

ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 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)
Christopher Powell (MOCRS)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The Chair called roll and confirmed quorum.

Community Forum

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner David Rubenstein shared updates on the resumption of “Clean the Streets” walks.

Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lieutenant Curtis Miller*

Lieutenant Curtis Miller shared updates on the reports of drug activity on the 12th Street corridor. He mentioned that he had been working with the Drug Trafficking Unit and the Sex Trafficking Unit, and they had made an arrest of a well-known pimp in the area. He also underscored that he had tried to encourage other agencies to get involved in conducting outreach to sex workers and drug traffickers.

He also updated on upcoming peace walks and encouraged commissioners and the public to join the walks.

Lt. Miller also shared updates on the double homicide at the Giant supermarket at 8th and O Streets.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked for more information regarding the youth curfew and how it works. Lt. Miller explained that the MPD was deploying designated curfew cars to identify juveniles that were breaking curfew; MPD would be taking juveniles for their parents to pick them up.

Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny asked about the coordination with Grace Reeder of the Mayor’s Office and HIPS. Lt. Miller explained that HIPS had a better response from those with whom they interface without having police presence, and so they were coordinating with HIPS directly. She also asked whether the MPD was aware of the times that HIPS conducts outreach and was coordinating this with “move along” policies. Lt. Miller acknowledged that he should educate officers about HIPS’ work to avoid conflict.

Nicole Brown noted that there was an increase of loiterers and potential drug activity around Logan Circle and around 14th Street and asked what action, if any, she should take in noticing this. Lt. Miller noted that there was an increase in drug activity (heroin and fentanyl) in the area, and he suggested calling 911 to deploy medical care. Commissioner Zagraniczny noted that Ward 2 Mutual Aid and Mariam’s Kitchen also operated in this area and could be available for support if needed.

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

Brian Romanowski shared efforts from the Councilmember to meet with stakeholders prior to school openings.

He updated the Commission that CM Pinto would continue to focus on reforms to public safety laws, including a number of bills to formalize emergency legislation, to address victims of crimes, and other relevant issues.

He discussed timelines on budget, including review of investments from FY2023 and budgets for 2024, with key investments in 2F (like at Garrison Elementary).

He discussed cannabis licensing for medical marijuana as an attempt to legalize dispensaries in the district. He encouraged the ANC to invite representatives from ABCA to attend a meeting to discuss the process.

Finally, he previewed changes to leaf collection.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about a series of court cases that presented obstacles to prosecution over crimes related to illegal guns and whether there were possibly any legislative solutions to the issue. Mr. Romanowski explained that he was not familiar with the issue but would pass the information to colleagues.

Commissioner Zagraniczny asked about a follow up to the CM's earlier roundtable on gun violence and whether any similar roundtables were planned. Mr. Romanowski committed to suggesting follow-ons to the Councilmember and her scheduler.

Report from Mayor's Office, *Christopher Powell*

Christopher Powell shared updates about the Mayor's juvenile curfew pilot program. He reminded the audience of a slide week for trash due to the holiday, and to stay attentive to extreme heat advisories.

He shared upcoming events, including the National Maternal and Infant Health Summit and the Mayor's Arts Awards.

Mr. Powell offered that the Mayor's office was always happy to organize an infrastructure walk.

Commissioner Rubenstein noted increased rat activity and garbage cans with holes in them. He asked about replacements for garbage cans. Mr. Powell explained that there was a shortage of cans, so many were on backorder. Inspector H. Davis explained that the entire city was in need of cans, and he emphasized that cleaning the cans was an important mitigation effort to prevent rats from chewing holes in them.

Community Announcements

Chair Florio shared updates from "Art All Night," which would come to Logan Circle for the first time on Saturday, September 30. He encouraged any interested volunteers to contact Michelle Molotsky at Logan Circle Main Street.

Consent Agenda

Chair Florio read the consent agenda, including:

- Approval of the September agenda
- Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Expenses
 - \$1278.81 for Executive Director's July Salary
 - \$1278.81 for Executive Director's August Salary
 - \$158.89 for Zoom renewal
 - \$40.00 for business card re-order

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

Election

Election of Alcohol Policy Committee (APC) Chair

Commissioner Dyer moved to nominate Chair Florio to be chair of the APC. Chair Florio accepted and seconded the motion. Chair Florio acknowledged the importance of leadership on the committee given upcoming cannabis licensing and ongoing negotiations on alcohol licenses, and he called on the Commission and constituents to get more involved in the Committee. Commissioner Dyer also emphasized the importance of the cannabis licensing and setting policy “for years to come.” The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Committee Reports

**Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein*
*1306 Vermont Avenue - New Sign***

Commissioner Rubenstein shared an image of the sign proposed by Mount Olivet Church. Commissioner Dyer moved to approve the sign. The motion was seconded. Rocky Deterts of Mount Olivet explained their interest in updating the sign and requested approval. The question was called and the motion approved unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

15TH Street Traffic Enforcement Resolution

Commissioner Rubenstein discussed ongoing collaboration with ANC 2B, with whom ANC 2F shares a border on 15th Street, over traffic enforcement cameras in order to present a collective effort to address high speeds in a heavily trafficked pedestrian area. He noted that there was no motion to put on the table today, but he was interested in hearing feedback from the commission before proposing a resolution in the October meeting. Commissioner Dyer expressed his support for efforts to slow speeds on 15th Street in the ANC and shared concerns about an accident waiting to happen. Commissioner Neil Rocklin noted the preschool at the Jewish Community Center on Q Street and asked whether a specific reference would be made there, suggesting that DDOT may have specific regulations on speeds around the school. Commissioner Rubenstein committed to making a note on a possible amendment to the text to note the presence of a school.

Traffic Camera Enforcement Resolution

Commissioner Rubenstein shared updates from the DDOT task force dealing with traffic enforcement and his belief that the taskforce still had not engaged the public on substance issues so recommended that the ANC still consider a resolution encouraging urgent response on booting, automated tickets, and fake tags. Chair Florio moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously, with Commissioner Brant Miller abstaining.

VOTE: 6-0-1

Public Safety Committee, *Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny*

Commissioner Zagraniczny updated the Commission that the Committee had focused on available data access and review and would welcome any requests, interest, or concerns on available crime statistics.

Commissioner Brant Miller asked if 1111 M Street could be added to the crime walk as some of his constituents had raised concerns about this location. Commissioner Zagraniczny committed to raising this location with Lt. Miller.

Commissioner Rubenstein shared a positive experience that he had over the summer at the MPD’s “Community Engagement Academy” and encouraged others to take advantage of the opportunity.

New Business

Bylaws Amendment: Alcohol Policy Committee Language

Commissioner Dyer shared updates to the bylaws of the APC committee to update terminology to conform with the changes from “ABRA” to “ABCA;” he also clarified the process that he followed for proposing the update. Commissioner Dyer moved to approve the amendments to the bylaws. The motion was seconded.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Designation of Commissioner Rubenstein as Representative for Aslin Negotiations

Commissioner Rubenstein explained that he had acted as a representative of the ANC in negotiations around Settlement Agreement violations, but that he may need to ask the ABCA for fact finding. Commissioner Dyer moved to add the topic to the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Commissioner Rubenstein offered a motion to designate David Rubenstein before the ABCA board to represent the ANC on matters related to Aslin’s compliance with its Settlement Agreement. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Discussion of ANC 2F Grants

Commissioner Rubenstein discussed the presence of funds for ANC grants, which totaled \$300 for the FY2023 year. Commissioner Dyer expressed his support for considering grants, as well as developing a process for considering and determining grants in an equitable and transparent way.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.