

ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 4, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

David Rubenstein (2F01)
Neil Rocklin (2F02)
Joe Florio (2F03)
Brian McCabe (2F04)
Christopher Dyer (2F05)
Matt Fouracre (2F06)
Brant Miller (2F07)

ABSENT

Caroline Zagraniczny (2F08)

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

Sergeant Rene Gallo (Metropolitan Police Department)
Councilmember Brooke Pinto (Ward 2)
Deputy Mayor Lucinda Babers (EOM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The Chair called roll and confirmed quorum.

Community Forum

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Sergeant Rene Gallo*

Sergeant Gallo read the crime reports for crime reports for the second district. Commissioner David Rubenstein asked for an update on “quality of life” crimes, like graffiti and destruction of property; Sergeant Gallo responded that no destruction of property had been reported, and he reported on a burglary or a local retail establishment.

Commissioner Neil Rocklin shared two incidents of neighbors being harassed by teenagers in the neighborhood, and he asked what recommendation the sergeant had for response. The sergeant recommended that any victims of assault or harassment not attempt to confront the assaulters but to take a visual description and note the direction of flight to report to the MPD.

Janice Ferebee asked what was being done to apprehend and ensure that individuals are kept in custody.

Commissioner Brian McCabe noted the seriousness of concerns around quality of life issues, but he also encouraged discretion with the language that was being used to describe incidents.

Report from Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, *Councilmember Brooke Pinto*

The Councilmember described efforts to revitalize the downtown area, including the Downtown Recovery Act, which would encourage return to the office and an envisioning of the downtown area as a mixed-use space. She also noted a priority for minority- and women-owned businesses, child care establishments, urgent care, and grocery.

CM Pinto also described her new appointment as the Chair of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. She noted efforts to address crime and homelessness.

The Councilmember also noted her work to follow up on business and priorities grants and funding.

Commissioner David Rubenstein asked for a follow up on what cases were seeing prosecution or moving to trial versus releases. CM Pinto described the importance of joint leadership like the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to identify and fill gaps between various government agencies. She also noted major problems with the District’s Department of Forensic Sciences, which was not accredited. Commissioner Rubenstein expressed his concern that there did not seem to be alarm on the part of the U.S. attorney. CM Pinto reiterated why greater coordination was important so that any one individual agency could not point fingers.

Commissioner Brant Miller noted a concern about fake tags and whether there was any interest in looking into action around fake tag sales. The Councilmember explained how seriously she was taking this issue and again underscored the importance of shared work to identify and combat violations.

Commissioner Miller also asked about how the CM was weighing priorities with a downtown revival given anticipated budget cuts. CM Pinto explained that her strategy was to ask for more in housing abatements, in the hopes that developers would secure funding once projects were underway. She noted that various parts of the package were more urgent immediately (like business grants).

Report from Executive Office of the Mayor, *Deputy Mayor Lucinda Babers*

Deputy Mayor Lucinda Babers presented Mayor Bowser's FY 2024 budget. She explained that the District was facing budget reductions, both related to a need to pull back from investments after COVID and an overall slowdown in the economy. She mentioned that the District sought to identify and eliminate personnel positions that had remained vacant. She explained that the budget focused on closing the race equity gap and ensuring legacy homeowners were able to stay in their homes. DM Babers also noted that the District had the top-rated parks and recreation program in the country, and the budget sought to maintain funding to that program. She also mentioned maintaining funding to MPD and automated traffic enforcement cameras and to DMV for adjudication.

DM Babers also shared the plans that were specific to Ward 2, including updates and renovations to Ward 2 parks and schools and road and sidewalk repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner McCabe explained his concerns that despite the racial equity focus in the budget, the racial equity indicators had not moved much. He asked whether there would be budget for research into the impact of the policies; DM Babers explained that there was an Office of Racial Equity that had begun to explore some of the issues and outcomes that Commissioner McCabe mentioned.

Commissioner Miller asked about agreements and plans for park maintenance after renovations occurred.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about rat abatement, trash removal, tree maintenance, and other "quality of life" issues and how these were addressed in the budget. She explained that there were hopes to expand the Multiagency Safety Taskforce to address public safety and public space issues around U and 14th Street; Commissioner Rubenstein urged that 14th Street would be considered as part of the same area.

Judith Rippeteau thanked several District employees. She expressed her frustration with the Department of Buildings and their failure to respond to complaints about vacant buildings.

Brian Romanowski asked about how to improve reporting and removal of graffiti, and DM Babers committed to looking into it.

Continued Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lieutenant Stephen Miller*

Lieutenant Miller shared updates from the third district.

Community Announcements

Commissioner Miller shared that the Little Gay Pub had signed a Settlement Agreement and was welcomed to the neighborhood.

Consent Agenda

Chair Florio read the consent agenda, including:

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- Approval of New Committee Members

- Approval of Expenses
 - \$1278.81 for Executive Director’s Salary
 - \$91.98 for Unemployment Insurance
 - \$747.24 for federal taxes
 - \$131.50 for DC taxes
 - \$60.00 for business cards
 - \$900.00 for website upgrades

Commissioner Christopher Dyer moved to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Committee Reports

Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein*

Commissioner Rubenstein explained that the Committee had been busy reviewing previous resolutions from the past two years and following up on implementation, including bikeshare stations.

Alcohol Policy Committee, *Commissioner Matthew Fouracre*

Commissioner Fouracre shared that there were no new applications, but that Dog Daze and Aslin Beer Company were still in protest. Chair Florio explained that there was an existing Settlement Agreement for Vegas Lounge that was still enforceable and included strong language in favor of neighborhood considerations. Commissioner Rubenstein explained that Aslin had not been responsive and so was moving to protest over noncompliance with the Settlement Agreement.

New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.