



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 1st, 2024; 6:30 p.m.

In-Person: Georgetown Visitation School, 35th Street and Volta Place NW, Second Floor  
Heritage Room  
Online via Zoom

### Call to Order- 6:32 pm

Chair Lohse called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Topher Mathews (2E02), Joe Massaua (2E04), Mimsy Lindner (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Daniel Chao (2E07) and John DiPierri (2E08) were present.

### Approval of the Agenda - 6:33 pm

#### Approval of the ANC's March 4th, 2024 Meeting Agenda - 6:33 pm

Commissioner DiPierri moved to approve the ANC's April 1st, 2024 meeting agenda. Commissioner Massaua seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

#### Approval of the ANC's January 29th, 2023 Meeting Minutes - 6:34 pm

Commissioner Chao moved to approve the ANC's March 4th, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Community Comment - 6:35 pm

#### Update from the Mayor's Office - 6:35 pm

Grace Reeder, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave an update from the Mayor's Office. Grace Reeder answered questions from Commissioners after presenting.

#### Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto- 6:44 pm

Maddy White, Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Scheduler, gave an update on the SecureDC bill and her FY2025 budget priorities. Maddy White answered questions from Commissioners after presenting.

#### Update from Georgetown Garden Club- 6:52 pm

Lee Childs gave an update on behalf of the Georgetown Garden Club.

#### Update on Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Multimodal Safety and Operational Improvement Plan/EA-

7:00 pm

Chair Lohse gave an update on Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Multimodal Safety and Operational Improvement Plan/ Environmental Assessment.

Update on Georgetown Access and Circulation Study Draft Recommendations- 7:05 pm

Chair Lohse gave an update on the Georgetown Access and Circulation draft recommendations. Resident Sarah Wade and Eric Lagenbacher commented on the matter.

Update regarding Hardy Middle School Student Hit by Car- 7:20 pm

Commissioner Putta provided an update regarding the student who was hit by a car at Hardy Middle School.

**Administrative – 7:25 pm**

Public Safety and Police Report- 7:25 pm

Sergeant Robinson provided an update from the Metropolitan Police Department. Stg Robinson answered questions from Commissioners and residents.

**Community Comment Continued - 7:39 pm**

Update from Georgetown University Students- 7:39 pm

Commissioners DiPierri and Massaua provided an update regarding Georgetown University.

**New Business - 7:42 pm**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding 2024 Rose Park Farmers Market- 7:42 pm

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

ANC 2E supports the Friends of Rose Park’s application to stage the 2024 Rose Park Farmers Market in Rose Park, located at 2609 Dumbarton Street NW, every Wednesday from May 1, 2024 to October 30, 2024 from 3 pm-7 pm. The market serves as a wonderful community-based gathering spot, while also providing residents with a place to shop for locally grown produce, buy pre-prepared food, purchase items from small local businesses, and enjoy special events like holiday celebrations and pup parades. ANC 2E fully supports this fantastic community building effort.

Consideration of a Resolution Commending 100 Years of Georgetown Garden Club- 7:43 pm

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

ANC 2E commends the Georgetown Garden Club (GGC) on its celebration of 100 years. The GGC is part of the heart and soul of Georgetown – working collaboratively on community beautification while strengthening our sense of community.

The GGC's focus on civic engagement has benefited all parts of our community. Through its annual Garden Tour, the GGC raises funds for local green spaces, parks, public gardens, and our tree-lined streets. The tour has become a highly respected event known throughout the Mid Atlantic. The GGC has strategically provided funds for new planting in addition to funds that maintain our community's existing green spaces. The GGC's beneficiaries have included Book Hill Park, Trees for Georgetown, Tudor Place's gardens, the rose garden at Montrose Park, Rose Park, Volta Park, the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy and Georgetown Waterfront Park.

ANC 2E wishes the GGC another 100 years of success in enhancing the beauty and unity of our community.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Mayor's Proposed FY 25 Budget- 7:44 pm

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

ANC 2E has urged you to include the below priorities in the final draft of the FY 2025 budget. ANC 2E recognizes that FY 2025 budget will mean significant reductions in many areas as COVID federal support ends. Thus, each of our requests both have tangible residential benefits and support your goals related to *public safety, parks and recreation centers, unhoused, education, and transportation*. Moreover, as we highlight below, these priorities directly align with:

- Budget requests already [sent to you](#) by Councilmember Pinto.
- Existing capital improvement commitments made to our community.
- City-wide efforts to address public safety, and transportation safety.

