



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1st, 2023; 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

### Call to Order - 6:32 pm

Commissioner Elizabeth Miller called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Topher Mathews (2E02), Paul Maysak (2E03), Joe Massaua (2E04), Mimsy Lindner (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), Elizabeth Miller (2E07), and John DiPierri (2E08) were present.

### Approval of the ANC's May 1st, 2023 Meeting Agenda - 6:32 pm

Commissioner Mathews moved to approve the ANC's May 1st, 2023 meeting agenda. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Approval of the ANC's April 3rd, 2023 Meeting Minutes - 6:32 pm

Commissioner Maysak moved to approve the ANC's April 3rd, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Administrative - 6:33 pm

#### Public Safety and Police Report - 6:33 pm

Lieutenant John Merzig and Sergeant Philip Robinson, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

### Community Comment - 6:49 pm

#### Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office - 6:49 pm

Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Director for the Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an update from the Councilmember's Office.

#### Update from Chris Rodriguez, the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), Regarding the Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget - 6:57 pm

Chris Rodriguez, the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), gave an update regarding the Mayor's proposed FY 2024 budget.

#### Update from DC Water Regarding the Lead Free DC Initiative - 7:13 pm

Sean Moore, a Communications Manager for DC Water, gave an update regarding the agency's Lead Free DC Initiative.

Update Regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study - 7:25 pm

Commissioner Lohse gave an update regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study.

Update Regarding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Better Bus Network Redesign - 7:30 pm

Commissioner Mathews gave an update regarding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Better Bus Network Redesign.

Update Regarding the New MacArthur High School - 7:34 pm

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding the new MacArthur High School.

Update from Georgetown University Students - 7:35 pm

Commissioners DiPierri and Massaua gave an update regarding Georgetown University students.

**New Business - 7:41 pm**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of General Services' (DGS) Maintenance of Rose Park - 7:41 pm

Commissioner 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:

Our city is lucky to have over seventy recreation centers plus hundreds of small parks. ANC 2E appreciates all that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of General Services (DGS) do to maintain these city assets. The ANC knows that DPR and DGS staff work very hard to address maintenance needs, understanding that demand can outweigh resources. The ANC urges DPR and DGS to collaborate on specific maintenance needs of Rose Park and the Rose Park Recreation Center and to update the ANC on any progress regarding the city launching an online tracking tool for DC park maintenance.

Specific and Current Maintenance Needs at Rose Park

For quite some time, certain items in Rose Park have needed maintenance. These maintenance items have been highlighted to the city by Rose Park's ANC Commissioner, the Friends of Rose Park (FRP), and the 3-1-1 system.

About two years ago, Rose Park was lucky enough to have its softball field redone. It had been almost twenty years since the softball field had any major work done. Unfortunately, the contractor that DPR and DGS retained to do the initial field renovation has not completed some of its work. Unfinished items include:

- Brick pathway on 26th Street NW was ripped up by the contractor and still not fully replaced,
- Issues exist with the new irrigation system and field leveling, which leaks and frequently causes a mud pit between first and second base, and
- Benches were not leveled along with the new field level and thus are now very low.

General Items Requiring Maintenance or Resource Allocation, Many of Which Pose Safety Issues

- Tot lot and playground require mulch and sand to protect falls,
- Leaking water fountain by the tot lot,
- Inconsistent bathroom access and broken toilets, including during the weekly farmers market,
- Trash: need for more cans, more pick-ups, and piloting of locked cans given rodent issues, and
- Tree trimming, including by the flag post.

Piloting of Maintenance Tracking Tool

When COVID began in 2020, Rose Park’s ANC Commissioner and FRP were in discussions with DPR to pilot an online park maintenance tracking tool. An accessible tool such as this would be a great time saver for those who formally report DC park maintenance needs, like ANCs, and DPR staff who respond. Using an online tool or electronically exchangeable template would significantly streamline the current process, which is non-uniform emails, one-off DGS request form submissions, letters, meetings, and 3-1-1. The current process is not ideal for anyone, especially those volunteering their time who may not know the city maintenance process.

ANC 2E fully appreciates all that DPR and DGS staff do for our parks. The ANC looks forward to working with DPR and DGS, and any contractors, to address the above-noted maintenance needs and to pilot the online tracking tool.

Certificate of Need Application by SkinSpirit to Continue Operation of a Medspa at 1855 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite A - 7:46 pm

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

ANC 2E supports the Certificate of Need (CON) application by SkinSpirit to continue operation of a medspa at 1855 Wisconsin Avenue NW. SkinSpirit fills a void in the neighborhood and the ANC looks forward to their continued operations.

**Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Control Board - 8:06 pm**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Control Board’s Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking Resulting from the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022 - 8:06 pm

Commissioner 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:

On January 30, 2023, Mayor Muriel Bowser signed the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022, effective March 22, 2023. On June 7, 2023, the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board will hold a virtual hearing to receive public comment concerning the Medical Cannabis Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking. The emergency and proposed rulemaking amends Subtitle C of Title 22 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations to implement the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022 (D.C. Law 24-332; D.C. Official Code §§ 7-1761.01, et seq.). Written comments are due June 9, 2023, while those interested in testifying to the board must inform the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration's (ABCA) General Counsel by June 2, 2023.

Under this new ABCA process, ANCs will be responsible for reviewing medical cannabis retailer business licenses that want to operate in their ANC. Constituents of ANC 2E have voiced strong interest in understanding how the city's medical cannabis rules may impact Georgetown, including adherence to Old Georgetown Board (OGB) requirements. The ANC is determining the extent to which the ANC will comment to the board and whether the comments will be delivered in writing or virtually.

