

March 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular March 2024 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission of ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Meg Roggensack at 7:01 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), Libby Franklin (2B07), Zach 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; Grace Reeder a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS); Lieutenant Bobbette Forrest, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District; Christophe Wassmer, Community Engagement Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave government reports.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), Chris Davis, Chair of the ANC's Land Use Committee (LUC), and Commissioner Johnson, Chair of the ANC's Complex Applications Task Force (CAAP), gave updates.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID), Annie Blackwell, the Executive Director of Dupont Main Streets, and Presley Nelson and Gordon Andrew-Fletcher of the Washington (DC) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board Agenda

The Commission took no action on the following applications:

- Application by District Taco for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class D restaurant license at 1919 M Street NW (ABCA-099379)
- Application by Prego Again for a new Retailer's Class B Beer and Wine license at 1617 17th Street NW (ABCA 127561)
- Application by Wiseguy Pizza for a new Retailer's Class D Restaurant license at 1205 19th Street NW (ABCA 127479)

AU LAIT DC - Application for a new Retailer's Class D Restaurant license at 1608 17th Street NW (ABCA 127508)

Buddha Plug - Application for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer license at 2018 Florida Avenue NW (ABCA 127248)

Chair Roggensack moved to protest both applications on the grounds of peace, order and quiet concerns pending ABCA's acceptance of Settlement Agreements now being negotiated between the parties, at which time the ANC will withdraw the protests. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and passed. (VOTES 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests Au Lait DC's application for a new Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant license at 1608 17th Street NW and Buddha Plug's application for a new medical cannabis retailer license at 2018 Florida Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. The ANC agrees to withdraw the protest if and when a satisfactory Settlement Agreement is executed by the ANC and the Applicant and approved by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

NOTE: The resolution submitted to ABCA did not include Buddha Plug because the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board had voted earlier that day to accept a Settlement Agreement.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public space application by the Embassy of Peru to install a statue of Cesar Vallejo on public land at 1700 Massachusetts Avenue NW (DDOT 437075)

Commissioner Stein moved to adopt a resolution supporting the installation. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion. Commissioner Johnson proposed an amendment to the resolution conditioning approval on compliance with any applicable Americans with Disabilities Act considerations, which Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded, and the Commission passed. (VOTES: 7-0-1). The final resolution, including the amendment, passed. (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the Embassy of Peru’s public space application for the installation of a sculpture at 1700 Massachusetts Avenue NW, provided that the sculpture is compliant with any applicable Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Update and discussion regarding public restroom facility pilot near Dupont Circle

Jess Heinzelman, Co-Founder and COO of Throne Labs shared an update including website information and a request for public input on location.

General Agenda

Consideration of a resolution in support of Capital Pride Alliance and the 2024 festival

Sahand Miraminy of Capital Pride Alliance gave an overview of the 2024 parade route, block party, beer garden, and family area plan. Chair Roggensack moved to adopt a proposed resolution supporting the 2024 Festival. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which passed (VOTES: 8-0-0.) It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle has hosted the annual Capital Pride Celebration since its founding as Gay Pride Day in 1975,

WHEREAS, the Capital Pride Parade and Capital Pride Festival are among Washington, DC’s largest community events and carry extra significance to the LGBTQI+ community due to their location in the nation’s capital,

WHEREAS, the Capital Pride Alliance, the sponsor and producer of the annual Capital Pride Parade and Capital Pride Festival, plans this year’s 2024 Parade, Block party, and Festival, scheduled for June 8,2024, and June 9, 2024, respectively,

WHEREAS the 2024 Capital Pride Parade will honor the event’s history with a route beginning on 14th Street and ending on Penn Ave NW and complementary venues, while looking to its future – WorldPride Washington, DC, a 50th celebration in 2025,

WHEREAS these venues will include review areas along the route and a closure of 17th Street NW from R Street NW to P Street NW in order to enable a block party event during June 8, 2024, as approved by the Mayor’s Special Event Task Group, and

WHEREAS, this year's Capital Pride Parade is the 49th annual and is a critical building block toward WorldPride Washington, DC, on the occasion of the 50th celebration in one year and will benefit from strong advanced community and business engagement to ensure awareness, support, and appropriate logistical preparations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B welcomes the return of the annual Capital Pride Parade, Block Party, and Capital Pride Festival.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the Mayor's Office elevates the profile of the Capital Pride Parade and Capital Pride Festival, facilitating and prioritizing necessary permits, approvals, arrangements, and requisite support from District of Columbia authorities, agencies, and departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B pledges to support the Capital Pride Alliance and the LGBTQI+ community in outreach and associated activities in order to contribute to the successful return of this event to our neighborhood.

Administrative Matters

Addition of Oliva Brown to the Land Use Committee

Commissioner Davis moved to add Olivia Brown to the Land Use Committee. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which passed. (VOTES: 8-0-0)

Approval of the ANC's February meeting minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC's regular February 2024 Minutes. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. (VOTES: 8-0-0)

Approval of Administrative Assistant

Chair Roggensack made a motion to approve Anna Noakes as incoming administrative assistant for ANC 2B. Commissioner Stein seconded the motion which passed. (VOTES: 6-1-1)

Adjournment

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 9:17 pm.