#### Public Safety

The following requests outlined in Councilmember Pinto's budget are of high priority to our community:

- Enhancing Officer Hiring and Retention at Metropolitan Police Department (MPD): Resident expectations are that retention includes a focus on robust MPD officer training, while hiring includes the Mayor's goals to reach pre-pandemic MPD staffing levels.
- Funding of Secure DC: The bill includes several initiatives that speak to our residents' concerns on accountability for crime, safe commercial corridors, ending cycles of violence and promoting government oversight among other things.

The following city-wide efforts are of high priority to our community:

- More Public Lighting: Earmark funds to install new lighting infrastructure that is requested in residential areas where dark spots exist.
- Maintaining the Mayor's Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC): ANC 2E has multiple parks that are either mixed city-Federal land, or fully Federal: Montrose Park, the C&O Canal, Rose Park, and Waterfront Park. Experience clearly demonstrates that coordination with the U.S. Park Police, who are understaffed, and the city's MPD is essential to public safety in Georgetown. ANC 2E asks that our city's Business Improvement Districts

(BIDs) that have safety officers, such as the Georgetown BID, be updated by the RTCC as needed.

### Parks and Recreation

It is essential to our community that the funding for the capital improvement commitments made to, and actively underway in our community, continue including:

- Renovation of Jelleff Recreation Center
- Volta Park Baseball Field restoration
- Ellington Field: Track and Field Houses restoration and renovation
- Book Hill and Triangle Park
- Note: ANC 2E also wants to verify that the funding earmarked for the Trolley Trestle restoration planning analysis in Ward 3 has been maintained.

In addition to long-awaited capital improvements noted above, our community urges that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has ample funding - and capacity - to conduct essential safety-driven maintenance as well as small renovations that will greatly enhance residential use. The safety and obvious maintenance issues have been shared with DPR by ANC 2E via numerous formal written and verbal communications; DPR has yet to address them.

- Maintenance and Enhancement to Volta Park including: filling in of a dangerous sink hole; and thereafter resurfacing key areas, making playground improvements, plus adding staffing for longer summer pool, more shaded areas around the pool and building of a tennis blackboard. (\$200,000)
- Maintenance of Rose Park including: fixing a broken irrigation system left undone by a DPR contractor paid by DPR that has resulted in a dangerous hole on the field plus an unlevel field due to water damage; and thereafter, replacement of benches damaged by a DPR contractor and completion of brick path, again, left undone by a DPR contractor who was paid. (\$150,000)

### Unhoused

The following requests outlined in Councilmember Pinto's budget are of high priority to our community:

- Promptly Move Unhoused Residents into Housing by Ensuring Adequate Staffing at DHS: ANC 2E agrees with Councilmember Pinto that it is incumbent on the District to move voucher recipients into housing as quickly as possible by expediting the case management assignment process for voucher recipients and clearing the backlog of residents who are matched with a voucher but remain unhoused.

### Education

All of the Education requests outlined in Councilmember Pinto's budget are of high priority to our community, especially her requests to:

- Support Student Literacy: Fund the Early Literacy Education Task Force Recommendations Reading.

- Maintain Equal Purchasing Power & Honor Capital Improvements: including auditorium redesign, new locker installation, and cafeteria design and construction at Hardy Middle.
- Increase Student Attendance by Expanding Home Visits between Educators and Families.
- Provide Safe Transportation for Students to School and Out of School Time Activities: It is essential that this issue be addressed – our children are not safe when leaving and arriving at our schools. Just last week, a Hardy Middle School student was hit by a car at 34<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Ave NW – our city must prioritize our children’s safety.

We also support Councilmember Frumin’s guiding principle that we Invest in District Youth, especially his request to:

- Ensure public school budgets are sufficient, consistent, and equitable.
- Fully fund the renovation of the MacArthur Avenue High School.

### Transportation

The following Transportation requests outlined in Councilmember Pinto’s budget are of high priority to our community:

- Enhance Funding to WMATA to Prevent Service Reductions and Fare Increases that Would Be Devastating for District Residents, Workers, and Businesses.
- Increase Parking Enforcement District-Wide and Ensure Equitable Enforcement in Georgetown. ANC 2E has commented numerous times on the challenges of illegal parking to our community.

