



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 2nd, 2023; 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

Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse 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), Daniel Chao (2E07), and John DiPierri (2E08) were present.

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

#### Approval of the ANC's October 2nd, 2023 Meeting Agenda - 6:33 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to approve the ANC's October 2nd, 2023 meeting agenda. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

#### Approval of the ANC's September 5th, 2023 Meeting Minutes - 6:33 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to approve the ANC's September 5th, 2023 minutes. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

### Administrative - 6:33 pm

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

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

### Community Comment - 6:48 pm

#### Update from the Mayor's Office - 6:48 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.

#### Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office - 6:59 pm

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

#### Update from Washington Gas Regarding PROJECTpipes - 7:09 pm

Monica West, the Manager of Stakeholder Engagement for Washington Gas, and Jeff Vogt, a Construction Manager for Washington Gas, gave an update regarding the company's PROJECTpipes.

Update from the District Department of Transportation Regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study - 7:19 pm

Ted Van Houten, a Transportation Planner for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave an update regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study.

Update from Georgetown Main Street Regarding the Georgetown Fall Market on Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th and Chicken Pot Pie-Athon Starting Friday, October 13th - 7:44 pm

Rachel Shank, the Executive Director of Georgetown Main Street (GMS), gave an update regarding the organization's Georgetown Fall Market on Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th and Chicken Pot Pie-Athon starting Friday, October 13th.

Update from the Citizens Association of Georgetown Regarding the Fall Fundraiser and Cocktail Party on Thursday, October 12th - 7:51 pm

Brittany Sawyer, the Executive Director of the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), gave an update regarding the organization's Fall Fundraiser and Cocktail Party on Thursday, October 12th.

Update from Georgetown Ministry Center Regarding the Spirit of Georgetown Event on Wednesday, October 4th - 7:54 pm

Kelly Andreae, the Executive Director of the Georgetown Ministry Center (GMC), gave an update regarding the organization's Spirit of Georgetown Event on Wednesday, October 4th.

Update Regarding the Department of Parks and Recreation's Jelleff Recreation Center Project and the Duke Ellington Field Project - 7:58 pm

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Jelleff Recreation Center Project and the Duke Ellington Field Project.

Update Regarding Neighborhood Schools - 8:04 pm

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding neighborhood schools.

Update from Georgetown University Students - 8:08 pm

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

**New Business - 8:11 pm**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Capping the Number of Cannabis Retail Stores in Georgetown - 8:11 pm

Chair 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:

ANC 2E and many of its constituents have noted a significant increase in the number of new businesses opening in our community centered around cannabis – recreational cannabis as a gift or medical cannabis.

ANC 2E understands that this noticeable increase is due to city laws regarding recreational cannabis use and sales and evolving regulations regarding the medical cannabis dispensary licensing process. In Washington, DC, it is legal for an adult to possess up to two ounces of cannabis and consume cannabis on private property, however it is illegal to buy or sell it unless for medical reasons (up to 8 ounces every thirty days). Thus, recreational stores offer a “gift” of cannabis with the purchase of another item, such as a t-shirt or a sticker. Meanwhile, medical cannabis dispensaries offer products and adults self-certify that they have a qualifying medical condition. According to proposed regulations from the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board, local ANCs will be involved in reviewing licenses for the medical cannabis dispensaries that are appearing.

Given the expected increase in recreational cannabis use and medical cannabis dispensary businesses, ANC 2E is interested in working with Councilmember Pinto and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) on how this growing line of business will impact our community. The ANC, for example, commented in June 2023 on the ABC Board’s draft emergency and proposed rulemaking resulting from the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022. The ANC recommended to the ABC Board various changes to the proposed final regulations such as waiting to allow the use of summer gardens by these businesses at this time. The ANC has shared our comments to the ABC Board with your offices.

ANC 2E supports having a diversity of businesses in our community. Therefore, the ANC seeks to explore the methods to establish a cap on the number of allowed licensed retailers in our community. As the ANC determines how to best integrate this evolving business line into our historic community, the ANC also requests a partnership regarding how to ensure closure of the unlicensed cannabis businesses. Finally, the ANC has observed that some of the cannabis businesses appear to be unaware of the community regulations regarding what is in public view, for example rules on advertising and the use of neon. The ANC hopes to collaborate on educating this new and growing business line regarding meeting our established community expectations. The ANC looks forward to collaborating on this important topic.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle Funding - 8:19 pm

Commissioner Massaua 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:

ANC 2E awaits the opportunities that a new fiscal year brings. On October 1, 2023 \$250,000 in funding was unlocked “for planning for future restoration and possible purchase of the Trolley Trestle across the southern end of Glover Archbold Park.”

This Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle presents a unique opportunity for preservation and restoration of a historic structure. ANC 2E notes that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will be assuming liability for the structure, but believes it is prudent that DDOT be a decision-maker, rather than the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

As the only trestle remaining in the district, ANC 2E supports the efforts of the DC Preservation League (DCPL) to encourage DDOT to purchase the historic trestle from WMATA, which is actively seeking to raze this trestle.

Therefore, ANC 2E requests that DDOT appoints a project manager and develops a plan to spend the \$250,000 in funding. The ANC further requests that DDOT provides a status report by November 17th, 2023.

### **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Control Board - 8:25 pm**

#### **Application by Residents for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 3000 K Street NW - 8:25 pm**

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

ANC 2E protests Residents’ application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant license at 3000 K Street 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 between the ANC, CAG (Citizens Association of Georgetown), and the applicant and is presented to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board for approval.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioner Mimsy Lindner to negotiate and execute a settlement agreement with the applicant. The ANC further authorizes Commissioner Lindner, Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse, and/or ANC 2E Executive Peter Sacco to represent the ANC at all hearings concerning the matter.

### **Public Space Committee - 8:30 pm**

#### **Public Space Application by Thor Equities for Streetscape Improvements, Including Rebuilding Sidewalks, the Closure or Reduction in Size of Curb Cuts, and the Installation of Bike Racks and Tree Plantings, at 3000 M Street NW - 8:30 pm**

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

As stated in previous resolutions, ANC 2E continues to welcome the progress at the project site at 3000 M Street NW. This public space application symbolizes the continued commitment of the applicant. This proposed streetscape for 3000 M Street NW will comply with the approved planned unit development (PUD) plan and approved Old Georgetown Board (OGB) plan. In addition, Public Space Committee staff members have reviewed the plans in detail to ensure this compliance, as well as meeting all public space requirements.

ANC 2E supports this application. The ANC hopes that this public space permit will help keep this project on track.

### **Zoning - 8:45 pm**

#### **Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for Special Exceptions from the Access Requirements and Lot Occupancy Requirements to Construct a Detached, Two-Story Accessory Garage, to an Existing, Attached, Three-Story with Cellar, Principal Dwelling Unit at 3315 N Street NW - 8:45 pm**

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

ANC 2E Commissioner Paul Maysak has communicated with the three adjacent neighbors who do not object to using 69% of the lot. Therefore, ANC 2E does not have objection to the special exception from the lot occupancy requirements.

In reference to the special exception from the access requirements resulting from building to the property line, it should first be noted that ANC 2E does not take this special exception request lightly. Commissioner Maysak has walked the alley many times and communicated directly with the adjacent neighbors. The subject home is located at the widest section of this public alley at 15 feet and 9 inches wide. The ANC notes that the alley exit at 33rd Street NW decreases to under 10 feet wide, therefore this specific area in question is 50% wider by Commissioner Maysak's measurements. Given this fact and the fact that Commissioner Maysak has spoken to the immediate neighbors who do not express objection to the special exception, ANC 2E does not object to the special exception from the access requirements.

#### **Zoning Commission Application for a Campus Plan Amendment and Further Processing to Construct the Farrand House at 1732 32nd Street NW - 8:54 pm**

Commissioner Chao 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:

Dumbarton Oaks, located on a 16 acre site at the north end of the Georgetown Historic District, serves as one of the premier centers of scholarship in the fields of Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and garden and landscape studies. Its museum, concerts, and world-renowned gardens receive tens of thousands of visitors from the general public annually.

In 2021 the Zoning Commission approved the current 20-year campus plan with support from ANC 2E, however the Trustees for Harvard University are requesting an amendment to that 2020-2040 campus plan in order to construct a new mixed program building named Farrand House in lieu of a previously planned greenhouse (Building 7).

The Farrand House will consist of classrooms, a digital humanities center, an artists' studio, and public galleries – 2,870 square feet larger than the previously planned greenhouse but will not exceed the existing density requirement of 0.16 floor area ratio (FAR).

Lastly, the amendment also includes the relocation and reconfiguration of existing cooling towers, mechanical equipment, and service court at the northwest edge of the site.

ANC 2E fully supports the Trustees for Harvard University's application to amend its existing campus plan in order to allow for the construction of the Farrand House and the relocation and reconfiguration of cooling towers, mechanical equipment, and service court.

