

# ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

## MINUTES

WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 7, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

### PRESENT

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

### ABSENT

Brian McCabe (2F04)  
Matt Fouracre (2F06)

### GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin (MPD)  
Lieutenant Curtis Miller (MPD)  
Brian Romanowski (DC Council)  
Grace Reeder (MOCRS)  
Anthony Hall (DBH)

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

Commissioner Christopher Dyer announced that the ANC had been exploring options for returning to in person meetings, one of which may require movement of the standing meeting date.

Commissioner Brant Miller announced the upcoming date for Jazz in the Park in Logan Circle. He also noted the new metro WMATA “Metro Lift” program, which would provide reduced fare for those on assistance programs. He also made announcements related to the upcoming Pride Events.

### ***Community Forum***

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#### **Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lieutenants Sylvester Garvin and Curtis Miller***

Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin noted that one of the Metropolitan District Police officials had been in a fatal motorcycle crash. He also shared information on crime statistics in 2D, including a bank robbery that was being handled by the FBI. Chair Joe Florio asked questions about specific potential crime incidents.

Commissioner Miller expressed his gratitude to the Lieutenant for his assistance in a recent crime he had experienced and he expressed his condolences to the officer. Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny also expressed her condolences.

John Guggenmos noted an increase in activity in the P Street block on 14th Street and in the alley. He asked whether there was awareness of any drug sales in this alleyway. Lt. Garvin offered to follow up on the concerns.

Lieutenant Curtis Miller also committed to following up on the concerns. Commissioner Zagraniczny expressed her interest in being part of any walkthrough and to become aware of these concerns as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Danielle Germain, who lives at 14th Street and Q Street, noted that she had found wallets and cell phones during daily walks in the neighborhood. She noted that both of the individuals had items stolen at Barcelona Wine Bar.

Lt. Miller offered notable crime statistics, including uptick in theft from autos and stolen automobiles.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked whether there were any updates regarding the shooting over mopeds that had happened several weeks ago or an update on the homicide on Swann Street that happened shortly thereafter. Commissioner Rubenstein also asked whether the nightlife task force had been moved in location.

Joyce Cowan shared frustrations from many long-time district residents over the recent uptick in crime, noting several examples of the “brazenness” of crime. She expressed her understanding that the MPD was not solely responsible for these issues, but she asked what information could possibly be shared with neighbors about response to this uptick. Lt. Miller shared the frustrations and explained that the District had focused on the most critical crimes and so many “quality of life” crimes went unaddressed.

Commissioner Neil Rocklin explained that he encouraged residents to file police reports no matter what the crime in order to continue to track criminal activity. He also offered to share statistics with residents.

Commissioner Zagraniczny expressed her interest in continuing the conversation in the setting of the Public Safety Committee. She also encouraged residents to share their concerns with Councilmember Brooke Pinto given her interest in the subject matter.

#### **Report from DC Department of Behavioral Health, *Anthony Hall***

Anthony Hall offered an overview of the work of the DBH, which included oversight of taxpayer-funded programs, like opioid response teams and harm reduction initiatives. He also noted outreach and support programs, including partnerships with the MPD to offer additional behavioral health training. Mr. Hall noted DBH’s hotlines that offered free consultations and facilitations. Finally, he noted the Community Response Team, which was responsible for community interventions.

Commissioner Rubenstein noted that it was a common occurrence to see neighbors on the street in distress, and he asked what the best response might be. Mr. Hall responded that any emergency situation should prompt a call to 911, and first responders may choose to contact DBH. He explained that if there was no urgency to the situation, a neighbor might call the DBH Community Response Team.

Commissioner Zagraniczny noted the Pride Events that were approaching during the weekend and asked what preparations or involvement DBH was engaged in. Mr. Hall responded that operations would be carrying on as normal, but DBH was supporting other planned activities around the events.

Commissioner Rocklin noted an incident at the Grace Reformed Church and expressed his appreciation for the resolution of that event.

