

ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 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)
Caroline Zagraniczny (2F08)

ABSENT

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

John Guggenmos (Parliamentarian)
Lt. Garvin (Metropolitan Police Department)

Election of Officers

Commissioner Christopher Dyer nominated John Guggenmos as parliamentarian. Parliamentarian Guggenmos called for nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Dyer nominated Commissioner Joe Florio; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Parliamentarian Guggenmos called for nominations for the roll of vice-chair. Chair Florio nominated Commissioner Brant Miller as vice-chair. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Parliamentarian Guggenmos called for nominations for the roll of treasurer. Commissioner David Rubenstein nominated Commissioner Matt Fouracre Yan. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Parliamentarian Guggenmos called for nominations for the roll of secretary. Commissioner Rubenstein nominated Commissioner Christopher Dyer. The nomination seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Commissioner Yan conducted roll call.

Community Forum

Commissioner Announcements

No commissioner announcements were made.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lieutenant Garvin*

Lieutenant Garvin introduced himself as a new liaison and presented some updates on crime in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about an apparent increase in vandalism and package theft in the neighborhood. Lt. Garvin committed to responding with more information on the issue.

Joyce Cowan asked for tips on how to address package theft or criminal activity if it is witnessed in the neighborhood. Lt. Garvin recommended not engaging individuals that may be committing a crime but encouraged recording information that could be useful later on.

Commissioner Neil Rocklin noted an increase in graffiti and asked what constituents might do to help deter it. Lt. Garvin said that he would reach out after connecting with the officers in that area to provide any suggestions.

Report from City Council Ward 2 Office, *Brian Romanowski*

Brian Romanowski provided updates from Councilmember Pinto’s office, including on efforts to revitalize downtown DC and curbside tree collection.

Commissioner Miller asked about the mayor’s proposal to ask 15,000 residents to the downtown area by converting underutilized office buildings into residential buildings. Mr. Romanowski responded that this was a priority for the Councilmember.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about increasing the number of police officers in the city, ward, and neighborhood. Mr. Romanowski explained this is an area that the mayor and Councilmember do not always see eye-to-eye, and he would continue to keep the ANC updated.

Janice Ferebee emphasized that any efforts to increase population in the downtown area should be developed with the interests of the underserved in mind.

Report from Executive Office of the Mayor, *Grace Reeder*

Julius Terry introduced Grace Reeder, the new Ward 2 liaison.

Business Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Dyer moved to amend the agenda to include the approval of an *ad-hoc* Communications committee and to add an agenda item to vote on a license application for the Little Gay Pub under the APC portion of the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Chair Florio moved to approve the December meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Approval of 2023 Meeting Dates

Chair Florio moved to approve regular meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. Commissioner Dyer seconded the motion and asked whether the committee would meet in August. The commission determined that they would decide whether to hold the meeting closer to the date. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Approval of ANC Security Fund Payment

Chair Florio moved to approve the \$50 payment for the ANC security fund. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Approval of Public Space and Transportation Committee

Chair Florio moved to approve the PSTC as an *ad-hoc* committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Approval of Communications Committee

Chair Florio moved to approve the Communications Committee as an *ad-hoc* committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Community Development Committee

Chair Florio moved to approve Helen Kramer as chair of the CDC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Chair Florio moved to approve Neil Rocklin, David Rubenstein, Brian McCabe, Joel Heisey, and Brad Thornton as members of the CDC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Public Space and Transportation Committee

Chair Florio moved to approve David Rubenstein as chair of the PSTC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Chair Florio moved to approve Christopher Appel and Harrison Grafos as members of the PSTC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Alcohol Policy Committee

Commissioner Dyer moved to approve Matt Fourace as chair of the APC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Chair Florio moved to approve Commissioners Rocklin, Miller, and Dyer as members of the APC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Communications Committee

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve Commissioner Dyer as chair of the Communications Committee. The motion was amended to include Janice Ferebee as co-chair.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Chair Florio moved to approve Christopher Appel and Harrison Grafos as members of the PSTC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Communications Committee

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve Commissioner Dyer as chair of the Communications Committee. The motion was amended to include Janice Ferebee as co-chair.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Commissioner Dyer moved that Austin Naughton be approved as a member of the Communications Committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Florio moved to approve Caroline Zagraniczny as chair of the PSC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Aslin Beer Company

Commissioner Dyer moved to designate Commissioner David Rubenstein to represent ANC 2F, with any other commissioner standing in case of emergency, at the ABRA protest hearing on Aslin Beer Company. Commissioner Fouracre seconded the motion. Commissioner McCabe asked for background on the issue, and Commissioner Rubenstein provided some history of the protest and discussions between Aslin, the previous ANC, and the neighbors. Joyce Cowan also provided insights on concerns about Aslin's failure to adhere to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Vegas Lounge

Commissioner Dyer moved to designate Chair Joe Florio to represent ANC 2F, with any other commissioner standing in case of emergency, at the ABRA protest hearing on Vegas Lounge. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Several commissioners, including McCabe and Rubenstein, raised their concerns about having very little information about the nature of the license application and intentions for nude dancing. Commissioner Dyer noted that voting to protest would allow the Commission to maintain leverage as it considered further information about the license applications. Commissioner Miller also noted his discomfort with the opacity around the plans and supported presenting a protest as a vehicle to finding mutually agreeable terms with the licensee. Commissioner Rocklin also voiced his support to retaining standing in negotiations through the protest, as this would allow more time to consider the concerns from constituents.

A community member, Rebecca Menes, who is also a board member on Rainbow Lofts' board, expressed her opposition to allowing nude dancing in the neighborhood as she felt it was not appropriate for the neighborhood. She was particularly opposed to signage that would advertise nude dancing in the neighborhood. Helen Kramer also voiced her concerns that the neighborhood had spent decades trying to repress nude dancing as an activity that was previously predominant in the neighborhood; she reiterated her support for a protest as a mechanism for the community to enter into a dialogue with the establishment and protect the community's interest.

The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Little Gay Pub

Commissioner Miller presented the item, which included a license application for the Little Gay Pub, which included hours of operation for a sidewalk and public garden, which would extend hours of operation to 2 am on weekdays and 3 am on weekends, which are outside the standard hours in a settlement agreement. He also noted a live entertainment endorsement on the application, which was also out of the norm for neighborhood establishments.

Commissioner Miller moved to protest to maintain standing as the ANC pursued a Settlement Agreement with the establishment. Commissioner McCabe seconded the motion. Commissioner Rubenstein asked how the protest might be withdrawn; Commissioner Dyer noted that once a Settlement Agreement was reached the protest would be withdrawn. Commissioner McCabe asked about standard terms for a Settlement Agreement. Commissioner Rocklin noted his belief that the ANC's ability to maintain Settlement Agreements has a great impact on the trajectory of the neighborhood. Commissioner Miller agreed and added that the ANC could play a significant role in maintaining the vibrancy and dynamism of the neighborhood.

The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0

Amendment of Bylaws

Commissioner McCabe noted that the bylaws would need to be amended due to the change of the ANC boundaries. He moved that the amendments be reviewed by a narrow *ad-hoc* committee, led by Commissioner McCabe, and that the amendments would be put to a vote in the February meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 8-0-0