### **Old Georgetown Board - 8:59 pm**

#### **OG 23-348 (HPA 23-555) Curb Lane of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, NW - 8:59 pm**

Commissioner Mathews moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-3-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E appreciates the Georgetown Business Improvement District's (BID) action to continue the sidewalk extension and streateries pilot ("pilot"). Previous resolutions, some passed during the height of the pandemic by the ANC, recognized that the pilot has contributed greatly to the vibrancy and economic activity of the commercial corridors. The ANC is today weighing in specifically on the BID's application of the pilot's continuation for another two years.

The pilot has drawn a strong reaction as evidenced by a survey showing solid support and also a widespread petition opposing the pilot's continuation without measurable commitments and goals to improve and change existing operations.

ANC 2E agrees with the sentiment that the pilot is worth continuing and further agrees that short, medium, and long-term improvements must be made. The improvements must address ongoing concerns relating to: aesthetics and quality of materials used, consistency with the historic district, impacts to traffic circulation, consistent year-round usage, maintenance (including sanitation and aesthetics), commercial delivery and trash-collection management, and pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The BID's justification for the longer term is that addressing these concerns – particularly the aesthetic ones – will require longer term planning, financing, and government approval than a single year extension provides. In order to address concerns about the requested permit's length, the BID has set forth a series of promised milestones targeting these areas of concern. The milestones have target dates for significant improvements throughout the term.

Weighing the justifications for the longer term against the concerns over granting such a lengthy extension, ANC 2E concludes that it is comfortable with a two year extension based upon the applicant's proposed milestones. If the permit is granted, the ANC will be meeting regularly with the staff of the BID in order to further the goal of addressing the issues described above and ensuring that the BID meets the promised milestone schedule. Furthermore, the ANC will work with the city to incorporate the recommendations of the ongoing Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study and ensure that the pilot conforms to those recommendations. The ANC is confident that through a cooperative approach we can achieve the goals expressed overwhelmingly by the community: to keep the best parts of the pilot and bring crucial improvements to each area of concern.

ANC 2E therefore supports the BID's application to continue its pilot.

SMD 2E02 - OG 23-352 (HPA 23-559) 3238 and 3232 R Street, NW - 10:25 pm

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

SMD 2E02 - OG 23-350 (HPA 23-557) 1729 Wisconsin Avenue, NW - 10:33 pm

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

ANC 2E welcomes the redevelopment of 1729 Wisconsin Avenue NW. This property has been vacant for nearly ten years. During that time the property has fallen into increasingly poor shape and has become an attractive nuisance to groups of teenagers doing what teenagers do in and around vacant buildings. Restoring the building and introducing a new permanent tenant will go a long way towards improving the current situation.

That said, ANC 2E shares the concerns over the rooftop patio expressed by the neighbors along S Street NW. The ANC has long expressed an aversion to roof decks due to their potential negative impacts to neighbors' peace and privacy. However, a rooftop space may be acceptable in this case if it were entirely oriented towards Wisconsin Avenue NW with sufficient sound and visual barriers to the east. The ANC looks forward to seeing the plans evolve for this project and, most of all, for the current situation to come to an end as soon as possible.

SMD 2E03 - OG 23-345 (HPA 23-552) 1316 34th Street, NW - 10:42 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 thanks the applicants for sharing the plans and given the fact that there are no objections from the neighbors, the ANC supports the homeowners' efforts to improve their home per the presented plans and stay in the neighborhood.

SMD 2E03 - OG 23-326 (HPA 23-533) 3265 Prospect Street, NW - 10:48 pm

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

ANC 2E does not support the mural and trusts that the applicants will rescind their application.

SMD 2E03 - OG 23-325 (HPA 23-532) 3265 Prospect Street, NW - 11:15 pm

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

ANC 2E asks the Old Georgetown Board to review the plans carefully in order to reach the board's own conclusions. The ANC has no objection to the striped awnings.

SMD 2E05 - OG 23-341 (HPA 23-548) K Street at 29th Street, NW - 11:19 pm

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

The Georgetown Gateways Project was conceived over ten years ago during the Georgetown 2028 community planning process. In response to residents' desire for some sort of "sense of arrival" to Georgetown's historic district, this gateway sign was designed and is finally here. ANC 2E applauds the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) for all its hard work and persistence in getting one step closer to recognizing K Street NW as an important gateway into Georgetown. The ANC supports the application for the "GEORGETOWN" lettering and painted words "WATERFRONT," a sign to be installed so that visitors can be welcomed to Georgetown's K Street NW corridor appropriately.

Adjournment - 11:26 pm

Chair Lohse adjourned the meeting at 11:26 pm.