



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday November 18th, 2024 7:00 p.m.

In-Person at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW
and online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chairperson Warren called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Ashley Warren (2D01) and Carole Feld (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Warren moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$16,195.53.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner/Chair Warren noted that this is her last ANC meeting serving as Commissioner of 2D01 after two terms. It's been an honor to get to know all the different neighbors and work with you all, and hope to be here next year, but be in the audience, as Robyn takes over. Thanked everyone for making it so enjoyable. Grateful to live in a neighborhood where people really care and work together. Commissioner Warren thanked everyone from St. Margaret's Church, Peter as our volunteer, and all the neighborhood leaders and organizations whom she worked with during her two terms as the Commissioner of ANC 2D01.

Commissioner Feld thanked Commissioner Warren for her service. She noted that it was a privilege and a lot of fun working together, and that they accomplished a lot –on big and small issues.

Commissioner Feld stated that she always appreciated her wise counsel and that their collaboration was real teamwork that blurred the lines of their different sectors and she was going



to miss her. She then read a Happy Retirement card from herself and neighborhood leaders and told Commissioner Warren that a token of their appreciation is coming to her in an email.

Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Lt. Alexis Sakulich attended the meeting and reported that out of PSA208, 86 crimes in last 30 days that were reported in the broader area, only three were reported in ANC 2D, two of which were thefts and one was a stolen auto. One was a package theft from a lobby of a 2100 block of building on Calif. Street and the other was a Doordash delivery. A stolen auto was reported on Nov. 1 not yet recovered yet in the 2100 block of Wyoming. The stolen auto was a Honda. It wasn't indicated on the report how the car was stolen.

One neighbor brought up increased rush hour traffic on California Street NW coming from Massachusetts Ave NW to avoid construction on 23rd St NW, which has included many rolling through the stop sign. Lt. Sakulich said she would try to get a traffic car set up to give that area attention.

Mayor's Office

Ty Abilla, a representative from the Mayor's Office introduced herself and her role as the Ward 2 MOCRS. She congratulated Chairperson Warren on her retirement. She shared her contact info: Tadai.Abilla@dc.gov; 202-297-6566.

She encouraged neighbors to download and use the 311 app, useful to report illegal dumping, parking enforcements, road infestations, if need an inspection, etc. --good for reporting and real time responses. Once a ticket has been submitted, please pass info on to her so she can follow up on it.

She spoke about activities and resources including "Stay Safe Online DC" helpful for guarding against cyberattacks and "AlertDC" to get real time DC emergency alerts viatext messages directly to your phone. Talked about Fall Leaf Collection and a leaf tracker to receive real time updates when your pick-up will be selected. Also spoke about Mental Health Hotline. Call 1-88-793-4357 don't hesitate to use or have someone in need use this resource. Abilla also spoke about DC's Career Fair on November 19. Registration is currently open. DC government is hiring please look at career website to see if there is something of interest within DC govt. Next, she talked about reporting suspicious activity—different resources for reporting. Call 911 if life is at risk or at stake.

Also, to make sure our neighbors are safe, there is a shelter hotline for unhoused neighbors. Call 202-399-7093 or 311.

Abilla spoke about School DC Ed Fest. Saturday in December. Smart 911 a platform to plan ahead - can put address and health info if vulnerable in event of an emergency. Also if interested in becoming a case manager, she shared sign up application info through Dec. 1. Updates. Friendsgiving, Nov. 20, Nov. 27 Feast of Sharing--25th anniversary of Safeway, shared volunteer info, and shared a cheat sheet of core team members and contact info. Finally shared info to follow on social media @2ward2MOCRS



Councilmember Pinto's Office

Maddy White, Councilmember Pinto's scheduler and James Nance the Councilmember's legislative Council joined the meeting.

White mentioned that she knows residents have concerns about what the next four years will bring to DC because we are so affected by federal policies and that Councilmember Pinto will continue to work for DC residents and for home rule.

She thanked Commissioner Warren for her service and congratulated Robyn Lipton on her recent election to ANC2D01, Commissioner and Commissioner Feld on her re-election. She also announced that that Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety recently had a hearing on two bills: one banning marriage for anyone under 18 in the District and to ensure incarcerated women who are pregnant are able to have safe and supported pregnancies while incarcerated. Office of the Unified Communications hearing will be coming on Dec. 4 focusing on technology and multi-agency coordination and one related to the Safe Amendment Act. Mandates multiple onsite security assessments and requirements for any property by the Dept. of Buildings. She provided further updates on activity from Councilmember Pinto's office.

