

ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

David Rubenstein (2F01)
Neil Rocklin (2F02)
Joe Florio (2F03)
Brian McCabe (2F04)
Christopher Dyer (2F05)
Brant Miller (2F07)
Caroline Zagraniczny (2F08)

ABSENT

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. The Chair called roll and confirmed quorum.

Community Forum

Commissioner Announcements

The Chair announced the vacancy of single-member district 2F06, as well as the single candidate who had put forth an application, Christopher Appel. Commissioner Christopher Dyer asked whether there would need to be an in person election; the Executive Director clarified the Board of Elections rules that indicated any uncontested candidate would be able to fill the vacancy without election.

Commissioner David Rubenstein shared updates from the District “Clean Team,” including a new vendor that the team would be contracting.

Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny announced a vigil from the People for Fairness Coalition.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Sergeant Malachi Suggs*

Sergeant Malachi Suggs provided updates on crime statistics in the second district, including a decrease in crime.

Chair Florio asked about an unlawful discharge of a firearm and destruction of property on the corner of 14TH Street and Rhode Island Avenue. He mentioned that Lt. Garvin was following up on the incident and would be able to provide updates. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the gunfire was related to open air drug activity that was taking place in that area. Sgt. Suggs answered that he was unsure at the time whether there was any relation.

Report from Mayor’s Office, *Grace Reeder*

Grace Reeder shared information about the curfew enforcement pilot program and upcoming hiring fairs. She also shared updates from Art All Night. She also shared information about how to reach out to the Mayor.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about the replacement of trash containers and whether the mayor’s office would be able to do anything to help expedite replacements.

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

Brian Romanowski shared updates on the “Secure DC Plan” that included 16 bills to address public safety. It included new felony offenses for discharging weapons, expanded the definition for what constituted “carjackings,” and other

provisions for prosecution. It also included prevention plans, including for new patrols and cameras, job training to reduce recidivism, and the creation of a “Trans Fatality Review Board.” Finally, it included legislation on support and oversight, including how to address hiring and retention in public safety roles, improve emergency response, and consider how to approach violence interruption in retail theft.

Finally, he shared updates on “Agency Day” with CM Pinto and various District agencies, as well as upcoming public safety walks in Ward 2.

Commissioner Zagraniczny asked about the feedback procedure for the Secure DC Plan and whether there was an opportunity to provide feedback on all bills at once, or whether they’d be considered separately. Mr. Romanowski responded that he wasn’t sure but would take the recommendation on taking feedback for the overall policy approach back to the Councilmember.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Sergeant Corey Vullo*

Sergeant Corey Vullo was not able to access his microphone but shared some crime statistics via the webinar chat function.

Community Announcements

Latoya Davenport with the U.S. Attorney’s Office third district shared updates around the office’s trafficking task force, anti-bullying initiative and other updates.

Linda Greenan with PEPCO shared information about an application for rate increase and an upcoming Q & A session on this application, as well as PEPCO’s climate programs.

Consent Agenda

Chair Florio read the consent agenda, including:

- Approval of September Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Expenses
 - \$1278.81 for Executive Director’s September salary
 - \$747.24 for Federal Income Tax
 - \$131.50 for State Income Tax
 - \$91.98 for DC Unemployment Insurance
 - \$31.50 for Paid Family Leave

Commissioner Florio moved to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded and failed.

VOTE: 0-0-7

Commissioner Dyer moved to remove the approval of agenda from the consent agenda. That motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Commissioner Rubenstein moved to amend the agenda to include discussion of the grant application and consideration process. That motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Commissioner Florio moved to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Approval of Expenses
 - \$1278.81 for Executive Director’s September salary
 - \$747 for Federal Income Tax
 - \$131.50 for State Income Tax

- \$91.98 for DC Unemployment Insurance
- \$31.50 for Paid Family Leave

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Budget Approval

2024 Budget

Commissioner Miller shared updates on the budget, including the balance forward, allotments, and expenditures. Chair Florio moved to approve the budget; the motion was seconded.

