

Minutes – Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 4A
March 4, 2025 Regular Public Meeting

PLEASE NOTE: *In compliance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition, §48, page 468, the minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A are a record of the actions taken by the Commission, not a record of what people said during the meeting. Accordingly, comments made by commissioners or members of the public will not be recorded in detail in the minutes.*

The meeting was held virtually through Zoom. Commissioner Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. A quorum was present, and included the following Commissioners:

- Paula Edwards, 4A01 (Chair)
- Christian Hara, 4A03 (Secretary)
- Patience Singleton, 4A04 (Treasurer)

1. Approval of Administrative Matters

- a. Approval of Agenda – Remove State Board of Education Representative Michelle Colson and add Shakira Richardson, Program Manager, Consumer Protection Unit, from DC Licensing and Permits. Also add the Go Vocal contract for approval under Administrative Matters and add discussion on the Letter of Support for a stipulated license for Pere Wine Bar. Moved by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED.
- b. Approval of the minutes from December, January, and February. The December minutes were moved to be approved with minor technical changes by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention PASSED. The January minutes were moved to be approved with minor technical changes by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention PASSED. The February minutes were moved to be approved with minor technical changes by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention PASSED.
- c. Approval of the Amended FY 2025 1st Quarter Financial Report – moved by Commr. Singleton, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 2 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention PASSED.

2. Government Agencies

- a. Leticia Acosta from the Mayor's Office provided an update. She noted that Ms. Escobar is out of the office so please copy Ms. Acosta on any emails. SYEP

registration ends Thursday, March 6 so please enroll. DPW has also started street cleaning and leaf collection has ended. However, please submit a ticket if any leaves were missed. On March 17, DPW will start to ticket cars that were not moved during street sweeping. The Mayor's Annual Her Story 5K is this Saturday, March 8 at Freedom Plaza. She provided her contact information in the chat.

- b. Barbara Rogers, Councilmember's Office, provided an update. She introduced Kristian Smith, a new constituent services director, with the Councilmember's Office. Listen As We Climb listening sessions were held last month and all the feedback collected will help direct the legislative actions of the Office. Ms. Rogers provided an update on the STEER Act, which gives the Districts Attorney General to prosecute dangerous out of state drivers. The Office is looking for volunteers to assist with Reimaging Georgia Avenue. If interested, please email Candace Nelson at cnelson@dccouncil.gov. Please fill out our survey about Georgia Avenue and share your thoughts by visiting www.janeeseeward4.com/georgia. The Councilmember is also developing a Volunteer Corp, please email teamjaneese@dccouncil.gov if you are interested in volunteering. AARP has tax resources available for seniors and the location in Ward 4 is Petworth Library; an appointment is required. Office hours in the community are on Wednesdays at Fort Stevens Recreation Center from 12-1 pm. Lastly, there are some new resources available on the Councilmember's website regarding immigration and employment issues. Finally, Mr. Smith introduced himself and shared his long history and connections in the Ward. Commr. Hara flagged the closure of Fort Stevens field for Mr. Smith. Commr. Edwards flagged the tracker trailer parked on Fern Street, the disintegration of some of the sidewalks in SMD 4A01, and the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update process that has started.

3. Community/Commissioner Discussion

- a. Kush Embassy Settlement Agreement: Kush Embassy is attempting to get a license for a medical cannabis dispensary. Kush Embassy is not an I-71 type of gifting establishment. Mr. Shahin Nassirzadeh from Kush Embassy will be available to answer questions and Commr. Edwards also invited Supervisory Investigator Jason Peru from ABCA to give a presentation. Mr. Peru gave a very thorough and comprehensive overview of the distinction between the two programs and the status of the gifting stores, which are now illegal. The owners of Kush Embassy have agreed in their Settlement Agreement to reduce hours of operation from 10 am to 8 pm, to handle trash collection, to link their external cameras to the MPD Camera Connect program, to have a security guard on-site, to control traffic, and that no one can consume products on-site. Mr. Nassirzadeh confirmed they are not pursuing a license that allows consumption on site.

Commr. Singleton will be looking to host a special SMD meeting and will put forward the Settlement Agreement at a future ANC meeting.

- b. Mr. Anthony Dale, Pere Wine Bar: The owner is asking for a letter of support from the ANC for a stipulated license which will allow the operator to function during the period when the full ABCA license is being considered. Mr. Dale is a veteran and was stationed at Walter Reed previously. The space is about 694 square feet. All the wines are from women owned and BIPOC vintners and are distributed through his company Fatherhood wines. They will also serve small bites, such as charcuterie boards. Their ABCA hearing is not until May 5, and they are hoping to open by the beginning of April. They do have a Settlement Agreement with the ANC and the Agreement will be submitted together with the ANC's letter of support for the stipulated agreement to ABCA. Commr. Singleton moved to approve the Settlement Agreement and to approve the letter of support for the stipulated license until the full license is approved by ABCA, Commr. Hara seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. PASSED
- c. Bottle Bill Discussion. Ms. Judy Smith, a resident in 4A01, gave a presentation on the proposed bottle bill for a 10-cent deposit on bottles. Councilmember Nadeau has put forward legislation for a 10-cent deposit on all bottles, plastic and glass, except for plastic milk bottles. The goal is to keep these bottles off the ground and to provide some environmental justice benefits. The large supermarkets would have reverse vending machines as well as stand-alone machines in neighborhoods without large grocery stores. Ten states already have passed and implemented bottle bills and reduced pollution has been demonstrated. The unclaimed deposits will be used for filtering lead from water. Codes on each bottle determine where the bottle was purchased. Commr. Singleton noted that this should be a regional solution, and she will work with Ms. Smith to craft a resolution to be presented to the ANC at the next meeting.
- d. Ms. Shakira Richardson, Program Manager, Consumer Protection Unit, from DC Licensing and Permits. Ms. Richardson shared with the community what the Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) does for the District, noting that this week is Consumer Protection Week. The CPU protects all citizens in the District with any concerns or complaints they have about any vendor or service provider you use. Additionally, the CPU supports new business owners in the licensing process. Ms. Richardson also addressed the decriminalization of street vending in the city. Commr. Edwards asked for Ms. Richardson to share the emergency legislation with the ANC so that the ANC can reach out to Councilmember to voice their support.

3. Community Concerns

- a. Marjorie Goldberg, Zenith Gallery. Ms. Goldberg shared that the gallery is having their 47th Anniversary this coming weekend and to please come visit the gallery.
- b. Cynthia Prather asked for an update on the new building at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Kalmia.
- c. Appeal process for eliminating bus stops on 16th Street. Commr. Edwards has reached out to WMATA and will follow up again.

Commr. Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting and Commr. Hara seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. PASSED

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Prepared by: Christian Hara

Approved on: April 1, 2025

Attested by:

Christian X. Hara
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