#### **Report from DC Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, *Brian Romanowski***

Brian Romanowski shared updates from the Councilmember’s office, including engagements with representatives from the New Bethany Baptist Church and updates on budget processes. Mr. Romanowski also shared information on the CM’s public safety initiatives, including a public safety bill that would be discussed in an upcoming hearing.

Finally he noted the Councilmember would be marching in the Capital Pride parade.

Commissioner Rubenstein noted a concerning trend in youth crime. Mr. Romanowski mentioned the bills addressed crime at large but not youth crime specifically.

#### **Report from Mayor’s Office, *Grace Reeder***

Grace Reeder noted the Code Red air quality alert due to smoke in the environment today. She shared resources available to learn more, as well as to learn about Mayor Bowser’s response to the situation.

Ms. Reeder shared resources related to the “Safer Stronger DC” legislation that Mr. Romanowski had mentioned.

Mr. Reeder announced that Mayor Bowser had launched the Downtown Action Plan, including investment in the Downtown BID.

Finally, she offered information on the opportunity to march with Mayor Bowser in the weekend's Pride Parade.

Commissioner Christopher Dyer expressed his gratitude for the work of the MOCRS and the DPW in having bulk trash removed in his SMD.

Commissioner Rubenstein noted that across the country the homicide rates were dropping, but not in D.C. He asked what the administration was doing about this critical issue. Ms. Reeder explained that she took this issue very seriously and the MOCRS personally responded to homicides. She noted the search was ongoing for a new police chief. Commissioner Rubenstein expressed his support for seeing the Nightlife Task Force expand as a potential part of the response.

Ms. Cowan asked whether the mayor had considered whether the Department of Forensic Sciences might be taken out of the administration's mandate in order to facilitate and expedite accreditation. Ms. Reeder explained that a new acting director had been appointed; Mr. Romanowski explained that the mayor had suggested moving the lab under the purview of the MPD but that the proposal did not pass during budget negotiations. Commissioner Zagraniczny expressed her interest in being included in any communication around the crime lab.

Inspector H. Davis offered a brief report from the Department of Public Works. He noted that the DPW would be cleaning alleys and that it was important for neighbors to ensure growth was cleared from property lines. He also noted the proper procedures for reporting illegal dumping.

### **Community Announcements**

No community announcements were put forward.

### ***Consent Agenda***

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Chair Florio read the consent agenda, including:

- Approval of the June agenda
- Approval of May Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Expenses
  - \$1278.81 for Executive Director's Salary

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

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

### ***Committee Reports***

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#### **Community Development Committee, *Helen Kramer***

*HPRB Application: Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes – New Multifamily Development*

CDC Chair Helen Kramer offered a report on the proposal from the Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes, which sought to include housing units in order to provide a revenue source for the Church. She noted that the applicant sought only approval on concept and massing at this point, though the Committee had asked the applicant to return to discuss materials that would be used.

She noted that the CDC recommended unanimously that the ANC write a letter of support to the HPRB.

Commissioner Dyer moved that the ANC accept the CDC's recommendation and send a letter of support to the HPRB. Chair Florio seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brant Miller asked for confirmation that the Commission would have another opportunity to review the proposals on the materials. Chair Kramer confirmed this would be the case.

Commissioner Rubenstein noted the project plans included renovation to the existing chapel area and that he was eager for more specifics on this portion of the project. Chair Kramer responded affirmatively, noting the project sought to improve handicap accessibility and so planned to install an elevator. She noted that in addition to a return to the Committee for the additional HPRB considerations, the project may require approvals for zoning exceptions, which would provide another opportunity to review the plans as they progress.

Janice Ferebee, an adjacent neighbor, asked questions about the timeline and what kind of disruptions might be anticipated for the neighborhood. She also asked about the height of the new structure. Finally, she asked whether any affordable housing would be included in the project. Dennis Anderson, representing the developer, noted that it was too soon to discuss timelines before having received permitting. He noted that there was no Inclusionary Zoning requirement, but given that the Church was mission driven, there may be more clarity around unit layout and pricing. He explained the building height would be 90 feet plus penthouse, so would not obscure views from the roof deck next door.

