



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

August 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 14, 2024; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular August 2024 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission of ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Roggensack at 7:01.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were Meg Roggensack (2B01), Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Z Stein (2B05), Matt Johnson (2B06), Zachary Adams (2B08), and Christopher Davis (2B09).

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Roggensack adopted the ANC's meeting agenda by unanimous consent.

Announcements and Public Comments

Reports from Government Representatives

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office; Lieutenant Forrest, representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District; and Randi Thorpe, Community Relations Specialist from Department of Public Works (DPW), provided updates.

Commissioner Updates

There were no Commissioner updates.

Committee Updates

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

Public Announcements and General Comments

Bill McLeod, Director of the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District, provided an update. Anne Blackwell, President of Historic Dupont Main Street, provided an update.

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board Agenda

Dreams Wellness LLC- Application for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer to be located at 1829 M Street NW (ABRA-127574) (2B05) (10 min)

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

WHEREAS, Dreams Wellness LLC (“Dreams Wellness”, “Applicant”) has applied for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer License (ABCA-127574) at 1829 M Street NW, Washington DC, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, the nature of operation states the facility has approximately 1,000 square feet of space and will vend cannabis flowers, cannabis concentrates, and a line of edible products, and home delivery services to registered patients in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, Dreams Wellness has applied for the following License Endorsements:

- Delivery

WHEREAS, Dreams Wellness’ placard states they have applied for the following hours of operation:

Hours of Operation for Retailer

Sunday – Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Hours of Retailer Sales Open to the Public

Sunday – Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, promoting and maintaining good relationships between residents and ABCA licensed establishments is a responsibility and priority of ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, Dreams Wellness has agreed to enter into a Cannabis Settlement Agreement with ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has discussed the delivery service and is satisfied that it should not pose problems for the neighborhood, and that should delivery service increase such that it may impact traffic flow, Dreams Wellness will work with ANC 2B and DDOT to arrive at an agreeable solution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B **supports the Cannabis Retailer License application of Dreams Wellness as placarded**, pursuant a Cannabis Settlement Agreement that establishes the expected conduct of the business and relationship with the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will file a pro forma protest of the application on the basis of Peace, Order, and Quiet, which will be withdrawn upon approval of the Cannabis Settlement Agreement and Order by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public space application for New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed located at 1837 M Street NW (DDOT-11071713) (2B05) (5 mins)

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

WHEREAS, Dog Haus (“Dog Haus”, “Applicant”) has applied for use of a sidewalk café space at 1837 M Street NW, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has a standard guideline that a minimum of 10 feet of sidewalk be maintained between the outer edge of a sidewalk seating area and the nearer of the curb, or a fixed object including tree boxes, parking meters, bike racks, lampposts;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B does consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis where a proposed seating area is next to a staircase, stoop, or is consistent other DDOT-permitted sidewalk occupancy on the block, provided pedestrians (including those using wheelchairs, baby carriages, wheeled luggage, personal shopping carts) are able to safely pass;

WHEREAS, the applicant’s submitted plan extends beyond the existing stairways, leaving a 5 feet or less of clearance; and

WHEREAS, the applicant’s submitted plan includes no accommodation for the trash and recycling cans currently stored against the building; and

WHEREAS, the only supportable configuration of the café seating would be small tables placed against the building and parallel to the front so the seating area would remain entirely within the envelope of the stairway. Perpendicular seating would not be acceptable as it would interfere with pedestrian use of the sidewalk;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and other District Government agency reviewers requested the applicant submit new plans to address our consistent concerns however no revised plans have been submitted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B OPPOSES the Public Space Permit Application # 11071713 by Dog Haus Restaurant for use of public space for a sidewalk café at 1837 M Street NW.