ANC 2E designates Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse and Mimsy Lindner, who represent single member districts 2E06 and 2E05, respectively, to represent the ANC at this hearing. ANC 2E commissioners will coordinate their review of the draft ANC testimony before any final comments from the ANC are submitted to the board.

### **Public Space Committee - 8:13 pm**

#### **Public Space Application for Streetscape Improvements, Including Widening a Curb Cut, New Window Wells, New Steps and Stoops, and New Leadwalks at 3314 Volta Place NW, 3314 1/2 Volta Place NW, and 1524 33rd Street NW - 8:13 pm**

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

ANC 2E has no objection to the public space application for 3314 Volta Place NW, 3314 1/2 Volta Place NW, and 1524 33rd Street NW. The ANC continues to support the project for these two new homes that have been reviewed and approved by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB).

#### **Public Space Application by the Georgetown BID to Relocate a 2019 Public Parklet Uphill, Occupying 2 Metered Parking Spaces at 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street NW - 8:19 pm**

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

ANC 2E supports the Georgetown BID's public space application to relocate a parklet on Thomas Jefferson Street NW slightly uphill from its current location. The parklet will occupy two parking spots, as it does currently, and will be placed just south of Baked & Wired.

**Old Georgetown Board - 8:23 pm**

**SMD 2E03 - OG 23-200 (HPA 23-310) 1610 32nd Street, NW - 8:23 pm**

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

ANC 2E does not take a position on the actual staircase solely because it is not highly visible from the public way. The ANC does, however, take issue with work being done without a permit and asks that the Old Georgetown Board looks closely at the effect on neighbors and possible solutions.

**SMD 2E03 - OG 23-201 (HPA 23-311) 1408 Wisconsin Avenue, NW - 8:30 pm**

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

ANC 2E is especially frustrated that work was done in this high visibility area of Wisconsin Avenue NW without a permit or any review. The ANC does not support a permit for work already completed in this location and asks that the Old Georgetown Board looks closely at the building's prior status and how this change affects the historic character of our neighborhood. The ANC requests that the building's façade be returned to the status at the time of the current owner's purchase.

**SMD 2E05 - OG 23-199 (HPA 23-309) 2900-2922 M Street, 1132 29th Street, NW - 8:52 pm**

Commissioner Lindner moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Massaua seconded the motion. Chair Miller moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-1). Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

As stated in the resolution from the ANC 2E's April 2023 meeting, the ANC continues to support Phase I of this project and welcomes the introduction of Phase II. The ANC appreciates the well thought out plans for the interior lot and looks to the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) for their guidance as to the impact that this project will have on the historic village. The ANC believes that incorporating the new with the old is a challenge but can yield a positive outcome.

ANC 2E does not traditionally support roof decks. The ANC looks forward to seeing the applicant's transportation plan for the site, including loading and unloading, and any adjustments to the structure that will result from the transportation plan.

SMD 2E05 - OG 23-202 (HPA 23-312) 3123 N Street, NW - 9:20 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to adopt a proposed resolution to the Old Georgetown Board regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E asks the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) to look closely at the impact that this fireplace construction has on the neighbors' line of sight, the height of the structure exceeding the fence line, and the impact on the gardens and tree canopy. The ANC asks that OGB ensures that this structure, or any alternate structure, adheres to historic district guidelines. The neighboring properties are immediately adjacent and there is no alley to serve as a buffer. The fireplace is clearly visible to the neighbors.

ANC 2E believes that the neighbors were not given the opportunity to review the fireplace addition and thus proper permitting is in question. There has been a Stop Work Order issued for the property. The ANC supports this stoppage and suggests that the applicant pursues proper permitting.

Separately from OGB review there are also safety issues regarding fire, smoke, and embers, which cannot be contained. ANC 2E urges the applicant to consult with DC's Fire Marshal.

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

ANC 2E strongly urges DC's Fire Marshal to inspect a proposed outdoor fireplace at 3123 N Street NW. The ANC shares the safety concerns of neighbors with regards to the likelihood of uncontained fire, smoke, and embers. The placement of this permanent structure so close to wooden fences is in an area where many yards and homes are adjacent.

SMD 2E05 - OG 23-185 (HPA 23-293) 3071 Canal Street, NW - 9:31 pm

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

SMD 2E06 - OG 23-194 (HPA 23-304) 2716 O Street, NW - 9:31 pm

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

This applicant had a Stop Work Order issued for this property as both the applicant's city permits and Old Georgetown Board (OGB) applications are expired. Both plans and permits were sought by another owner many years ago and the steps needed to update the plans and permits were not pursued by the developer who now owns the property. It is unclear if the permits can now even be renewed or if enough time has passed that the applicant must begin

a new application and permit process. It should be noted that this property is a semi-attached home. Thus, any unpermitted work is unsafe and detrimental to all in the immediate vicinity. ANC 2E requests that this application be sent back to the initial stage of the OGB planning process.

Additionally, ANC 2E asks that OGB carefully reviews the size of this renovation. This historic block is characterized by modest homes with generous yards and mature trees. Rear additions should not project substantially beyond the adjacent building in order to maintain this character. This property would be nearly doubling in size. The building already extends 10 feet beyond its immediate neighbor to the east and thus with the proposed renovation it will be 25 feet longer. Beyond the character impact, the light of the neighbor to the east will be significantly reduced in both the neighbor's living room and garden.

**Adjournment - 9:45 pm**

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.