



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 12th, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular July 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), Z Stein (2B05), Matt Johnson (2B06), Patricia Bencivenga (2B07), Zach Adams (2B08), and Christopher Davis (2B09).

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Roggensack moved to adopt the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

Announcements and Public Comments

Update from Allister Chang, the Ward 2 Member of the State Board of Education

Allister Chang, the Ward 2 Member of the State Board of Education (SBOE), gave an update regarding his SBOE work.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioners Rueckgauer and Slatt gave commissioner announcements.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), and Commissioner Johnson, Chair of the ANC's Complex Applications (CAPP) Task Force, gave committee updates.

Reports from DC Government Representatives

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; Lieutenant Timothy Beirne, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District; and Harold Davis, a Solid Waste Inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), gave DC Government reports.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Susan Volman, the President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA); Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA); and a local resident gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board Agenda

Balos Estiatorio (Balos Restaurant) – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1900 N Street NW, Suite 10

Commissioner Johnson moved for ANC 2B to enter into a proposed settlement agreement with Balos Estiatorio (Balos Restaurant). Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by Residents DC for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 19 Tables and 48 Seats at 1306 18th Street NW

The Commission tabled consideration of this matter until the ANC’s regular August 2023 meeting.

Public Space Application by Dos Toros for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 Tables, 18 Seats, and 2 Umbrellas at 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW

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

ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of Dos Toros’ public space application for 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

Public Space Application by Panera for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 2 Tables, 8 Seats, and 1 Umbrella at 1528 Connecticut Avenue NW

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

ANC 2B requests a 30-day delay of the consideration of Panera's public space application for 1528 Connecticut Avenue NW in order to allow the Commission to further discuss the project plans with the applicant.

Public Space Application by McDonald's for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 Tables and 20 Seats at 1619 17th Street NW

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

ANC 2B supports McDonald's' public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café at 1619 17th Street NW.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Department of General Services' Proposal to Acquire The Aston at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW for Use by the Department of Human Services

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Department of General Services (DGS) has executed an agreement to purchase The Aston, located at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW, from the George Washington University for use as a non-congregate shelter for people experiencing homelessness,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that individual homelessness remains high in the District of Columbia and is in support of an expansion of facilities to help those seeking stable and permanent housing,

WHEREAS, The Aston is located one block away from the boundary of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, DGS is required by law to provide 30 days of comment by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) before executing a contract to purchase property,

WHEREAS, DGS notified ANC 2A on May 19, 2023 but submitted the contract to purchase the property to the DC Council on June 9, 2023, which would automatically be approved on June 22, 2023, yet the ANC comment period did not expire until July 5, 2023,

WHEREAS, DGS did not notify ANC 2B, which is only one block from the site,

WHEREAS, residents and commissioners of ANC 2B were unaware of this proposed land purchase until after ANC 2A held their special meeting on this item on June 21, 2023 and voted on a resolution on June 28, 2023, and

WHEREAS, residents of ANC 2B may be impacted by the development of this shelter site and have been deprived of their ability to submit questions and comments to DGS and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the development of a non-congregate shelter at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW that will serve the needs of medically vulnerable people as well as people in transition to permanent housing that cannot be served by traditional facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that Department of General Services, Department of Human Services, and Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services representatives attend one additional public meeting to answer the community's questions and engage with the community. This is essential for community members to receive more information on the project and to prepare both the DC Government (DHS in particular) and the community to be good neighbors for this project, while not delaying the project's timeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that further correspondence from the DC Government regarding the proposed shelter at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW be copied to ANC 2B so that commissioners and residents in ANC 2B are involved in the outreach and engagement process.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Temporarily Changing the 1600 Block of 19th Street NW to One-Way Traffic During Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project Construction

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

WHEREAS, construction work for the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project, expected to begin late 2023 to early 2024, will cause closures of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW for periods of time until completion,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to implement traffic detours around construction,

WHEREAS, one detour pattern will temporarily reconfigure the 1900 block of Q Street NW to handle two-way (east-west) traffic, with traffic to and from Dupont Circle using the 1500 block of 19th Street NW to reach Q Street NW, where it will continue,

WHEREAS, residents of 19th Street NW raised concerns about detoured northbound traffic using their street to continue travel toward Florida Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, suggestions were made to DDOT to advertise New Hampshire Avenue NW and Massachusetts Avenue NW as official detours; work with navigation app providers to declare 19th Street NW between Q Street NW and Florida Avenue NW as closed (though remaining open to local traffic); and to place a barrier and signage at Q Street NW directing northbound motorists to return to Connecticut Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, it was further suggested to DDOT that, to enforce drivers not ignoring signs and continuing up 19th Street NW, the 1600 block of 19th Street NW (between Q Street NW and R Street NW) be temporarily converted to one-way southbound only travel,