ANC 2E also urges the city to greatly reduce the Brick Sidewalk Maintenance Turnaround Time. *The current turnaround time of 270+ days, which is frequently not even met, is unacceptable, especially given the city is pushing to have more people and alternative modes of transportation on our sidewalks.* Resources and a visible accountability program must be put in place to reduce the turnaround time and accurately track when 311 requests were initially made; ideally proactive inspection will occur given the number of injuries occurring that result in lawsuits against the city. Outsourcing options to local BIDs should be considered should the BID have the necessary appropriate staff and knowledgebase. (\$800k for staff and tracking)

### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Prohibition of Cannabis Retailers Near Schools Emergency Amendment Act of 2024- 7:52 pm

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

ANC 2E strongly endorses the passage on an emergency basis of the Prohibition of Cannabis Retailers Near Schools Emergency Amendment Act of 2024, and the related amendment and resolution. Without the adoption of this bill, medical cannabis retailers will be allowed to open within 300 feet of preschools, primary and secondary schools, and recreation centers if said schools or recreation centers happen to be located on a real estate lot fully or partially zoned commercial or industrial.

Such a result would contravene the ultimate purpose of the proximity prohibition, which is about creating a physical buffer between places where children routinely visit and the retail establishments regardless of zoning. ANC 2E is home to over a dozen pre-schools, primary and secondary schools and recreation centers, however some of these happen to occupy commercial lots. ANC 2E strongly believes that the children who attend these schools deserve the same protections as any other children throughout the city. The proposed bill would provide this protection.

ANC 2E strongly supports its immediate adoption.

**Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board – 8:01 pm**

**Application by Towne Wine and Liquor for a Renewal of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 1438 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-093813)- 8:01 pm**

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

ANC 2E has no objection to the application by Towne Wine and Liquor for renewal of the establishment’s Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store license at 1438 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

**Application by Hope, Cask, & Barrel for a Renewal for of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 1717 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA- 097883)- 8:01 pm**

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

ANC 2E has no objection to the application by Hop, Cask, & Barrel for renewal of the establishment’s Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store license at 1717 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

**Application by Herbivor Indian Cuisine for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1639 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-125073)- 8:02 pm**

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

ANC 2E protests Herbivor Indian Cuisine’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant at 1639 Wisconsin Avenue, NW based on the adverse impact on 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 presented to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board for approval. ANC 2E also supports a stipulated Retailer’s Class C license should the establishment’s application include a request for such.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse and Paul Maysak to negotiate and execute a settlement agreement with the applicant. The ANC further authorizes Commissioners Maysak and/or Lohse to represent the ANC at all hearings concerning the matter.

Application by Herbal Harvest for a Medical Cannabis Internet Retailer License at 1263 Wisconsin Avenue NW #2 (ABCA-127542)- 8:05 pm

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

ANC 2E protests the application of Herbal Harvest for a Medical Cannabis Internet Retailer license located at 1263 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. ANC 2E protests this application based on the adverse impact on peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood. ANC 2E agrees to withdraw the protest if, and when a satisfactory settlement agreement is executed by the ANC and the applicant and presented to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for approval.

ANC 2E would like to request ABCA continue to identify and fine tune rules as they apply to Medical Cannabis licensees, particularly internet retailers. Internet retailers should have to adhere to the same proximity rules that are in place for retail stores. This should include distance from each other, and distance from schools, libraries, playgrounds, and the like. The very popular delivery options (for restaurants, cannabis stores and now, internet retailers) will surely add to the regular neighbor and customer traffic congestion that already exists.

**Zoning – 8:19 pm**

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application to Permit a Massage Establishment on the Second Detached, Two-Story with Basement, Office Building in the MU-4 Zone at 1228 ½ 31st Street NW. (BZA #21117)- 8:19 pm

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

Global Wellness Options is a massage therapy business offering a variety of massage techniques to help people obtain better health. There will be two treatment rooms (3 massage tables total) in a small upstairs office located in Hamilton Court at 1228 ½ 31st Street NW. Swedish Massage, Deep Tissue Massage, Prenatal Massage and Manual Lymphatic Drainage (post-surgical massage) will be offered services. This business will compliment the planned upgrades at Hamilton Court.

ANC 2E supports the application for a zoning adjustment that would allow this Massage Establishment to open.

