



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 5th, 2023; 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

### Call to Order - 6:34 pm

Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse called the meeting to order at 6:34 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.

### Election of ANC Officers - 6:36 pm

#### Election of the ANC's Chair - 6:36 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to elect Commissioner Lohse as the ANC's Chair. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

#### Election of the ANC's Vice Chair - 6:37 pm

Commissioner Mathews moved to elect Commissioner Lindner as the ANC's Vice Chair. Chair Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

### Approval of the Agenda - 6:38 pm

#### Approval of the ANC's September 5th, 2023 Meeting Agenda - 6:38 pm

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

#### Approval of the ANC's June 29th, 2023 Meeting Minutes - 6:38 pm

Commissioner DiPierri moved to approve the ANC's June 29th, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

### Administrative - 6:38 pm

#### Public Safety and Police Report - 6:38 pm

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

#### Approval of the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 3 Financial Report - 7:02 pm

Commissioner DiPierri moved to approve the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 3 financial report. Commissioner Maysak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2024 Budget - 7:03 pm

Commissioner Putta moved to approve the ANC's FY 2024 budget. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

**Community Comment - 7:08 pm**

Update from the Mayor's Office - 7:08 pm

Christopher Powell, 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 - 7:10 pm

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

Update Regarding Local Schools and the Cooling System at Hardy Middle School - 7:17 pm

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding local schools and the cooling system at Hardy Middle School.

Update Regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study - 7:24 pm

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

Update from the Citizens Association of Georgetown Regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study - 7:32 pm

Stephanie Bothwell, the Chair of the Citizens Association of Georgetown's (CAG) Urban Landscape Committee, gave an update regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study.

Update from Georgetown Main Street Regarding Art All Night on Friday, September 29th - 7:43 pm

Rachel Shank, the Executive Director of Georgetown Main Street (GMS), gave an update from the organization regarding Art All Night on Friday, September 29th.

Update Regarding the Duke Ellington Field Improvement Project Meeting on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 pm at the Georgetown Neighborhood Library and via Webex at: <https://dukeellington-field.splashthat.com/> - 7:49 pm

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding the Duke Ellington Field Improvement Project meeting on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 pm.

Update from Georgetown University Students - 7:51 pm

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

**New Business - 7:56 pm**

**Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Georgetown BID Pursuing an Extension of the Sidewalk Extensions and Streateries Project - 7:56 pm**

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

ANC 2E acknowledges that the Georgetown Business Improvement District's (BID) Sidewalk Extensions and Streateries Project has brought benefits to the neighborhood in terms of commercial vitality and pedestrian experience. With the current permit expiring at the end of this calendar year, the ANC expresses its desire for the BID to pursue an extension of fundamental aspects of its pilot program with crucial modifications and improvements.

Per previous ANC 2E resolutions on this pilot, the ANC continues to have concerns about elements of the program, including, but not limited to, aesthetics, impacts to traffic flows and congestion and associated environmental issues, trash management, micromobility safety, and management of commercial deliveries. The ANC is expressing its support while also acknowledging that a District Department of Transportation (DDOT) study is underway for a holistic vision of Georgetown's public space, including along M Street NW and Wisconsin Avenue NW. The ANC expects that the BID's application for an extension will respond to the ANC's expectations and concerns by including measurable milestones for actively addressing them.

ANC 2E looks forward to reviewing the BID's required applications for the pilot extension in October – for the Old Georgetown Board – and November – for the Public Space Committee's review – of this year. The ANC believes that through this process the BID's pilot will continue to contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood while a permanent holistic vision for the neighborhood streetscape is developed and reviewed.

**Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Jelleff Recreation Center Project - 8:24 pm**

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

ANC 2E thanks the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for making the July meeting regarding the Jelleff Recreation Center Project a hybrid meeting and asks that the agency continues to do so in order to maximize community participation.

DPR's timeline presented at the last meeting stated that the "Design Phase" would finish by summer 2023 and that the "Permit Drawings and Permit Review Phase" would start in summer 2023. However, the promised follow-up meeting must be scheduled first, so ANC 2E requests that the meeting is scheduled as soon as possible. Per the timeline provided, and to prevent further delay, ANC 2E requests that DPR holds the next public meeting before November and announces it by mid-October. In addition:

- ANC 2E appreciates having more than one design option presented.
- While ANC 2E appreciates that the two design options presented include a second gym, that gym is much smaller. The ANC therefore appreciates that DPR has agreed to present at least one more option, one with two full size gyms.
- ANC 2E requests more data on overall and per-room square footage; only a few dimensions were available for only a few rooms.