WHEREAS, DDOT's Traffic Engineering and Safety Division studied the area and determined that the temporary one-way reconfiguration was feasible,

WHEREAS, it is understood that no construction project is without its inconveniences and that unforeseen situations can, and likely will, arise, and

WHEREAS, the temporary reconfiguration of the 1600 block of 19th Street NW to one-way southbound travel is the most effective and least difficult solution that addresses the residents' concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports DDOT's temporary reconfiguration of the 1600 block of 19th Street NW to be one-way southbound vehicular traffic during construction of the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project, to be restored to its original configuration by the end of the construction of the deckover, with adequate advance public notice of the change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that signage indicates two-way bicycle and street-running scooter use of the 1600 block of 19th Street NW continues to be permitted during the northbound vehicular restriction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the scope of this work is limited solely to detouring northbound vehicular travel from the 1600 block of 19th Street NW between Q Street NW and R Street NW; review of any previously identified traffic concerns in the corridor will be deferred until after completion of the full streetscape project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B and residents of the 19th Street NW corridor understand that there could be unforeseen issues that arise once the change has been implemented that may not be possible to address before the end of construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B and residents will review conditions of the block to identify any obstacles or other concerns about the conversion plan before giving final consent to proceed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT assists with managing vehicular access in the alleys, such as designating specific times of day for trash collectors, clearly marking no-parking and fire lane access to avoid traffic fouling or conflicts during construction hours, etc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when it is determined that the conversion can proceed, consent will be issued by letter from ANC 2B without further review.

E IT FURTHER RESOLVED that residents have indicated that they are amenable to the one-way southbound reconfiguration being implemented as early as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT examines the effects of the loss of on-street parking spaces during construction, identifies possible alternative locations for parking, and considers temporary resident-only parking to alleviate congestion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT advertises New Hampshire Avenue NW, 20th Street NW, and Massachusetts Avenue NW as official detour routes for Connecticut Avenue NW traffic heading to or from Dupont Circle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT works with navigation app providers (such as Waze, Google, Apple, Uber, Lyft, etc.) to declare 19th Street NW between Florida Avenue NW and Q Street NW as closed and unavailable for route plans.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for the Installation of a Diplomatic Parking Zone Along the 1700 Block of P 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: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has issued Notice of Intent (NOI) #23-140-TOA, intending to provide diplomatic parking spaces on the 1700 block of P Street NW for the Embassy of The Republic of Iraq,

WHEREAS, 40 feet (2 spaces) of the existing on-street residential parking zone, located at the west (18th Street NW) end of P Street NW, on the north side of the street in front of 1767 P Street NW, will be purposed for diplomatic use,

WHEREAS, the spaces will be reserved for diplomatic use during regular working hours of 7:00 am to 6:30 pm, Mondays through Fridays,

WHEREAS, the spaces will be available for public use at all other times,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B sought public input at a duly-noticed meeting of its Mobility Committee on July 6, 2023,

WHEREAS, the Embassy of The Republic of Iraq has existing underutilized parking options,

WHEREAS, a local business is located at 1767 P Street NW, and

WHEREAS, having received objections from the public, the Mobility Committee recommended that ANC 2B not support the request.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not support DDOT's NOI #23-140-TOA to provide 2 diplomatic parking spaces during working hours of 7:00 am to 6:30 PM, Mondays through Fridays, approximately centered on 1767 P Street NW, due to the impact on local business operations as well as residents.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Fare Evasion Enforcement

Commissioner Adams moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-3-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) operates the region's core rail and bus transit services,

WHEREAS, WMATA estimates annual revenue loss of approximately \$40 million system-wide from persons who do not pay their fare,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia decriminalized fare evasion in 2018,

WHEREAS, increasing incidents of serious crimes such as robbery, sexual assaults, and other violent acts in stations, on trains, and on buses erodes public confidence about personal safety when using the system, which deters riders from returning to Metro, hindering its post-pandemic recovery,

WHEREAS, WMATA is spending approximately \$40 million to retrofit Metrorail fare gates in an effort to make it harder to evade tapping in and out of stations,

WHEREAS, Councilmember Pinto has introduced DC Council Bill B25-0318 – the “Metro Safety Amendment Act of 2023” to eliminate the loophole that allows persons not paying fare to easily walk away from an officer without identifying themselves,

WHEREAS, Councilmember Pinto's bill would allow officers to detain individuals if they do not provide their legal name and identification and issue a \$100 fine,

WHEREAS, fare enforcement efforts are widely viewed as ineffective theater, disproportionately targeting the poor and persons of color,

WHEREAS, DC and WMATA provide free-and-reduced-fare programs for lower-income residents such as Kids Ride Free (KRF) for elementary and secondary school students, U-Pass for college students, Senior SmarTrip half-fare, and Metro Lift for adults receiving the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and

