

ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 7, 2024

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

David Rubenstein (2F01)
Neil Rocklin (2F02)
Joe Florio (2F03)
Christopher Dyer (2F05)
Christopher Appel (2F06)
Brant Miller (2F07)
Caroline Zagraniczny (2F08)

ABSENT

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Sergeant Bobbett Forrest (MPD)
Lieutenant Philip Robinson (MPD)
Brian Romanowski (DC Council)
Grace Reeder (MOCRS)

Chair Joe Florio called the meeting to order at 7:03 and called roll.

Community Forum

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Florio announced that Monica Dolan of the U.S. Attorney's office was present in the meeting.

Report from Mayor's Office, *Grace Reeder*

Grace Reeder announced that the Mayor had cut the ribbon on Stead Park, the District's first net zero community center. She also announced the "Be Downtown" initiative.

Ms. Reeder offered updates on budgeting for WMATA.

Commissioner David Rubenstein followed up on a request that he had made to move a public litter can; Ms. Reeder said that she would follow up with the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Nathan Sparks, a DCPS teacher, asked whether the Mayor would be meeting with the teachers' union to bargain a new contract.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Sgt. Robinson*

Sergeant Philip Robinson presented monthly crime statistics.

Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny shared updates on a carjacking spree in PSA 209. One of the carjackings was lethal and killed a prominent government worker; the suspect was killed in an unrelated shooting in Hyattsville.

Commissioner Zagraniczny asked about a bank robbery in the ANC; Sgt. Robinson noted that the suspect was still at large, and he shared a description.

Commissioner Rubenstein thanked Sgt. Robinson for the presentation and asked about a homicide at Q Street; Sgt. Robinson responded that the victim had survived the attack.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lt. Tarr*

Lieutenant Derek Tarr shared updates from PSA 307.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about an incident that had taken place two weeks prior near the Aslin Beer Garden. Lt. Tarr did not have any additional information on that incident.

Community Announcements

Janice Ferebee provided information about a new shower ministry at the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church—to include showers, socks, underwear, coffee and snacks—that would be provided to individuals in need. Commissioner Zagraniczny confirmed the information as well.

Kyle Oliver introduced himself as a new neighbor and raised concerns around doors pulling into the bike lane on 14th Street.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Florio moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of January Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Expenses
 - Executive Director January salary (\$1278.81)
- Approval of ANC 2F FY Security Fund Participation
- Approval of ANC 2F 2024 Q2 QFR

VOTE: 7-0-0

Committee Reports

Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein*

Nomination of Brad Edelman

Chair Florio moved to nominate Brad Edelman as a member of the Public Space and Transportation committee. Commissioner Dyer seconded the nomination. Brad Edelman introduced himself to the Commission, including his interest and experience in the public space planning arena. The motion was passed unanimously.

VOTE: 6-0-1

Public Safety Committee, *Chair Florio*

Commissioner Zagraniczny reported that the Committee would be meeting in February after a January break. She reported on the December meeting with representatives from HIPS, the U.S. Attorney's office, and others.

She also reported that the Committee was still looking for members.

Alcohol and Cannabis Policy Committee, *Chair Florio*

Chair Florio reported that Mr. Nice Guys had submitted the first application for a cannabis license and so that application would be considered in the next APC meeting.

New Business

Resolution for Study on Q and R Street Bike Lanes

Commissioner Rocklin presented the resolution, which followed an initiative from ANC 2B, 6C, and other community organizations. He noted that the issues of east-west bike traffic were a persistent challenge and that ANC 2B had brought to his attention that previous resolutions had gone without adequate response from DDOT. Thus the resolution under consideration would call on DDOT to respond to previous resolutions on Bike Traffic.

Commissioner Rocklin moved to approve the resolution. Chair Florio seconded. Commissioner Christopher Appel expressed his support for the resolution and his disappointment in unjustified delay on the part of DDOT, as well as his belief that more attention need be paid to east-west traffic. Commissioner Neil Rocklin noted that east-west traffic was a cause of great concern among constituents and that he believed DDOT must give great weight to the ANC's resolution; he also noted that the resolution was urgent as the need to appropriate funds for the survey may impact

ongoing budget discussions. Chair Florio asked whether the resolution should be more specific as to the period in which the funds should be committed; Commissioner Rubenstein affirmed that the resolution was time bound.

Community member Diana Ohlblum noted that the lack of appropriate bike lanes has led bicycles and scooters to use the sidewalks, which impacted pedestrian use of the corridor. Brad Edelman noted that the resolution mentions the two streets are “minor arterial roads,” but he questioned this designation. Kyle Oliver expressed support for the resolution. Nathan Sparks expressed his support for the resolution. Joan Ferraris offered her support for the resolution, noting that there were many bike lanes in the Commission, and yet there were also many vehicles parked on the sidewalks. Brad Edelman also noted that a protected bike lane would require removal of parking spaces. Commissioner Rocklin noted that the presence of Conte’s Bike Shop on Q Street added to the imperative of safe bike lanes on this street.

Commissioner Dyer shared more information to the community about how to further engage on this issue with various District agencies.

VOTE: 6-0-1

Community Forum

Report from DC Council, *Councilmember Pinto*

CM Pinto provided updates on public safety, sharing the efforts that she had made to develop legislation, including the omnibus “Secure DC” act. She announced that the Council passed the bill unanimously on first reading, and the second reading would likely take place in late February or March.

CM Pinto also discussed the Capitals and Wizards decision to move their teams to Virginia, lamenting the impact that this move could have on the District. She mentioned that the deal was still a “long way off” and that the Council would continue to work to keep the teams in DC.

Commissioner Appel asked CM Pinto to share more about her vision to ensure vitality downtown, particularly when plans like the K Street transitway remained unfunded. CM Pinto expressed her frustration that the K Street transitway had not been funded. She also described the concept of “micronodes,” building community resources and infrastructure around these nodes.

Commissioner Rubenstein underscored the coordination gap between government agencies (DC and federal) in addressing public safety. He expressed his disappointment that the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice issued a performance plan that did not mention reducing crime. CM Pinto discussed the coordination team for addressing public safety.

Commissioner Brant Miller asked what the ANC could consider as the CM’s budget priorities for the FY25 budget. CM Pinto explained that she hoped the Mayor would fund the Secure DC plan in totality with a supplemental budget for FY24 and appropriations for FY25.

Commissioner Zagraniczny asked about provisions that may allow for extension of pretrial detention. CM Pinto explained that the bill would offer more flexibility to judges in assessing pretrial detention periods, but that it was not intended to allow for extensive pretrial detention.

Nathan Sparks introduced himself as a DCPS teacher and noted that the teachers had been without contract for more than 100 days. He noted that the Council had the authority to determine who oversees the budget and administration of the DCPS, and he asked what the Council would be doing to address the lapse in contract. CM Pinto shared the Council’s efforts to address challenges for District students and teachers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.