

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

May 2024 Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 15, 2024

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Thomas Lee, Commissioner Rebecca Strauss

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm over Zoom ([2024 May 15 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](#)).

2. ROLL CALL:

Three out of the Three commissioners were present.

3. NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY:

Commissioner Shankle reported that there was an opening on the ANC for 2C-04.

4. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:

The commissioners introduced themselves.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Strauss motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

6. ELECTION OF SECRETARY:

MOTION: Shankle motioned to nominate Strauss to the Secretary position. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: Strauss motioned to approve the March 12 and April 15 Minutes. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

8. TREASURER REPORT:

a. BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

The Treasurer Report was postponed until the end of the meeting.

b. 4Q 23, 1Q24, AND 2Q24

Total Q1 expenditures were \$1,050.

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the 2024 Q1 financial report. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

There are no expenses yet in Q2.

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the 2024 Q2 financial report. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

The translation services invoice was discussed.

MOTION: Lee motioned to pay the invoice to Transparent for translation services. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

c. INTERRUPTION SERVICES

No discussion.

9. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Sharde Harris, sharde.harris@dc.gov, 202.821.8414, Sargent Philip Robinson, or Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov, 202.774.6866**

Shankle noted that translation is available during the meeting and asked for feedback on this new development.

Robinson stated that in the last 30 days, there were two assaults with a dangerous weapon. Both individuals were charged with arrest and there were no injuries. There was one burglary of a business. There were two vehicle thefts. Any Hyundai and Kia owners that are DC residents can be given a free steering wheel lock at the police station. There were several thefts, mostly near the CVS location. On May 21, there will be a community walk at 2 PM at City Center.

A resident inquired if better parking spaces could be found for police trailers during special events. Robinson stated that they can advise the outside agencies to find better parking spaces.

- b. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Paul Hrebenak, Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov, 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov, 202.839.1357.**

Hrebenak noted that there continues to be a significant decrease in crime in the area. They will continue to deploy mountain bike officers. He noted that many thefts occur in parking garages. There is continued support for the community hub. A resident noted that the wheelchair lift is not completely functional in the community hub. Hrebenak will ensure this is reported to maintenance.

- c. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Maddy White, mwhite@dccouncil.gov, Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.**

White shared upcoming dates for budget votes. Pinto is committed to funding public safety and revitalizing downtown. Truancy and absenteeism are a chronic issue, and proposed bills are

being reviewed to curb absenteeism and improve reporting. There is also focus to improve literacy rates. Legislation is in work for mopeds and noise amplification. There is also work being done to improve metro services in the area. Bike to work day is May 17.

A resident proposed better enforcement of bicycles on sidewalks.

10. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Mayor's 2025 Budget Presentation. Presentation by Duputy Mayor, Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Christopher.Powell2@dc.gov, 202.805.7122 and Grace Reeder, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), grace.reeder@dc.gov.**

Powell presented on the 2025 budget. There are significantly increasing costs, expiring one-time federal grants, and slowing revenues. The budget includes investments in health & human services. In Ward 2, there is investment for housing & economic development, schooling, and transportation.

Shankle asked if Powell believed that there are sufficient resources for unhoused people in the budget. Powell provided information on the current investments and stated it was a difficult and national problem. The new shelter project is in work. Specific investments to replace an existing shelter to improve conditions and capacity were discussed. A resident inquired about a walkthrough in the building. Another resident stated that the farmer's market has shut down and has not been consulted during the planning of the revitalization plan. Powell will make sure that the mayor receives this information.

- b. DowntownDC BID, Gerren Price Lucas Umana, Director of Public Space Operations, lukas@downtowndc.org, 202.270.0366.**

Umana presented work that has been done to improve safety in the Chinatown area. A safety team is being used to observe and build relationships. The team also collects trash and removes graffiti. Residents were encouraged to reach out to Umana with any feedback and fill out a survey. Work on planters in the area will begin this week.

DowntownDC BID is currently unable to work on the pavers but is working with DDOT to change that. A resident inquired about feces on a street corner. Umana will have his team address that tomorrow morning.

11. LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY:

- a. Capital Fringe. Julianne Brienza, Founding Director, Capital Fringe, julianne@capitalfringe.org, 202.731.6634.**

Brienza shared that this event will be held in three venues with currently vacant storefronts and will highlight many artists. The theme is happiness. Residents were encouraged to share images of happiness in the DC area on capitalfringe.org. The festival is July 11 – 21.

- b. BASIC DC PCS. Notice of Petition to Amend Charter: Expansion to increase its enrollment ceiling and to add kindergarten (K) to its grades served. In school year (SY) 2025 – 26, the school proposes opening grades K – 4 simultaneously with an initial enrollment of 318 students. Over the next three years, the school plans to increase its enrollment ceiling by 516 to total 1,227 students.**

BASIC DC is seeking to expand their charter with a maximum new enrollment of 400 students. Their students come from all wards, including Ward 2. BASIC DC is still looking for a new facility to accommodate these new students. Tonight, BASIC DC is only seeking to provide notice. There will be no traffic impact since the current building would not be used for the expanded student base. It is likely that the current facility will stay open in addition to a new facility, but that is dependent upon application status. BASIC DC would appreciate a letter of support from ANC 2C.

Lee asked for the impact of the farmer’s market in the school location. It was noted that the kids appreciated the farmer’s market in front of the school and there was no objection as long as it doesn’t interfere with pickup or drop-off times.

Shankle encouraged community members to contact ABCA regarding the recent approval of a cannabis facility in the area.