General Agenda (15 mins)

Consideration of a resolution concerning the 17th Street High Heel Race (5 min)

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

The 36th Annual 17th Street High Heel Race is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, and the ANC fully supports this event and urges HSEMA, DDOT, MOLGBTQA, MPD, and ABCA to:

- Schedule a meeting by the end of August 2024, to take place within the first two weeks of September 2024, with representatives of the 17th Street Businesses, the Historic DuPont Circle Main Streets and the DuPont BID concerning event plans
- Implement traffic and safety plans from the Capital Pride Block Party as a model for this event
- Expand those traffic plans to include closing S Street NW between NH and 16th Streets; and, also 17th St between NH and S St. This is a necessary addition to coincide with the DC Council-funded historical marker being placed at the S Street Dog Park in honor of William Dorsey Swann, the formerly enslaved Black Drag Queen after whom Swann Street has been rededicated. We anticipate heightened foot traffic at these blocks, expecting hundreds of revelers at the park, and urge all traffic be diverted from the area
- Plan for the consideration and permission of food trucks along the 1600 Block of Corcoran St NW and the 1700 Block of Church St NW.
- Provide for the temporary suspension of open container laws and the extension of liquor licenses for outside and to-go service and sales for all businesses and public spaces located between 16th St and NH Ave, between P and S Streets
- Increase the use of wayfinding signs to assist revelers towards public transportation, including and especially the Farragut Square Orange/Blue/Silver Station and the U Street Green Station.
- To present plans at the October convening of ANC 2B, scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2024; and,
- To prepare an after-action report on the event to be submitted to the ANC 2B by the end of calendar year 2024.

Consideration of a resolution regarding pending legislation on [Protecting Adjacent and Adjoining Property Owners from Construction Damage](#) and [General Contractor Licensing](#) (5 min)

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

Whereas the Department of Buildings is working to improve residential construction permit application, oversight and enforcement

Whereas such reform is urgent and necessary due to ongoing concerns about building construction safety practices and increasing incidents of building collapses, and structural damage to adjacent and adjoining properties

Whereas the Committee of the Whole is considering Bill B25-0654 – *Protecting Adjacent and Adjoining Property Owners from Construction Damage Amendment Act of 2024* which proposes reforms that address some of the concerns expressed by property owners who have been adversely affected by construction activities resulting from inadequate licensing and permitting requirements in the District of Columbia.

Whereas the Committee of the Whole has raised questions regarding deficiencies in the proposed Bill that will not achieve the stated goals; specifically, to enable affected adjacent property owners to make direct claims for damage with the insurer of the project. Also, to ensure that general contractors are properly credentialed and are in full compliance with DC laws, including employment laws.

Whereas the Committee of the Whole is now engaging with some of the stakeholders affected by this legislation, however, engagement with affected adjacent property owners and their ANC representatives has yet to take place.

Therefore, be it resolved that ANC 2B requests that the Committee of the Whole staff schedule meeting(s) with hearing witnesses and their representatives, to obtain additional perspectives from affected property owners and to ensure that these proposals achieve their stated goals.

Be it further resolved that ANC 2B requests that the Committee of the Whole includes language in B25-0654 that expressly requires that adjacent property owners are designated as additional insureds on developer/contractor project liability insurance policies.

Be it further resolved that ANC 2B requests that the Committee of the Whole includes language in B25-0654 to require meaningful qualification and accountability processes for general contractors undertaking residential construction projects in the District of Columbia, that are consistent with those in adjacent jurisdictions.

Be it further resolved that ANC 2B requests that the Committee of the Whole includes language in B25-0654 to require that any general contractor seeking a license be required to certify and substantiate compliance with applicable requirements of DC employment and labor laws.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's regular [July 2024 meeting minutes](#) (2 min)

Commissioner Roggensack moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's [FY 2024 Quarter 3 financial report](#) (2 min)

Commissioner Roggensack moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Stein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Referring Budget to CAPP (2 min)

Commissioner Roggensack proposed a motion to refer the ANC's FY 25 Budget to the Complex Application Working Group Committee. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.