



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 18th, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW

Online via Zoom

### Call to Order

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

### Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Ashley Warren (2D01) and Carole Feld (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum.

### Approval of Agenda

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's June 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### Administrative and Financial Matters

#### Commissioner's Comments

Chair Warren said that the Friends of Mitchell Park's annual Fall Fun Day will take place on Sunday, October 29th. She encouraged local residents to attend the event.

Commissioner Feld said that the Embassy of Pakistan's property at 2201 R Street NW has officially been sold. She said that the new owner is working with a local architect to create new design plans for the building. She gave an overview of some possible uses of the building that the new owner is considering.

Commissioner Feld said that the ANC is encouraging residents along Massachusetts Avenue NW to water the newly-planted street trees.

Commissioner Feld recognized the contributions of Donovan Boyd, the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) former Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist, to the

neighborhood. She said that Mr. Boyd has moved on to new opportunities. She introduced Christophe Wassmer, DDOT's new Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist.

### Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$14,916.68.

### Government Reports

#### Metropolitan Police Department

Lieutenant Timothy Beirne, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed a recent shooting and parking enforcement in the neighborhood with Lieutenant Beirne.

#### Mayor's Office

Christopher Powell, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated from Friday, September 15th to Sunday, October 15th and will include a parade. He added that DC's Theatre Week will take place from Thursday, September 21st to Sunday, October 8th and will include specially priced tickets at over 25 area productions.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the missing call box at the intersection of 24th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW and recent cement dumping on a neighborhood street with Mr. Powell.

#### Councilmember's Office

Aukima Benjamin, the Committee and Constituent Services Manager for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an overview of the work that Councilmember Pinto and her staff did around the community during the DC Council's summer recess. She said that Councilmember Pinto is continuing to focus on public safety, including by holding hearings regarding several public safety bills. She said that some of the bills address carjackings and domestic violence, increase protections for seniors and children, and ensure safer handling of evidence in sexual assault cases. She also gave an overview of the Councilmember's Secure DC Plan, which includes the introduction of sixteen bills focused on public safety. She said that the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety will soon hold hearings regarding the nomination for a new MPD Chief of Police and oversight of the Office of Unified Communications (OUC).

Ms. Benjamin said that the Department of Public Works' (DPW) annual leaf collection efforts will begin on Monday, November 13th. She said that DPW will give residents one week's notice before their leaves are to be collected.

## State Board of Education

Allister Chang, the Ward 2 Member of the State Board of Education (SBOE), said that his top priority as an SBOE Member is to advance literacy. He gave an overview of the most up to date literacy data for DC. He gave an overview of his work with Councilmember Pinto for DC to create a structured literacy action plan. He also gave an overview of his work to create financial literacy standards for high school students, as well as to update DC's School Report Card. He said that he is looking for feedback on what information local residents believe should be included on a School Report Card.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed changes in DC's literacy data with Mr. Chang.

## **New Business**

### Development Plans for 2151 California Street NW

Ronette Slamin, the founder of Embolden Real Estate, gave a visual presentation regarding the development plans for 2151 California Street NW. She said that the building was built in 1920 and has not received any significant rehabilitation work since then. She said that in May of 2023 Embolden Real Estate and the NHP Foundation purchased the building using the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) rights of the tenants in the building. She said that the development team's plan is to allow any resident who wants to stay to remain in the building but to still do a rehabilitation of the building. She said that the rehabilitation work will include some building stabilization work.

Ms. Slamin said that the building has 23 units, including 1 and 2 bedroom units, and the building is subject to rent control. She said that the development team is looking to add amenity space for the building's residents as part of the rehabilitation. She said that the critical repairs are the immediate next step and that the building rehabilitation will take place in the next one to two years.

Commissioners and meeting attendees discussed the history of the building, the current occupancy of the building, DC's TOPA process, the make-up of the team that purchased the building, the services that the development team would offer to building residents, the business case for pursuing the project, the income levels needed to rent an apartment in the building, the government subsidies that will be used to finance the building, the off-site property management company, the construction timeline, whether voucher holders will be accepted, ways that the neighborhood could support the project, the NHP Foundation's previous projects, and ways that the neighborhood can stay informed about the project with Ms. Slamin.

### Removal of a Dangerous Tree Between and Behind 2340 Massachusetts Avenue NW and 2342 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Commissioner Feld said that the ANC is working with the National Park Service (NPS) to remove the dangerous tree between and behind 2340 Massachusetts Avenue NW and 2342 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

### Trash Removal Along Rock Creek Parkway

Commissioner Feld said that the ANC is working with NPS to address the needed trash removal along Rock Creek Parkway.

### Amending the Taxi and Hotel Parking Zones at the Generator Hotel Washington DC at 1900 Connecticut Avenue NW

Christophe Wassmer, DDOT's new Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist, said that DDOT is investigating the request to amend the taxi and hotel parking zones at the Generator Hotel Washington DC at 1900 Connecticut Avenue NW.

### United States Secret Service Parking Zone on the North Side of 2500 Block of Belmont Road NW

Mr. Wassmer said that DDOT is investigating the United States Secret Service's parking zone on the north side of the 2500 block of Belmont Road NW. He said that DDOT is hoping to recover the Zone 2 parking spots on the block.

### Updates

#### Update Regarding the District Department of Transportation

Mr. Wassmer said that the request for speed bumps and one-way signage at the Generator Hotel Washington DC at 1900 Connecticut Avenue NW has been filed in DDOT's Traffic Safety Input (TSI) Dashboard for future review.

Mr. Wassmer said that DDOT has indicated that it has a plan to install a red light camera at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW but that the camera has not been installed yet.

Mr. Wassmer said that the walk time for the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW was last increased in late 2020. He said that DDOT has determined that any further timing increases will have negative impacts on traffic flow and thus an increase was deemed to not be necessary.

Mr. Wassmer said that the request for a traffic study for R Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue and Florida Avenue NW has been filed in DDOT's TSI Dashboard.

Commissioner Feld highlighted the need to add signage on the sidewalk adjacent to the alleyway entrance at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW. Mr. Wassmer said that he would look into the matter.

Mr. Wassmer said that it is expected that DDOT and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will reaffirm their decision to keep the bus stop at the Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Road NW where it currently is.

### **Update Regarding the Spanish Steps**

Chair Warren said that the ANC is trying to work with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) regarding the leaking wall near the Spanish Steps. She said that OFM representatives will be attending the ANC's regular October meeting. She added that the ANC is continuing to follow up with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) regarding the pool and fountain overflow at the Spanish Steps.

### **Announcements and Open Comment**

A local resident asked about the status of the planned fencing installation on the William Howard Taft Bridge. Chair Warren said that she would look into the matter.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, October 16th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm.