg will confirm the ANC's translation reimbursement options and revisit translation costs at the next meeting.

Commissioner Parbhoo motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, Commissioner Decker seconded. The motion passed with 6 votes, all in favor.

With no additional comments or questions, Chair Allison requested a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Willis moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Nunez seconded. The motion passed with 6 votes, all in favor, none opposed.

Commissioner Allison adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

Annex Item 1

RESOLUTION #1D-23-0221

Supporting the demolition of the one- and two-story wing of the property and the one-story garage, to replace them with a two-story addition 1644 Park Road, NW (HPA 23-173)

Proposed February 21, 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D (ANC 1D or the Commission) takes note of the following:

- The applicant has proposed the demolition of the one- and two-story wing of the subject house and the one-story garage, to replace them with a two-story addition on 1644 Park Road, NW.
- 1644 Park Road, NW is within the boundaries of ANC 1D, Single Member District 1D04.
- 1644 Park Road, NW, is within the Mt. Pleasant Historic District, requiring approval of the Historic Preservation Review Board for Construction (HPA 23-173).
- The proposed construction is modest, high-quality, and in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.

- The proposed modifications are located in the rear of the house and are minimally visible from the street.
- Significant portions of the demolition are related to a non-historic or unremarkable structure, with other elements of demolition being consistent with Historic Preservation Review Board precedent.

RESOLVED: That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D supports the application to the Historic Preservation Review Board for demolition of the one- and two-story wing of 1644 Park Road, NW and to replace them with a two-story addition, providing that the applicant:

- Retain a significant portion of the historic floor framing
- Make exterior repairs and replacements and siding and windows and railings more clear and in a compatible manner to the existing structure and character of the neighborhood 1644 Park Road, NW (HPA 23-173)
- Ensure any new openings in the structure are consistent with the existing structure and Historic Preservation Review Board precedent

Providing that the applicant satisfy the conditions above, the Commission recommends that the Historic Preservation Review Board approve the application.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Commission designates Commissioner Yasmin Romero-Latin, ANC 1D04, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED: Consistent with DC Code, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by a voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of six of seven members was present) on February 21, 2023 by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

SMD1D01 - Kelly Willis, yes
SMD1D02 - Hannah Grigg, yes
SMD1D03 – Erika Nunez, yes
SMD1D04 - Yasmin Romero, not present
SMD1D05 - Omar Parbhoo, yes
SMD1D06 - Angela Allison, yes
SMD1D07 - Gary Decker, yes

Annex Item 2

RESOLUTION #1D-23-0222

Supporting the construction of a stoop and steps at 1500-1599 Brown Street NW (Tracking Number 413253)

Proposed February 21, 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D (ANC 1D or the Commission) takes note of the following:

- The applicant has proposed the construction of a stoop and steps to include installation of spiral steps and landing behind the residence located at 3602 16th Street.
- 3602 16th Street and 3500-3599 Brown Street NW are within the boundaries of ANC1D, Single Member District 1D02.
- The proposed construction will have no excavation, no sidewalk disturbance, and no impact on public space.

RESOLVED: That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D supports the construction permit application for a stoop and steps at 1500-1599 Brown Street NW (Tracking Number 413253).

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Commission designates Commissioner Hannah Grigg, ANC 1D02, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED: Consistent with DC Code, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

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SMD1D01 - Kelly Willis, yes
SMD1D02 - Hannah Grigg, yes
SMD1D03 – Erika Nunez, yes
SMD1D04 - Yasmin Romero, not present
SMD1D05 - Omar Parbhoo, yes
SMD1D06 - Angela Allison, yes
SMD1D07 - Gary Decker, yes

Annex Item 3

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

RESOLUTION #1D-___-0221

Advising the District Department of Transportation to immediately install high visibility crosswalks at the 3-way stop intersection of Lamont Street and 19th Street, N.W.

Adopted February 21, 202

High Visibility Crosswalks for Lamont & 19th Street NW

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Transportation to install high visibility crosswalks at the 3-way stop intersection of Lamont & 19th Streets N.W., before and independent of the results of the completion of a full Traffic Safety Input investigation.

Resolved, that the ANC1D Commission designates Commissioner Kelly Willis, ANC 1D01, or any other ANC1D Commissioner as appointed by the Chair as needed, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

Why: The busy intersection attracts a great number of pedestrians since the recent completion of the public park at that location. The existing crosswalks provide inadequate warning to vehicle traffic of the frequent crossing of young children. One block east on Lamont at 18th Street, the more visible crosswalks provide a more appropriate level of caution to drivers and protection to pedestrians.

The newly established park is a long-awaited resource to residents and surrounding neighbors, and should not inadvertently pose an increased hazard to resulting pedestrian traffic.

Passed, by 6 votes at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on February 21, 2023 with a quorum duly present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Willis, Grigg, Nunez, Parbhoo, Allison, Decker.