

ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6, 2024

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

David Rubenstein (2F01)
Joe Florio (2F03)
Christopher Appel (2F06)
Brant Miller (2F07)
Caroline Zagraniczny (2F08)

ABSENT

Neil Rocklin (2F02)
Christopher Dyer (2F05)

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

Sergeant Bobbett Forrest (MPD)
Lieutenant Philip Robinson (MPD)
Brian Romanowski (DC Council)
Grace Reeder (MOCRS)
Sahand Miraminy (Capital Pride)

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

Community Forum

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Florio reminded that street sweeping had begun and so community members should attend to relevant parking restrictions.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lt. Tarr*

Lieutenant Derek Tarr shared updates from MPD's third district, including two instances violent crime and continued theft at businesses.

Commissioner David Rubenstein asked for more information about the business theft. Lt. Tarr explained that these were mostly petty theft of retail. He also noted random, sporadic package theft throughout the PSA, as well as some theft from autos. Lt. Tarr explained that the MPD welcomed alerts on anyone that appeared suspicious around buildings or vehicles.

Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny asked for updates about open-air drug dealing and overdoses that were occurring around 12TH and M St NW. Lt. Tarr confirmed that the MPD was still tracking drug crime; he confirmed that since a stabbing earlier in the year, there had been very little violent crime.

Commissioner Christopher Appel explained that an individual had been sleeping in his apartment building and asked what the appropriate protocol would be. Lt. Tarr said that residents could call MPD, who would respond and assess an appropriate course of action.

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

Grace Reeder shared updates on the Mayor's Support Secure DC plans and other public safety efforts, as well as the Mayor's engagement on budget priorities (including the Mayor's consideration of funding plans for revitalization downtown). Ms. Reeder provided more detailed information on the street sweeping schedule, parking restrictions, and associated fines. She also shared the Mayor's plans for Women's History Month. She offered to conduct community walkthroughs or coffee meetings with Commissioners. She addressed a previous concern from Commissioner David Rubenstein regarding public litter cans.

Commissioner Brant Miller said that he would appreciate being kept aware of where Drug Free Zones (in the Secure DC plan) would be located and when they would be announced. Mr. Reeder said she was unsure whether these would be publicized but committed to following up.

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

Brian Romanowski reported that the DC Council had passed an emergency and a permanent version of Councilmember Pinto’s Secure DC legislation. He expected the Mayor would sign the bill as soon as it came to her desk. He also shared that the CM had submitted budget requests to the Mayor, and he expected the budget to be voted on by the first week in June. He explained that the District would be without COVID support and other funds, so the CM tried to be modest in requests. The CM prioritized funding the Secure DC plan, including funding relevant public safety agencies; funding plans to revitalize downtown; and funding WMATA.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked whether the CM’s budget request for the Clean Team included the enhancements requested in a previous ANC resolution. Mr. Romanowski said that he would go back to the CM to remind her of this request.

Report from Capital Pride, *Sahand Miraminy*

Sahand Miraminy opened by announcing that Washington DC had been selected to host World Pride in 2025. He presented plans for Pride Celebrations for 2024, including a new parade route that Capital Pride was hoping to use for the World Pride Celebration. He explained that Capital Pride was planning a block party at Stead Park and a disbursement plan for the end of the parade route. He also shared plans for clean-up, including work with DC’s Clean Team.

Commissioner Miller asked whether there would be any programming planned in the green spaces in ANC 2F. Mr. Miraminy explained that he was in touch with representatives at Franklin Park to discuss programming, which would be the only park where Capital Pride was planning programs, and that they hoped to have open space at Freedom Plaza and other green spaces.

Commissioner Rubenstein endorsed enhanced clean up efforts, and he asked whether there was a way to encourage floats to toss biodegradable candies. Mr. Miraminy explained that there was training to direct floats not to throw candy or objects but to hand them directly, and that he was very open to other ideas on how to cut down on litter.

Brian Romanowski asked whether the distance was the same as the previous route; Mr. Miraminy explained that it was .3 miles longer.

Community Announcements

No community announcements were put forward.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of February Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Expenses
 - Executive Director February salary (\$1278.81)

VOTE: 5-0-0

Committee Reports

Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein*

Commissioner Rubenstein shared updates from the committee, including efforts to encourage DDOT to commit to a study on bike lanes in the ANC. Commissioner Appel also shared updates on communication with DDOT, including his understanding that several ANCs and the DC Council were pushing DDOT to respond.

Commissioner Rubenstein shared that he was expecting DDOT to come back to the public on the Vermont Avenue bike lane as early as spring.

Commissioner Rubenstein mentioned a tool to work with DDOT on inspecting unused Streateries.

Finally, he noted that DDOT had begun plans on the 11TH St bus lanes.

Community Development Committee, Chair Florio

Old Korean Legation Museum

Zach Burt shared information about the DC Preservation League’s application to make the Old Korean Legation Museum a historic landmark. He noted the distinctive nature of the building and its importance to the Asian-American community in Washington DC and shared information about the building’s history.

Chair Florio moved to write a letter of support for the DC Preservation Board’s historic landmark application for the Old Korean Legation Museum. Commissioner Zagraniczny seconded the motion. Commissioner Rubenstein asked whether the designation would extend to the Museum’s garden; Mr. Burt explained that the garden would likely be included given that it was within the lot space, but it was not a contributing feature and could be changed or adjusted if needed. Commissioner Miller and Chair Florio asked about the significance of the designation and about collaboration with the Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Burt responded that since the building was already located in a historic district, and so this would formalize its status. Chair Florio called the question and the motion was approved unanimously.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Public Safety Committee, Caroline Zagraniczny

Commissioner Zagraniczny provided brief updates, with no new business to report.

Alcohol and Cannabis Policy Committee, Chair Florio

Mr. Nice Guys

John McGowan presented plans for medical cannabis retail at Mr. Nice Guy, which had been operating without license and wished to transition to become a regulated and license establishment. He shared plans for hours and security, noting that the establishment was not seeking endorsements for consumption or a summer garden. He also shared the timeline for consideration.

Chair Florio moved to protest the license application on the basis of impact on peace, order, and quiet. Commissioner Rubenstein seconded the motion. Commissioner Rubenstein shared concerns about amplified music; Mr. McGowan explained there were no plans to project noise and that the applicant would be very happy to include this language in a Settlement Agreement. Chair Florio shared other terms that would be present in the Settlement Agreement. The Chair called the question, which passed unanimously.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Rice Restaurant

Chair Florio shared the nature of the application for Rice Bar and Restaurant, which was seeking a stipulated license and amendment to their current license to serve alcohol in a second story space above its restaurant. He moved to send a letter of support for a stipulated license and the substantial change to license. Commissioner Appel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VOTE: 5-0-0

New Business

Letter of Support for Capital Pride Celebrations

Chair Florio moved to send a letter of a support to the District for Capital Pride's plans for pride celebrations. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Miller recommended encouraging a return of activities to P Street in the ANC. Commissioner Zagraniczny also recommended encouraging appropriate clean up. Commissioner Rubenstein also noted the need to ask for additional Clean Team funding for Pride. The Chair called the question and the motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.