One of ANC 2E’s concerns is that it appears that the usable indoor square footage in the two options is significantly less than the proposed square footage in the feasibility study, due in part to all the usable space being moved from the basement to above ground, the second gym, and the proposed two-floor lobby. Thus,

- ANC 2E requests that DPR confirms the current usable square footage (the ANC believes that it is 21,000 square feet), the usable square footage in the feasibility study options, and the usable square footage of DPR’s two new options and all options going forward.
- ANC 2E requests that DPR proposes options with more usable square footage, perhaps by adding a few basement rooms. There are currently many basement rooms and the ANC appreciates that DPR has moved them up for more natural light. However, the many users of the recreation center, including the large and growing afterschool program (run for decades by the Boys & Girls Club), will need more usable square footage.
- ANC 2E requests that DPR proposes options that would best facilitate a swift, efficient, and safe expansion project should additional funds be secured in the future.
- DPR’s proposals do not include any significant improvements to the swimming pool. In the results of a recent survey conducted by ANC 2E, it was shown that the swimming pool is the most popular amenity. The ANC requests that DPR’s proposals allow for future improvements to the swimming pool, including the possibility to enclose it for year-round use.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation’s Notice of Intent for the Removal of Parking Meters on the 3100 Block of N Street NW - 8:31 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 acknowledges receipt of the District Department of Transportation’s (DDOT) August 23rd, 2023 Notice of Intent (NOI) to respond to the ANC’s January 2023 resolution regarding the 3100 block of N Street NW. The ANC requested the removal of four parking meters on the south side of N Street NW near the Wisconsin Avenue NW intersection. While the ANC appreciates that DDOT has agreed to remove two parking meters, the ANC wants to reiterate the importance of “fixing” this intersection and feels that removing all four parking meters is the best start.

That being said, ANC 2E also acknowledges DDOT’s rationale that soon-to-be issued streetery guidelines and Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study recommendations may shed new light on this corner and how to improve traffic flow and safety. Until that

happens, the ANC would like to once again request that DDOT removes all four parking meters.

ANC 2E appreciates DDOT's acknowledgement of the neighborhood's illegal parking challenge; the ANC has consistently asked for greater parking enforcement and the ANC urges DDOT to help communicate this ongoing community issue to the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Additionally, ANC 2E requests that DDOT makes the agency's January 23rd, 2023 NOI regarding the 3100 block of N Street NW publicly available via the DDOT website as is customary in such DDOT communications.

Finally, ANC 2E requests that DDOT removes, if not the four, the two noted parking meters as soon as possible, but certainly before the end of 2023.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study Options - 8:34 pm

Commissioner Mathews 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 strongly supports the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) long term plans to construct a new cross-town Metrorail line. This improvement would provide critical passenger capacity for the system. Moreover, this construction would provide an opportunity to introduce one, or more, Metrorail stations in the Georgetown neighborhood. This would provide a transformative opportunity to address long standing transportation challenges for Georgetown. The ANC encourages WMATA to work with the city and its regional partners to accelerate the planning and construction of this critically needed improvement.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Holy Trinity School's Picnic at Volta Park on Saturday, September 9th - 8:41 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 fully supports Holy Trinity School's application for a permit to hold a picnic with a bluegrass band with amplification in Volta Park on Saturday, September 9th, 2023. Holy Trinity School is a vital part of the Georgetown community and has educated generations of its residents.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Providing Zoom Accounts to ANCs - 8:42 pm

Chair Lohse 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 understands that the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) is working to upgrade its website, platform, and communication and social media tools. As part of this upgrade project, OANC is exploring the potential to host websites for each Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and to provide other communications and social media support to the ANCs. Communications are critical to all ANCs meeting their mission, however ANC budgets and resources are extremely limited. Therefore, ANC 2E responded to the OANC survey regarding this potential office support with the ANC's support and information.