WHEREAS, even if every rider paid full fare, it would not reduce the need to heavily subsidize WMATA's operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not support DC Council Bill B25-0318 – the “Metro Safety Amendment Act of 2023” as submitted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B suggests that the presentation of identification still be required if stopped for a primary offense; but instead of maintaining the status quo that disproportionately penalizes persons of color or the poor, the bill reduces fare evasion from a primary offense that is cited in addition to a greater offense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks the DC Council and WMATA to reevaluate infractions, violations, enforcement priorities, and penalties based on the impacts on safety, quality of life, and system integrity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks the DC Council to promptly resolve issues with existing fare support programs, simplify sign-up for reduced fare programs, and identify other opportunities to support communities needing help with transit. Some examples:

- correct the KRF program deficiencies and inefficiencies to ensure that every qualified student receives a fare card at the very beginning of the school year and that replacement cards are readily available,
- explore and pilot options to provide transit fare support for qualifying students outside of the school year,
- automatically provide senior and disabled DC residents with Senior SmarTrip cards based on qualification by their Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), voter registration, or benefit recipient profiles, instead of having to apply in person, and
- automatically enroll benefit recipients in fare support programs that they qualify for.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks WMATA to resolve long-standing issues with onboard bus fare boxes that frequently do not operate correctly or at all, as it sends a message to the public that fare collection is not important.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks the DC Council and WMATA to make the security and safety of the public and transit employees within the system a top

priority, such as by addressing longtime complaints that officers seldom are at known hot spots; deploying officers within stations and on trains; and coordinating with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) so that assistance will be near enough for quick response if needed along incident-prone routes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B asks the DC Council, WMATA, and the other jurisdictional partners (including the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments) to begin working on reimagining our transportation network as a public good; and prioritize development of permanent funding mechanisms to sustain it.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B25-0399 – the “Support for the Capital Pride Parade Amendment Act of 2023”

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

WHEREAS, the Capital Pride festivities in Washington, DC began in June 1975 with a “Gay Pride Day” block party hosted by Deacon Maccubbin on the 1700 block of 20th Street NW, outside of his bookstore, Lambda Rising, then located at 1724 20th Street NW,

WHEREAS, Deacon Maccubbin organized Pride festivities to include information booths with resources and community organizations,

WHEREAS, the information booths have been embraced nationally and internationally as a key component of Pride festivities,

WHEREAS, Deacon Maccubbin hosted and fostered Pride events from his bookstore until 1980, when they had become a successful tradition, a community-wide celebration, and an institution of Washington, DC,

WHEREAS, the Capital Pride Alliance has inherited Maccubbin’s role to coordinate and plan Capital Pride festivities throughout June as LGBTQ Pride Month,

WHEREAS, the festivities have evolved into a parade, a street festival, and a block party – in homage to Deacon Maccubbin’s original block party,

WHEREAS, the DC Government charges various fees to support the festivities, at great expense to the mostly volunteer-run nonprofit Capital Pride Alliance,

WHEREAS, those fees represent a sizeable financial burden,

WHEREAS, Councilmember Pinto has recognized this burden and supports Capital Pride festivities as “a wonderful demonstration of what makes DC so special: our commitment to not only welcoming diversity, inclusivity, and equality, but also celebrating it,” and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Pinto has crafted DC Council Bill B25-0399 – the “Support for the Capital Pride Parade Amendment Act of 2023” to waive city fees for future Capital Pride festivities, and the bill was co-introduced by you, Chair McDuffie, and Councilmembers Charles Allen, Vincent Gray, Janeese Lewis George, Zachary Parker, and Robert White.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B fully endorses Councilmember Pinto’s DC Council Bill B25-0399 – the “Support for the Capital Pride Parade Amendment Act of 2023” to waive city fees for future Capital Pride festivities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the DC Council to erect a historical marker near 20th Street and R Street NW to indicate the location of the first Gay Pride Day held in 1975, and that the marker be designed in consultation with ANC 2B and be consistent with other such markers in the neighborhood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B desires that someday the DC Council renames the 1700 block of 20th Street NW in honor of Deacon Maccubbin for his many efforts to establish Capital Pride in the District, and his countless other efforts to build a sense of community over his more than 40 years as a proud, Out, Gay, successful businessman in Dupont Circle.

ANC 2B Town Hall Discussion Regarding Capital Pride 2023-2025 Review and Planning

Commissioner Slatt gave an update regarding ANC 2B’s town hall discussion on Capital Pride 2023-2025 review and planning.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC’s Regular June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to approve the ANC’s regular June 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Upcoming Proposed Changes to the ANC’s Bylaws

Commissioner Adams gave an update regarding upcoming proposed changes to the ANC’s bylaws.

Adjournment

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 9:42 pm.