James Nance gave a quick legislative update on the passed Residential Tranquility Emergency Amendment Act. Prohibits use of amplified sound devices in residential zoned areas between 7pm and 9 am and it is illegal to throw or launch any projectiles onto residential properties. Two bills passed.

He defined sound amplified devices as any machine device or loudspeaker that would amplify noise or music or other sound. Continued use of projectile devices after notice by MPT can result in a fine or 90 days incarceration or both. Working on a permanent legislation of the bill.

Discussion ensued. Below are the main points.

With current time restrictions, residents are still disturbed by noise even if device isn't aimed at a residence due to high density, prefer original bill that banned amplified devices at all times. Commissioner Feld thanked them and credited Marie Drissel, Kindy French and Don Friedman, and Commissioner Warren and others in the community who worked with them to get the bills passed. Stated we are very much committed working with Councilmember Pinto and her team on drafting the permanent legislation and reaching out to other ANCS who are having the same problem. Feld noted that one of the noisemakers have migrated to Mass Ave. in front of the Japanese embassy during the day. It's still a residential area, Zone R3. It's disrupting two Apt. buildings, other residences and embassies and believe the State Dept. will get involved to stop it. The bill originally banning amplified noise devices in residential areas at all times which would be more appropriate for us.

The District controls unmanned drones, should do the same with unmanned/remote sound devices. Commissioner Warren asked about why this woman was at the Japanese Embassy. Marie Drissel explained that the person who has migrated is doing it during the day and related to nuclear waste material in Yamaha instruments that the Japanese and the Chinese are doing. It's wildly loud, and remotely controlled megaphones. Drissel opined that we control unmanned



drones, need to look at controlling unmanned equipment such as remotely controlled megaphones, noisemaker has up to five of them at the same time.

Home/residential term is complicated needs further definition. Also need to look into the “home/residential” definition. Have a lot of chanceries in D/R/3. Drissel also asked for help in defining home, need to address that in permanent legislation. In the future, there may be targeting of religious entities and definitely have people living in their homes. One of them is a Jewish entity in this neighborhood. Commissioner Feld mentioned that with amplified devices, noise travels and affects residents even if they are not the primary target. For example, the noise aimed at the Japanese Embassy affects many residential neighbors in this high density area. Asked that the permanent legislation address not targeting a specific residence but looking at the noise targeted at residences around a targeted location even if the target location is not a residence but in a residentially zoned area.

Enforcement is unclear. Drissel has heard from MPD including the Chief of Police. Don’t understand whether they can confiscate the sound equipment. And no one seems to know for sure, if they are doing it from 7-9 can MPD not only arrest but can they confiscate the megaphone? Vance said if they are using it during the prohibited times than the MPD can stop it. Vance also noted that if the person is arrested they can confiscate it, not sure if they can confiscate without arresting them? Vance noted that biggest issue is to protect first amendment but protect the sanctuary of the home.

Distinguishing between pre-recorded and amplified devices. Commissioner Warren also mentioned distinguishing between pre-recorded devices and amplified devices. This also respects the right to a megaphone/microphone, no way someone screaming in to a megaphone has the same impact and horrible noise as five pre-recorded devices. .

Anijah Franklin asked if it’s illegal to continue demonstrating after law enforcement asks them to stop, if it’s for all demonstrations or just using amplified devices. Vance clarified it’s only for amplified noise devices targeting a residence. She also asked about the permanent status of the bill. Vance said he’s here to hear all concerns so they can work on permanent legislation that is enforceable.

Again, enforcement unclear. Kindy French asked when noisemakers can come back once they’ve been told to leave.. Vance said he will clarify in the permanent legislation.

Treatment of Demonstrators vs. Buskers. Don Friedman asked about an issue re: ACLU. Says that we need to be sensitive that demonstrators are treated more harshly than Buskers in DC. Vance said they are looking at other cities and see what they’re doing on this. Have been making legislation to only apply to residential zoned areas, and targeting a residence with targeted amplified sound.

Traffic Safety Input (TSI) Updates from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

Christophe Wassmer, a representative from DDOT attended the meeting. He provided an update on Dupont Deckover Connecticut Ave Streetscape project currently under review; plan to award contract as soon as possible. Project will start in early spring, will affect residents of S/K at the intersection at Connecticut Ave. and Columbia Rd. and Connecticut and Florida Ave . Also the



Columbia Rd. Project, built concrete bus platforms, repaved all Columbia Rd. between Connecticut Ave. and 16th Street. RE: the missing call box situation, hope to use funds that we got from contractor to start restoration and do the handover.