ANC 2E appreciates that it will take OANC at least a year or more for the office to execute this overall project to support the over 40 ANCs in our city. That said, a valuable communication tool that OANC could immediately provide to the ANCs is Zoom accounts. Since COVID, ANC 2E has relied heavily on Zoom to both host its meetings and to communicate with constituents, community partners, and city agencies. A centralized, bulk purchasing of Zoom will help ANCs around the city conserve their limited resources. ANC 2E urges OANC to consider this request and stands ready to assist the office with any data that it may need in order to make such an offering a reality by the end of 2023.

### **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Control Board - 8:44 pm**

#### **Application by Alara for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1303-1305 Wisconsin Avenue NW - 8:44 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:

ANC 2E protests Alara's application for a new Retailers Class "C" Restaurant license at 1303-1305 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 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.

### **Old Georgetown Board - 8:50 pm**

#### **SMD 2E05 - OG 23-257 (HPA 23-406) 1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW**

and

#### **SMD 2E05 - OG 23-258 (HPA 23-407) 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW - 8:50 pm**

Commissioner Lindner 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:

While ANC 2E does not typically review projects like this one in consecutive months, the ANC appreciates the applicant listening to neighbor concerns and responding by lowering the overall height and refining the design in order to improve the light and scale of the two buildings. The ANC also recognizes that the applicant acknowledges the importance of the façade and landscape design in this historic district. As in the ANC's resolution of July 5, 2023, the ANC supports this project and leaves recommendations of final design to the Old Georgetown Board.

### **Zoning - 9:13 pm**

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for Special Exceptions from the Lot Occupancy Requirements, the Rear Addition Requirements, and the Matter-of-Right Uses to Construct a One-Story Rear Addition, and an Accessory Apartment Addition in an Accessory Structure, to an Attached, Two-Story with Basement, Principal Dwelling Unit at 3542 T Street NW - 9:13 pm

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E recommends that the Board of Zoning Adjustment grants the relief requested by the applicant because this relief would not visibly intrude on the character and scale of the houses along this block and would not tend to affect the use of the neighboring properties.

### **Old Georgetown Board (Continued) - 9:25 pm**

SMD 2E06 - OG 23-241 (HPA 23-390) 2801 N Street, NW - 9:25 pm

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

Kesher Israel Congregation is a critical part of Georgetown's community fabric and a wonderful partner to our community. This proposed project will not only better serve the Kesher congregation, especially with regards to safety and access for all, but will improve the three historic properties owned by Kesher. However, this project is massive and the proposal has evolved since the initial proposal.

ANC 2E appreciates the design changes on the 28th Street NW view that Kesher did in response to neighbor and Old Georgetown Board concerns. The ANC also appreciates the design work that Kesher did to address some of the noise and structural concerns raised by the neighbors to the north whose wall is immediately next to Kesher's property, such as moving the location of the internal pipping away from the neighbors. The ANC does encourage that, should this project move forward, a structural engineer must be engaged to work with this immediate neighbor, especially as the neighbor has shared that they have no footers.

After several meetings with neighbors, the applicant created additional renderings from various vantage points and re-reviewed some design and material decisions. ANC 2E appreciates these efforts. Due to these evolving aspects of this proposal, the ANC requests that the Old Georgetown Board carefully reviews three things with regard to this updated proposal: how can additional greenery be added to the west elevation area to both account for the loss of trees and to address privacy concerns of the neighbor to the west, can the thoughtful neighbor comments on selected materials be incorporated into the design, and, finally, is the massing and height of the structure on the west side in keeping with the surrounding settings and can the design support further alignment.

### **New Business (Continued) - 10:09 pm**

#### **Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Citizens Association of Georgetown's Concert in the Park in Rose Park or Volta Park on Sunday, October 1st, 2023 - 10:09 pm**

Commissioner Lindner moved to modify the ANC's meeting agenda to add consideration of a resolution regarding the Citizens Association of Georgetown's Concert in the Park in Rose Park or Volta Park on Sunday, October 1st, 2023. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

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 fully supports the Citizens Association of Georgetown's (CAG) Concert in the Park that is planned for October 1st, 2023. It is the ANC's understanding that this concert will occur in either Rose Park or Volta Park. The ANC expects that CAG will get the support of the "friends" group for either Rose Park or Volta Park before moving forward. The ANC hopes to see many more CAG concerts throughout the year.

### **Adjournment - 10:14 pm**

Chair Lohse adjourned the meeting at 10:14 pm.