

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7D

## March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

6:32: Meeting begins

6:33: Commission votes to adopt agenda by voice vote.

6:35: Commissioner votes to adopt meeting minutes by voice vote.

6:36: Chair Felder introduces Chair Mendelson to discuss his priorities, particularly as it relates to budget. Chair Mendelson states that school funding and maintaining free bus service are his top priorities. He explains that Mayor Bowser requests robust funding for housing, so it does not need to be his top priority. Chair Mendelson said that his goal is that no school receives a cut. Chair Mendelson turns to recent congressional actions pertaining to DC and states that congressional interference is “very troubling” and not being helped by the FOP. Chair Mendelson says that they funded the mayor’s request for the year, but there are national challenges. Chair Mendelson acknowledges that the council made mistakes with respect to the criminal code rewrite but maintains that the substance of the bill was mischaracterized and says he is working to prevent further congressional interference.

6:45: Chair Felder opens things up to questions.

Commissioner Payne inquires as to the next steps on the criminal code rewrite and a public hearing. Chair Mendelson states that it’s unclear what the next steps are. He maintains position that he withdrew bill, and says next steps are up to Councilmember Brooke Pinto. The council may wait two years, he doesn’t know.

Commissioner Friend inquires as to funding for public housing and rental assistance. Chair Mendelson states that the council has provided additional funding for capital repairs. There is a new executive director, \$100 million for repairs, and \$40 million for emergency rental assistance, but overall, he doesn’t think the programs have been particularly well run.

Commissioner Eby inquires as to the status of free busses and other improvements to WMATA. Chair Mendelson says that all of it is in jeopardy.

Commissioner Schapitl asks about the District’s financial and economic outlook given the long-term trends with remote work and challenges with downtown commercial property tax revenue. Chair Mendelson said that generally the CFO underestimates revenue, and the CFO has factored in remote work. He does not expect a recession. He views downtown challenges as temporary. Income and sales tax revenue are steady. The Problem is commercial property tax revenue.

Commissioner Alcorn thanks Chair Mendelson for his help during redistricting in keeping the Hill East community together.

Commissioner Hasan expresses concerns about rebuilding the Lane Street Bridge. There are community concerns from Eastland Gardens, and no community input was solicited. Chair Mendelson is not familiar with specifics, but will take it back.

Commissioner Astman inquires about teacher retention. Chair Mendelson says the District needs to look at flexible scheduling and mental health. Collective bargaining is not in the budget, that's handled separately. In his view, the Chancellor is not pushing the right priorities within DCPS to encourage retention.

Former Commissioner Campbell, who is currently working as a constituent services representative for Councilmember Vince Gray also thanks Chair Mendelson for help during redistricting.

7:12 Chair Mendelson thanks the commission and community and departs.

7:13: MOCRE Lawrence Davin gives presentation. He highlights availability of wheel locks for steering wheels, the upcoming Emancipation Day parade, a veterans' roundtable, and grant opportunities. Lakeisha Morgan is Lawrence's new partner in Ward 7.

7:20 Former Commissioner Francis Campbell has taken a new job as constituent services representative for Councilmember Gray, and provides an overview of his new role.

7:30: MPD provides a presentation on crime statistics and issues of concern.

7:40: Kyle Olson of DDOT presents on the Arboretum Bridge project. Within next month, DDOT will have a larger community meeting with National Park Service.

7:55: Chris Dyer of DPR presents on Summer Camp registration. He also provides an update on capital projects like Spielberg Park.

8:08: Commissioners provide their one-minute SMD presentations.

8:18: Ambrose Lane Junior of the Health Alliance Network presents a resolution in support of solutions for the opioid crisis.

8:26 Brea Govan of Events DC presents on their upcoming meeting.

8:30 Gina Geffrard of Kenilworth Gardens presents on the Junior Ranger program and search for new executive director.

8:31: Commissioner Astmann provides treasurer updates and the commission adopts the proposed budget is adopted by voice vote.

Among the proposed expenditures include funds to redo the website and get a Zoom subscription. The commission adopts the proposed expenditures by voice vote.

8:34: Commissioners Payne, Friend, and Eby present on the committees.

8:48: The commission adds Brynn Barnett and Aaron Johnson to list of committee participants by voice vote.

8:52: Commissioner Astmann presents on a BZA case in his SMD, and the commission votes to support the BZA case by voice vote.

8:55 Meeting adjourned by Chair Felder.