He shared that ANC 2D TSIs have not been selected for further study during this quarter and explained how there is a queue for prioritization and a selection methodology with many factors. Will update selections after Jan. 1 for next quarter.

Mentioned Utility work 1800 Phelps DC Water and Washington Gas. DC Water reached out saying if they don't have cones on the street, residents can park on Phelps Place despite the posted no parking signs.

Commissioner Warren mentioned the crosswalk that disappeared at the bus stop at California and Columbia where Connecticut breaks out to the right to go to Columbia Rd. She heard from many neighbors that it's unsafe for them to cross the road without any crosswalk at the bus stop. She asked if it's coming back, or will be part of the deckover. Wassmer thanked her for the feedback. He says the pavement markings are permanent and doubts that they will be restoring that crosswalk.. Commissioner Warren said it's important to let people know that the crosswalk is not coming back.. Said when they do the Deckover can suggest that they put it back.

Commissioner Feld asked for his help on Waterside Drive since nothing has happened since they met with DDOT and NPS on that issue and he said he would handle it.

There was discussion on the contract procedures for the Deckover. Commissioner Warren said all should google Dupont Deckover and warned it may take an eternity like MARP. Wassmer noted that they will hold them Contractors to a timeline.

Holly Sukenik thanked Wassmer for attending Mitchel Park Fun Day. Enrico thanked Commissioner Warren for her service. Asked Wassmer for the status of the "illegal" bus stop at Belmont and Mass and noted all the traffic issues. Asked for a solution and what there might be in the future. Commissioner Feld thanked him for the question and noted Kindy French feels the same about the problems with this bus stop. Wassmer said her heard from their bus team and WAMATA and don't have a plan to move the bus stop. Enrico mentioned the other bus stop in front of the Venezuelan property that could possibly serve as a substitute for this bus stop.

New Business

2120 S ST NW DC_HPRB Submission 241014sm Neighbor Presentation

Architect Adam Greene introduced himself and the fact that he knows the neighborhood well and introduced Rosa the owner at 2120 S Street NW. She talked about her long-time family history in the neighborhood and why it's special to her and her husband.

Greene said it's a two-story structure built in 1959 zoned in R3 district. Structure built in the historic district though considered *non-contributing*. 1890 – 1945 is time period for *contributing* structures.

Looking to accommodate her family, working from home, aesthetically bring this two-story structure built in the late 50s up to the formal nature of the neighborhood. He walked through their



proposed drawings for the modifications. This included the lowest level, a proposed a sunken backyard, landscaping, to an enclosed existing porch. Not changing the footprint, building a new level above. Recladding with stone and brick material in front of the building. =

Proposed addition is a new third floor, extending the formal geometry of the facade, using the exiting windows, creating a level consistent with the neighborhood. Also including a roof terrace in the back. Adding another level, not asking for any relief, is zoned by right, worked with Steve Callcott on this, he's seen it, we made a couple tweaks based on his comments and he's seen the latest iteration. .

Commissioner Warren asked if not asking for relief what are you asking for. Architect, here to present it to the community as part of the historic preservation process. Going in front of HPRB for a concept review on Thursday. Building within the height limit and using existing an are within every other constraints within the district.

Commissioner Warren opened it up to questions or comments from the neighbors.

Owner *Olivier Biebuyck*, of 2118 S Street NW attended with wife *Veronic Peremans* and spoke. They moved to S/K two years ago. Believe Kalorama is unique and preserved. This is a complete transformation of the space, could increase sq. footage by 50% in an attached house. Several concerns:

1) 50% more sq. footage than what was bought, could have bought a larger house, our homes are some of the smallest in the neighborhood.

2) Two floors on the front, and three floors on the back, create a pop-up structure that will be 12 feet coming out of the back wall into the backyard. Houses are currently aligned in the back, will create 12 feet of additional space on several floors. Front is completely aligned too and share a wall. In the front it will completely transform the height alignment and create possible structural damage.

Believe strongly that the historical district is to preserve houses as they are. Also in the back new structure would remove their privacy. Original historical designation was up to 1945, had to protect houses 50 years old and higher, our house is 65 years old. In the spirit of the district to protect and we strongly object.

Commissioner Warren asked if they objected to 50% or a third story. Neighbor said he was objecting to the huge scope of the transformation as well as possible structural issues and the backyard extension which the elimination of their privacy. Architect replied that the backyard extension is 100 sq. feet not sure about the percentage. Using the existing porch in the back, building on top of it. 3rd floor is 30% of the addition.