Commissioner Zagranicny noted that she was the Commissioner for the SMD where the property was located and she offered to make herself available for a discussion.

Commissioner Dyer called the motion to question and the motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

**Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein***

Commissioner Rubenstein noted that the Committee had considered a presentation from the LCCA, which was seeking a letter of support for funding. Chair Florio noted that this item appeared in the New Business section of the agenda.

**Alcohol Policy Committee, *Commissioner Matthew Fouracre***

*Trade: Substantive Change to License*

Commissioner Miller offered an update regarding the applicants' pursuit of a substantial change to the license, which sought a significant expansion of the capacity. He noted some concerns raised in the meeting regarding gaps in information in proposed plans to deal with queuing and noise, and so recommended that the ANC protest the motion in order to retain standing, as well as to propose Chair Florio represent the ANC in subsequent negotiations.

Chair Florio moved that the ANC adopt the APC's recommendation, based on the disturbance to peace, order, and quiet. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously, with Commissioner Dyer abstaining.

**VOTE: 5-0-1**

*Muni: New License*

Commissioner Miller noted that no representatives attended the APC meeting, and so the Committee was not able to address any questions to the applicant. Thus, the APC voted to recommend the ANC protest the application to retain standing in order to gather more information and to designate Chair Florio to represent the ANC in any negotiations.

Chair Florio moved that the ANC adopt the APC's recommendation. The motion was seconded.

Chair Florio offered more insight into the concept of “The Muni,” which would be located above the Shake Shack and included a “virtual golf” experience. He clarified that the applicant was seeking full hours and a live entertainment endorsement. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the applicants’ request for full hours was in keeping with other establishments in the ANC; Chair Florio explained that they were seeking later hours in the application.

Chair Florio called the question on the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

*Bar Japonais: New License*

Because the applicant was not able to attend the meeting due to the tight timeline between their placard posting and the APC meeting, the APC voted to recommend that the ANC protest the license to retain standing, as well as to nominate Chair Florio to represent the ANC in any negotiations.

Commissioner Dyer moved to accept the APC’s recommendation. The motion was seconded.

Chair Florio explained the establishment would be located in the former Estadio location, and it would be the sister location to Bar Chinois in Mt. Vernon Square. He noted they were seeking a live entertainment endorsement to have a DJ in the interior of the restaurants. He noted they were seeking two Streateries on 14th Street and Church Street, but that the neighbors were opposed to a Streatory on Church Street. Commissioner Rubenstein noted his concerns that the Streateries may be neglecting tree pits, which have become a tunnel and nesting area for rats. He recommended including specific language on maintaining these areas as part of pest abatement in any Settlement Agreement.

Chair Florio called the question; the motion was passed unanimously.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

***New Business***

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*Letter of Support for Logan Circle Community Association Sculpture Project*

Commissioner Rubenstein moved that ANC 2F support the project of the LCCA, sending a letter to the Arts and Humanities Commission in support of the proposed project. Commissioner Dyer seconded the motion. Commissioner Rubenstein introduced Pam Wessling. Ms. Wessling explained the proposal solicitation and selection process. Finally, she presented the winning design, which featured a dancer from one vantage point and a woman with a bustle crossing 14th Street from another vantage point. She explained that the Association was seeking a grant to fund the project, which still needed \$70,000 for completion.

Commissioner Miller noted that he felt the artwork was dynamic; Commissioner Rubenstein said he would love to see it as the banner on the ANC 2F website.

Chair Florio called the question; the motion was approved unanimously.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

*City Dance Letter of Support*

Chair Florio moved to send a letter of support for City Dance in their pursuit of a grant application with DEMPED. The motion was seconded.

The project lead, artist Sarah Ewing, provided insight into the project, which would include a multimedia art installation, as well as provide a pathway to be able to bring students to the installation during field trips.

Chair Florio explained the transformer space would be at 14th Street and P Street NW, near the CVS. He expressed his excitement that the ANC had new art projects to consider.

He called the question; the motion was passed unanimously.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.**