Board of Zoning Text Amendments to Subtitles I, X, Y and Z for Rules of Practice and Procedure (BZA #22-25) 8:25 pm

Chair Lohse proposed a resolution. Commissioner Lindner seconded which was voted on and passed (6-1-0).

ANC 2E joins other ANCs in voicing its opposition to the reduction of public input proposed in Zoning Commission Case 22-25 Amendments to Titles X, Y and Z of the DC Zoning Regulation. The Zoning Commission is considering a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NOPR) containing amendments to the operating rules of the Office of Zoning, the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment, including public notice requirements, allowed response times, provisions for modifying final orders and similar matters. The amendments also address important matters of substance, including allowing changes to be made to a Planned Unit Development's (PUD) intended use without a hearing after a final order has been issued. ANC 2E believes the public should be given ample ability to participate in the zoning process, and ANC review is a critical step in building local participation/awareness.

- ANC 2E opposes excluding ANCs from notice when the Office of Planning and the Office of Zoning initiate text amendments and map amendments. (proposed section 500.1). The Commissioners emphasize that the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Act, at DC Code §1-309.10(c)(1), states that “each agency, board, and commission shall ... before the formulation of any final policy decision or guideline with respect to ... proposed zoning changes ... affecting said Commission area ... provide to each affected Commission notice of the proposed action as required by subsection (b) of this section. Additionally, DC Code §1-309.10(c)(4) states the “Office of Zoning shall ensure that each affected Commission, the Commissioner representing the affected single member district, the affected ward Councilmember, and the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions is provided notice of applications, public hearings, proposed actions, and actions on all zoning cases.” Accordingly, ANC 2E Commissioners propose maintaining the requirement that ANCs receive notice of all zoning cases.
- ANC 2E proposes that text amendment in Case 22-25 provide that a public meeting to consider setting down a contested case not occur less than forty (40) days after the application is referred to the affected ANC; 35 days is not ample given the scheduling of public ANC meetings vary by month. This expansion of time will allow the minimum amount of time necessary for an ANC to post all relevant cases on the public ANC meeting agenda and consider the case at a public meeting. (Section 400.9.)
- ANC 2E does not support limiting reconsideration of zoning decisions only to those with party status, which is a very narrow body of people per current rules, and limiting the types of decisions which can be reconsidered further erodes public participation in the zoning process.
- ANC 2E requests that the Board explain to ANCs why an exemption of map and text amendments from racial equity analysis – as required by the Comprehensive Plan’s racial equity requirements and supported by the DC Attorney General – is proposed.



2E02-OG 24-194 (HPA 24-234)- TBD- 8:31 pm

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

2E05-OG 24-151 (HPA 24-179) 1220 - 1236 31st Street, NW- 8:34 pm

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

ANC 2E welcomes the work that is being done to enhance and revitalize Hamilton Court located at 1220-1236 31<sup>st</sup> Street, NW. The proposed Stone Gate with wood door will create a welcoming gateway into the complex. The plan for the interior courtyard is exciting and the new businesses will no doubt be embraced by neighbors and visitors alike.

ANC 2E applauds and supports this project.

2E05-OG 24-180 (HPA 24-218) 1048 29th Street, NW- 8:45 pm

*The applicant withdrew their application to the Old Georgetown Board.*

2E05-OG 24-184 (HPA 24-224) 3071 Canal Street, NW - 9:35 pm

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

This project at 3071 Canal Street NW is in a particularly important spot in Georgetown, between 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Thomas Jefferson Streets. This quaint block offers a peek into what life is like on the C & O Canal, past and present. 3071 Canal Street NW is a townhouse associated with the Canal House Boutique Hotel and the proposed addition would allow lodging for more visitors.

The applicant has worked hard with his architect to respect this historic district and ANC 2E supports this effort.

2E05-OG 24-188 (HPA 24-228) 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW- 9:43 pm

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

1025 Thomas Jefferson Street NW is an office building located at the intersection of K Street. This area is busy with pedestrians heading south from M Street to the Georgetown Waterfront. ANC 2E supports the applicant's plan to redo the ground level space to provide opportunity for new retail and activity on Thomas Jefferson Street. The proposed 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference center will also provide a great amenity for the tenants. This project will be a true positive for the building and area with minimal disruption on the street since most of the work is interior.

ANC is hopeful that the applicant and OGB can work together towards final approval so that the project can move forward soon.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Lohse adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.