



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15th, 2023; 7:30 p.m.

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

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Joel Causey (06) called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Commissioners Yannik Omictin (01), Jim Malec (02), Trupti Patel (03) (attending virtually), Ed Comer (04), Dasia Bandy (07), and Jordan Nassar (08) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Malec made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Omictin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Malec made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular January 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Comer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES 6-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant Michael Howden, 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 Executive Office of the Mayor

Grace Reeder and Christopher Powell, Ward 2 representatives for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave updates from the Mayor’s Office.

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.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Causey and Commissioners Omictin, Malec, Patel, Comer, Bandy, and Nassar gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

A local resident gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Update from the Department of Parks and Recreation Regarding the Community Engagement Process for Upcoming Renovations to Francis Field

Christopher Dyer, the Community Engagement Manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), gave an update regarding the community engagement process for upcoming renovations to Francis Field.

Presentation Regarding a Proposed Transfer of Jurisdiction of Portions of Francis Field, Francis Dog Park, the Athletic Fields Near the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, and the Tennis and Basketball Courts Located at the Corner of N Street and 23rd Street NW from the National Park Service to the DC Government

Meridith Moldenhauer, counsel for the matter; Eric DeBear, counsel for the matter; Julia Washburn, the Superintendent of Rock Creek Park; Brian Joyner, the Deputy Superintendent of Rock Creek Park; Tammy Stidham, the Deputy Associate Regional Director for Lands and Planning for the National Park Service (NPS); Christopher Dyer, the Community Engagement Manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Peter Nohrden, a landscape architect for DPR's Office of Planning and Capital Projects; and Cassidy Mullen, an Operations Manager for the Department of General Services (DGS), gave a presentation regarding a proposed transfer of jurisdiction of portions of Francis Field, Francis Dog Park, the athletic fields near the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, and the tennis and basketball courts located at the corner of N Street and 23rd Street NW from the National Park Service to the DC Government.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

WineLAIR – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License at 1120 22nd Street NW

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

ANC 2A supports WineLAIR's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license at 1120 22nd Street NW.

Char Bar – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 2142 L Street NW

Commissioner Comer made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Malec seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Char Bar's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 2142 L Street NW.

Matters Before the Mayor’s Special Events Task Group

Special Event Application for the Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 29th, 2023

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

ANC 2A supports the special event application for the Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 29th, 2023.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council’s Performance Oversight Hearing for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Bandy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, as Washington, DC reopens for tourism and hospitality, Metrorail service has not followed suit as it has operated in crisis mode for the last three years,

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has not pivoted to post-pandemic era demands,

WHEREAS, low wage shift workers that work in the hospitality industry are not having affordable and reliable transit options, and

WHEREAS, reduced ridership along with fare evasion prevents WMATA from operating with a full budget and running the network as designed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages the DC Council’s Committee on Transportation and the Environment to implement policies to promote safe, affordable, and reliable transit options for all riders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages WMATA to adopt in full the recommendations outlined by the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) to ensure that commuters are riding in safe Metrorail cars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages WMATA to implement timed transfers between Metrobus routes 31, 32, 33, and 36 to ensure that cross-town commuters traveling through Foggy Bottom can have a seamless journey.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council’s Performance Oversight Hearing for the Department of Buildings

Chair Causey recused himself from voting on this matter.

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Comer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, there have been numerous issues plaguing ANC 2A03, including:

- vacant and blighted properties
- illegal construction
- an illegal weed dispensary

WHEREAS, in September of 2020 ANC 2A adopted a resolution amplifying the urgency around an illegal weed dispensary impacting the safety of Snows Court NW residents,

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) won the largest settlement against DARO Management Services in U.S. history,

WHEREAS, the multi-unit building Circle Arms Apartments, which is managed by DARO, has committed numerous violations impacting the quality of life for Snows Court NW residents,

WHEREAS, numerous 3-1-1 requests regarding illegal construction at Circle Arms Apartments were submitted by numerous residents in 2022,

WHEREAS, the then-Department of Consumer Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) failed to address the issue of illegal construction in a timely manner, and

WHEREAS, vacant and blight properties in ANC 2A03 pose a threat to the health and safety of residents, including:

- A dead body being discovered inside of one property
- A gas leak that could have caused an explosion of one block

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council, along with the Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia, to remedy these outstanding issues.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council's Performance Oversight Hearing for the Department of Employment Services

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: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, in October 2022 a report from DC Jobs With Justice and the Restaurant Opportunities Center of DC, “Still In the Dark: Tipped Wages in D.C.,” states that many bars and restaurants in DC are failing to report required data on how much tipped workers are being paid,

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022 DC voters passed Initiative 82 that will phase out the tipped minimum wage by 2027,

WHEREAS, the Department of Employment Services (DOES) will need to outline actions to address the following:

- How will DOES communicate the increased wage to employers?
- How will DOES communicate the increased wage to the employees?
- How will DOES communicate the increased wage to the public?

WHEREAS, DOES will need to devise protocols to ensure that employers are using the correct base wage for tipped employees,

WHEREAS, DOES has to improve compliance with the law that requires employers of tipped workers and payroll companies to report certain wage data that would help identify whether workers were in fact being paid at least the minimum wage, and

WHEREAS, the lack of compliance illustrates the lack of transparency around tipped wages and raises concerns about the level of wage theft under the current system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to introduce wage theft prevention initiatives to ensure the proper implementation of Initiative 82.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council’s Performance Oversight Hearing for the District of Columbia Housing Authority

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

WHEREAS, in October, 19 2022 ANC 2A voted 4-2-1 to adopt a resolution in response to the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) audit report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),

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,

WHEREAS, the emergency legislation called for a smaller board focused on stabilization and reform, however it eliminated board members elected by public housing residents,

WHEREAS, the DCHA board has acted as a rubber stamp instead of a critical eye, allowing for continued systemic failures to become pervasive and untenable,

WHEREAS, the critics on the board stood their ground and performed due diligence, uncovering dysfunction and raising the alarm, and

WHEREAS, there is a deep distrust of leadership in addressing the crisis at DCHA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages the DC Council to introduce permanent legislation to address the DCHA crisis based on the following recommendations:

- Prioritizing safe and sanitary public housing
- Refocusing the authority's mission on the lowest-income renters
- Strengthening board capacity and expertise
- Board accountability
- Enhanced DC Council oversight
- Transparency in finance and operations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports permanent legislation based on the outlined recommendations.

Administrative Matters

Approval of Amendments to the ANC's 2023 Meeting Schedule

Chair Causey made a motion to change the ANC's 2023 regular meetings' start times to 7:00 pm, starting with the ANC's regular May 2023 meeting. Commissioner Bandy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Creation of ANC 2A Committees

Chair Causey made a motion to delay consideration of the matter until a future ANC meeting. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-3-0).

Adjournment

Chair Causey adjourned the meeting at 10:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ed Comer
Secretary, ANC 2A04