MOTION: Lee motioned to write a letter of support to BASIC DC for their expansion. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

12. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNIBIS LICENCING (ABCA):

- a. Convene at 600 14th DC, LLC, Trade Name: Convene, 600 14th DC, 600 14th Street, NW, New Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern (ABRA-128072)., Kristen B. Newby, Kristen.newby@bevlaw.com, 222.816.8848.**

Newby presented information on the license application, including details of the operating hours. The license is specifically for the 4th floor. The space will also be used for events. Regarding parking, Convene encourages all attendees to take public transportation.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to write a letter of support for Convene. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

- b. Café Concepts (Washington DC), LLC, Trade Name: Café Florello/Florellos Roman Café, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant (ABRA-128221), Stephen O’Brien, 202.625.7700, sobrian@malliosobrien.com.**

The location will be an Italian restaurant that will serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There will be outdoor seating with a capacity of 60 seats. A stipulated license is not needed.

MOTION: Strauss motioned to write a letter of support for Café Concepts. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

- c. **Chinatown Garden, Inc. Trade Name: Chinatown Garden Restaurant, 618 H Street, NW, Substantial Change to Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-025796), Yeni Wong, 202.438.4772, wongyeni@gmail.com.**

There was no one present to represent the establishment. The substantial change is a request for a change in the hours of entertainment inside the premises. The entertainment endorsement would entail a DJ or band.

A resident was concerned that no one was available to face the community and answer questions. Shankle noted that any community members can protest the license. It was noted that this establishment has been operating legally for many years.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to write a letter of support for Chinatown Garden, Inc. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

- d. **The Continent DC. Stipulated license. Arturo Mei, Arturo.mei@gmail.com. (Tentative pending placard.)**

Mei stated that The Continent DC will be serving African fine dining and is applying for a stipulated license. Occupancy will be about 75 and occupying hours were shared. There will be live music and a DJ. Shankle noted that they normally do not approve stipulated licenses before an establishment is placarded.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to write a letter of support for The Continent DC once the establishment is placarded. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

13. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE:

- a. **H ST NW Bus Stop Rebalancing (DDOT NOI#24-140-TDD). Removal of four (4) Bus Stop/Metrobus Zones (H St NW + 6th St NW eastbound (Bus Stop # 1001125), and extension of one (1) Metrobus Zone (H St NW+7th St NW eastbound (Bus Stop # 1001105). Melanie Marino, Transportation Planner, Transit Delivery, Division District Department of Transportation, melanie.marino@dc.gov, 202.873.3566.**

Marino presented the bus stop rebalancing project, which aims to reduce bus delays and improve efficiency. Four stops will be removed. The comment deadline is June 18. Residents shared their thoughts on the bus stop changes. The number of buses will remain the same.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to write a letter of support for the removal of three stops and the reconsideration of the stop near the library. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

- b. **Curbside Regulation Changes 1000 Block of E St NW, (DDOT NOI: 24-123-TDD). DDOT will modify the curbside designation on the 1000 block of E St NW to improve bus stop spacing and efficiency, to improve commercial loading access and operations, and maintain an accessible**

parking spot. Andrew Grinberg, Transportation Planner, Transit Delivery Division, District Department of Transportation, Andrew.grinberg@dc.gov, 202.855.2530.

Grinberg presented an NOI to show a visual of the change to the stop spacing. The stop will be removed at the end of the street and the commercial loading zone will be expanded. Metered parking will be expanded, and the accessible metered parking will be moved. The work will move forward after the NOI closes on June 4th.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to write a letter of support for the curbside regulation changes. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

14. PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION:

- a. Monument/H St Project, 613-617 H St NW. Time Extension of BZA. (BZA Case 20763). Christine Shiker, Partner Holland & Knight LLP, Christine.shiker@hklaw.com. 202.457.7167 and John Oliver, Associate, Holland & Knight LLP, john.oliver@hklaw.com, 202.469.5531.

Bloomfield provided historical information on the site and application. They are requesting a project extension because they were unable to obtain sufficient financing. There are no changes to the application. They expect to receive funds soon.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to write a letter of support for the time extension of BZA. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

- b. Mezcal Cantina, 777 6th ST NW, Chinatown Design Review, refacing awning and adding new LED signage. Carlos Ulloa, mezcalchinatownDC@gmail.com, 412.235.8023.

There was no one present to represent the establishment. The signage will be changed. It was noted that the Chinese characters are not as large as the English lettering.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter requesting that the Chinese characters be made more prominent on the sign. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

- c. The National Geographic Museum & Headquarters, 1145 17th Street, NW, National Geographic Society Public Space Improvements. Cary R. Kadlacek, Goulston & Storrs, ckadleck@goulstonstorrs.com, 202.721.1113.

Kadlacek presented on the public space improvement application. The architect shared the overall site plan. The proposed changes include improved entry stairs, new awnings, an ADA compliant ramp, strategic planting, and a pick-up/drop-off area. The bike lane will be raised, and a buffer area added.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for this project. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

Emily shared information on the base camp update. Visuals were shared of the courtyard entrance, pavilion structure, education center entrance, auditorium, archives, gallery, and eatery. The planned completion date is 2026.

OTHER

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Shankle motioned to Adjourn at 8:58 pm. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: 9 July 2024

Next Meeting: June 11, 2024, 6:00 pm. It will be a hybrid format.

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month throughout 2024.

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Subscribe to the ANC 2C listserve at www.anc2c.us.

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