



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular April 2023 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Meg Roggensack at 7:02 pm.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Meg Roggensack (2B01), Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Vincent Slatt (2B03), China Dickerson (2B04), Z Stein (2B05), Matt Johnson (2B06), Patricia Bencivenga (2B07), Zach Adams (2B08), and Christopher Davis (2B09).

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Roggensack adopted the ANC's meeting agenda by acclamation.

Announcements and Public Comments

Introduction by Commander John Branch, the New Commander of the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District

Commander John Branch, the new Commander of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, introduced himself to meeting attendees.

Presentation by Japer Bowles, Director of the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs, Regarding the Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget

Japer Bowles, Director of the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs, gave a presentation regarding the Mayor's proposed FY 2024 budget.

Update from the Department of Parks and Recreation Regarding Agency Activities

Christopher Dyer, the Community Engagement Manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), gave an update regarding agency activities.

Update Regarding the DC Smart Street Lighting Project

Ashley Wells, a representative for the DC Smart Street Lighting Project, gave an update regarding the project.

Update Regarding Annie's 75th Anniversary

Georgia Katinas, the Manager of Annie's Paramount Steak House, gave an update regarding the restaurant's 75th anniversary.

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Roggensack and Commissioners Slatt and Dickerson gave commissioner announcements.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), and Commissioner Davis, Chair of the ANC's Land Use Committee (LUC), gave committee updates.

Reports from DC Government Representatives

Lieutenant Timothy Beirne, a representative for MPD's Second District; Christopher Powell, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS); Victoria Casarrubias, the Scheduler and Office Assistant for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office; and Donovan Boyd, the Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave DC Government reports.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID), and Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA), gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Sixty DC – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Hotel License at 1337 Connecticut Avenue NW

Commissioner Stein recused himself from voting on this matter.

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Dickerson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Sixty DC's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Hotel license at 1337 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Land Use Agenda

1832 Florida Avenue NW – Concept / Third Story Addition

Commissioner Adams moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion. Commissioner Adams made a friendly amendment to the proposed resolution. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the owner of 1832 Florida Avenue NW, Tejas Sapra, has applied to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for approval of plans to modify the exterior of the rowhouse by adding a third floor and a rear roof deck,

WHEREAS, the rowhouse at 1832 Florida Avenue NW is in ANC 2B08 and is within, but not a contributing building to, the Strivers' Section Historic District, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed the submitted concept plans at its duly noticed monthly meeting held April 4, 2023 and heard testimony from the owner and neighbors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the HPRB application submitted by the owner with the understanding that:

- The applicant considers removing the second floor parapet and continuing the existing brick pattern to the new floor so that it reads as a continuous surface, and
- The applicant consults with immediate neighbors before receiving a building permit.

1617 U Street NW and 1620 V Street NW – Application for a Map Amendment from MU-4 to MU-10

Commissioner Davis moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) has announced a potential surplus designation and disposition of the District-owned property at 1617 U Street NW and 1620 V Street NW and the Office of Planning (OP) has submitted Zoning Commission (ZC) application #23-02 for a map amendment from MU-4 to MU-10 for these properties.

The site is currently comprised of two parcels between 17th Street NW, U Street NW, and V Street NW and is currently home to the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Third District police headquarters and DC Fire and Emergency Services Department (FEMS) Engine Company 9 and its related uses. The site is within ANC 1B07 and is directly across the street from ANC 2B08.

The current buildings from the 1960s are neither historically designated nor contributing buildings in a historic district. The site is bounded on the north, west, and south by the Strivers' Section Historic District and on the east by the 16th Street Historic District.

ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) was presented with the proposed map amendment at its duly noticed monthly meetings on February 1, 2023 and April 4, 2023.

Therefore, ANC 2B supports the map amendment to rezone this site from MU-4 to MU-10.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets for the Installation of a Sculpture in a Pocket Park at 18th Street and Q Street NW

Commissioner Bencivenga moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets' public space application for the installation of a sculpture in a pocket park at 18th Street and Q Street NW.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Effects of the Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget on Neighborhood School Budgets

Chair Roggensack moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, DC Public Schools (DCPS) is proposing a cut of approximately \$146,000 to the budget for Ross Elementary School, \$195,000 to the budget for Thomson Elementary School, \$187,000 to the budget for Marie Reed Elementary School, and \$48,000 to the budget for the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, all of which have part or all of their boundary in ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, Ross will be forced to eliminate world language (Spanish), cut art to part time, reduce the number of aides, and eliminate its STEM coordinator,

WHEREAS, Thomson has eliminated one classroom teacher and there have been personnel cuts at Marie Reed and Francis-Stevens as well,

WHEREAS, Ross faces likely class sizes of over 30 students in one classroom in grades 1 and 3 next year, which require multiple adults to ensure a good education for all students,

WHEREAS, all of the schools are ensuring that they devote resources to their special education, English Language Learner, and at-risk students,

WHEREAS, all of these schools do critical work to educate children of ANC 2B and elsewhere in the District, but need to retain their education professionals who do this critical work,

WHEREAS, many other schools in all wards of DC are facing budget cuts of up to 5%, which will interfere with their ability to serve their student populations,

WHEREAS, the DC Council passed the Schools First in Budgeting Amendment Act to limit budget cuts and stabilize school budgets, which is now law, but DCPS has not followed it, and

WHEREAS, DCPS's new budget model makes further cuts likely for many schools in FY 2025 as well if the Schools First in Budgeting Amendment Act is not followed or the DC Council does not change the budget.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DCPS and the DC Council to restore funding to all schools in ANC 2B and across the District who faced budget cuts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks DCPS and the DC Council to ensure that schools are funded to maintain their current staffing levels, including to keep pace with rising costs, in future years.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's Regular March 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to approve the ANC's regular March 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Bencivenga seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's Special March 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC's special March 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to approve the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Bencivenga seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 9-0-0).

Request for Scheduling an Administrative Meeting and a Personnel Meeting

The Commissioners discussed scheduling an administrative meeting and a personnel meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 10:30 pm.