Commissioner Dyer noted that the budget as proposed was not a balanced budget, as it projected greater expenditure than allotments incoming. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the ANC was able to pass a budget that was unbalanced, as the budget projected a \$1,000 shortfall to the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Rubenstein clarified that there were two questions at play: whether the ANC *could* have an unbalanced budget and whether it *should* have one.

Commissioners Dyer and Rubenstein discussed utilizing savings to cover expenditures throughout the year and updated the budget to do so.

The budget was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein*

15TH Street Traffic Enforcement Resolution

Commissioner Rubenstein shared updates from a previously proposed resolution calling for safety improvements on 15th Street. He noted that ANC 2B had passed a sister version of the resolution. Chair Florio expressed his support for the resolution and the partnership with ANC 2B. He moved to pass the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously, with Brant Miller abstaining.

VOTE: 6-0-1

Planta Public Space Permit

Commissioner Rubenstein shared updates on the public space permit for Planta and moved to approve the application; the motion was seconded. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the establishment was taking the place of the former Phillip's seafood restaurant, which it was. Chair Florio shared other updates from the discussion with the Public Space Committee, including the need to address rat mitigation and ensure proper sidewalk access and flow for pedestrians.

Commissioner McCabe asked whether the tables and chairs would be put inside every night or stay outdoors. Nicole Hope explained that some benches might stay outside but other chairs would be brought into the building at night. Commissioner Zagraniczny also recommended ensuring that property remained secured in the evenings.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VOTE: 6-0-1

Approval of Restoration of Garbage Can Location at about 1718 14th Street

Commissioner Rubenstein shared the motion to approve support for the replacement of a trash can near the former Mexicue establishment. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Miller noted that Mexicue had wanted the trash can removed because it was placed amid their outdoor dining. Commissioner Rubenstein noted that the language was flexible enough that coming businesses' outdoor eating areas would not be impacted. Brad Edelman of the Logan Circle Community Association noted that the LCCA had been attempting to get trash cans on 13th Street and asked what the protocol would be for pursuing the addition of cans. Commissioner Rubenstein invited the LCCA to attend a public space and transportation committee meeting. Commissioner Miller also recommended making a 311 request, which would require an ANC resolution to support.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VOTE: 6-0-1

Public Safety Committee, *Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny*

Commissioner Zagraniczny shared further updates about the People for Fairness Coalition Vigil, which would honor those who had passed away on the streets, including insights from formerly incarcerated people and others with experience being unhoused.

Commissioner Zagraniczny also updated the Committee on her exploration of services provided to the unhoused community, on the response to drug-related activity, and trafficking, particularly around 12th Street. Commissioner Miller noted that while sex traffic was not new in the area, there seemed to be more impact on the community lately. Commissioner Zagraniczny confirmed that there had been an increase in disturbances, noting that drug use, particularly related to the fentanyl crisis, seemed to be exacerbating the concerns.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked whether it might be worth the ANC making budget requests for services that might be useful in the Logan Circle area, particularly given that MPD was short on resources and personnel.

Alcohol Policy Committee, *Chair Joseph Florio*

Chair Florio shared updates from the APC, including consideration of a Settlement Agreement for cannabis licensing applications. He explained that the APC was planning to adapt the existing SA for liquor licensing and present a new version to the Commission to consider for a vote in the November meeting.

New Business

Considering Grant Applications

Commissioner Rubenstein reviewed the process for considering grant applications. He noted that, with only \$300 of funds budgeted to disburse, it may be beneficial to announce a deadline for receiving applications to review and disburse at once. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the Commission could receive and review the grants in advance. Commissioner Miller expressed some anxiety about disbursing grant funds as early as the second quarter of FY 2024. Commissioner Rubenstein suggested waiting to set the timeline for collecting applications until the beginning of the calendar year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.