Next neighbor Arnab Mukherjee at 2122 spoke. Just moved in at the beginning of this year. Laura D'Allaird is his wife. He sympathizes with the need for more space, moved to Kalorama looking for more space and a quieter life. Didn't know remodeling was coming until saw the pending notice. Has a significant impact on their lives, and the structure of their house --share the load bearing wall on one side, learning the process of how this works has been hard because of such little time. Needs more time to know what their rights are, the process, their rights and who the different stakeholders in the city.



Also, moved into an historic district because they thought the neighborhood is mature and can't change. Understand technically, it's not a contributing structure. But if look at the original document states could only go back 50 years. Said 1945/9 is the date but needs to be revisited as other houses get older. Perhaps it's an oversight of the historical society. These two houses have had to same view since 1959. Our house was changed in 1988 before the historic rules were made. Believe 1959 is an old and historical house. Believe the two houses are unique two of the smallest houses in the area, so there can be different price points and different sizes of houses. Don't know what the community benefit is. Come down Bancroft it's a big hill, maybe originally built this way so the line of site doesn't get blocked.

Mukherjee asked if they will lose their windows on the shared wall. Indicated they would have appreciated it if they would have been involved or told about this beforehand. Rosa mentioned that she did write to people. Mukherjee said it was given to them two days before it was put online. Historical preservation website says if coming up with a plan, include neighbors in the planning process. Neighbor mentioned the difference between attached and adjacent walls and when a proposed load bearing wall is shared it should be communicated.

Commissioner Warren stated when people move to S/K get surprised don't really understand how much people care about construction permits and historical significance.

Architect Greene said DC has good protections about shared walls, etc. Very sympathetic about historic districts. Always going to be something to contend with or unforeseen circumstances, but we will address any issues. Window is built on the property line. Mukherjee indicated didn't know they had an at-risk window. Asked if there were other pop ups happening in S/K. Could set a precedent for this. Clearly states needs to revisit that the homes are historic, not clear it was ever done. Want to know what their rights are to find out if that needs to be done.

Rosa said she was sympathetic to the neighbors especially the window issue. Would love to talk to the neighbors and figure out what to do about it. Law will make its own decisions, would love to come up with a solution that is comforting to all of them. Neighbor would like for them to delay it as they are not ready for the upcoming hearing.

Simon Wu, 1805 Phelps and his wife also attended. Hu mentioned Preservation is the number one goal. Is unprecedented that any rowhouse could have an additional floor, hasn't happened since 1989. When he looks out the window, want to keep/preserve what is now.

Kindy French believes the window is a problem. Perhaps can be revised. Suggest delay hearing until January, it is very bad timing for the neighbors and believe pop ups are a problem. Architect said they did everything right in terms of timing and procedures.

Don Friedman said he strongly supports a delay to give the neighbors the opportunity to evaluate the legal rights and everyone the opportunity to discuss their rights, etc.

Chair Warren motioned to object asking for a delay for HPRB to hear this case so neighbors can speak to the homeowner at 2120 S Street and to each other to see how they would like to proceed. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).



Kindy French recommended that all concerned go to the upcoming hearing scheduled in November. Chair Warren said that she will write a resolution and get it to HPRB tomorrow.

DC Bottle Deposit Return System

A neighbor Hannah talked about bringing the Bottle Deposit Return System to the District and would like Commissioners to draft a resolution asking the DC Council to support this and hold a hearing on it. A 10 cent deposit is refunded when a bottle is immediately returned. She said 10 states have bottle bills and recycling rates have shot up to the 80 percentile. She reviewed more about the bill and encouraged the ANC to learn more about it and again draft a resolution in its support. A Councilmember will propose the bottle bill in January. There will be some exceptions for small businesses.

Chair Warren asked if DC has the recycling capacity to do this or must be shipped somewhere far away. Hannah indicated she would like to get back to her after checking in with group leaders. Commissioner Feld wanted to know the number one reason why people/cities oppose it. Hannah said pushback by big box stores or garbage collectors re: cost and hassle in keeping the materials in a circular system and less waste to collect will affect their profit. Rodrigo asked about the impact of this on poor people because of income equality in DC and how do you fund the reverse machines. Hannah indicated funding could come from small increase to vending companies.

Chair Warren said it sounds like a good idea, but the ANC needs to take time to think about this before taking any action. She thanked Hannah for presenting.

Announcements and Open Comments

No comments/announcements.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that neighbors can check the ANC website for the meeting date in January 2025.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 9:22 PM.