



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

August 2019 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 12 August 2019

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Michael Shankle, Jamaal Burton, Kevin Wilsey

PRESENT: Commissioner Jamaal Burton, Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Kevin Wilsey, Aungelic Nelson, Joey Farmery, Rachel Alben, Erica West, Stacey Berger, Jo-Ann Neuhaus, Sgt Erica Dorter-Jones, Capt Jonathan Dorrough, Garrett Moore, James Harnett, Marissa McKeever, Joe Kogan, David Voyles, Aaron Goldbeck, Bruce D.

ABSENT: NA

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Kevin Wilsey introduced himself and the other commissioners. Call to order made by Chair Kevin Wilsey at 6:38pm.
2. **OPENING REMARKS/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Wilsey to approve the agenda with the following amendments which were discussed by Shankle. Shankle said that there would be no presentation from MPD 2nd because Lt Heath and Sgt Shedd had been reassigned. MPD 2nd will send someone to the next meeting. The second change was that there would be no presentation from Woodbine Legacy Owner LLC., as they had withdrawn their application for a sidewalk café. The motion to approve the amended agenda was seconded by Shankle. (Vote: 3-0-0)
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Wilsey made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting; seconded by Shankle (Vote: 3-0-0)
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shankle provided the treasurer's report. The current balance as of 12 August was \$51,162.99. There had been one disbursement for the June prep of minutes.

Shankle made a motion to approve ANC Quarterly Financial Report, FY19 Q3, for the period of Apr-Jun 2019. He stated the quarter began with \$48,838.22 with one allotment from the District of \$1,541.59. There was one disbursement—the aforementioned June minutes prep. The balance at the end of June was \$48,229.81. The motion was seconded by Wilsey (Vote 3-0-0).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

5. MPD 1st District Crime & Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan

Dorrough, Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov: Capt Dorrough introduced the new evening sergeant, Sgt Dorter-Jones. Trends are slightly down over the last 30 days with violent crimes—four robberies compared to seven in the previous month. Robberies are generally the primary violent crimes in this area-- Chinatown. Property crime is also trending down. Overall, for the year we are still trending down. It was significantly down at the beginning of the year but over the last few months has seen a slight uptick. Incidents are robberies—mostly snatches—purses, etc. There was a discussion about whether or not there was a profile for the types of individuals who commit the robberies. Basically, the only common denominator is that they are men but the suspects come from all demographics.

6.

There was a discussion about a crime spike near 400 Mass where there were two snatches in the past two weeks at Chinatown Coffee and by the Ashton Lofts. There are no cameras at Chinatown Coffee according to the officer who responded to the scene. There is a lot of homelessness at 400 Mass. 4th Street and K Street NW has been a hot spot for crime—especially petty theft—for years. Even though the numbers are lower than they have been historically. But that area draws a lot of career criminals who engage in petty theft. Camera use varies from building to building. The city has a camera rebate program to encourage businesses and private citizens people to purchase them. Cameras aren't really a deterrent but they are great for follow-up to apprehend suspects. There are vacant offices/buildings and also a public housing complex in the area. The crime tends to occur after business hours. Capt Dorrough agreed to schedule more officers later in the day. There was a discussion on the news about a “spike in crime in Chinatown”. There was only a spike at Walgreens several weeks ago, but the numbers don't support the idea of a spike. It's more of a perception that Chinatown is rougher than other areas. It's not so much criminal as social issues like homelessness, encampments, and loitering. Shankle thanked Capt Dorrough for putting more officers in the Chinatown area and noted that it has made a difference.

7. District Department of Transportation, Micro-mobility Corrals at 7th Street and G Street NW and F Street and 8th Street NW. Proposed New Capital Bikeshare Station Location at 9th and I St NW, Aaron Goldbeck, DDOT

Bicycle Program Specialist, Aaron.Goldbeck@dc.gov. Goldbeck, a planner at DDOT, noted there are several projects ongoing. They want to install a Capital bikeshare station on I Street just west of 9th. There is a capital bikeshare development plan which identifies all of the possible locations for these stations. They want community input and feedback about the best places for these stations. They are holding off on installation to figure in impending development. But if the development is a year out or more, they will go ahead and install. The

stations are easily moved, and are solar powered and modular. A lot goes into the decision of where to place the stations. Mount Vernon Square didn't work because the stations have to be visited daily by the contractor and the traffic patterns there were not conducive—and Apple management was not willing to make concessions. There were issues with bikes being stolen from the vans if they were parked too far away. Capital Bikeshare bikes are DC property. Scooters are not. Parking corrals with bike racks will be installed in the street so people understand that they should be operated in bike lanes, not on sidewalks or in the street with traffic. The design is unobtrusive and will fit with existing structures. They are piloting a few locations and monitoring how they are utilized.

So far when they are deployed, people have begun to use them. DDOT needs about 6 feet width and 10 feet length for the corrals. The corrals will not be near residential parking. The 7th and G Street location met with no opposition. Other scooter businesses have expressed a willingness to use the corrals, but the city just hasn't built them. Wilsey noted that more signage and lights need to be installed downtown. There are plans for one to be installed in front of the McDonalds on 7th. There was discussion about the proposed F and 8th Street location—directly in front of the National Portrait Gallery—not being a good idea. The suggestion was made to keep the corral in the street and not have it on the sidewalk, but to move it either further right or further left. It would not interfere with the Farmers Market that is held there on Thursdays. Goldbeck requested people send in ideas for more locations. Shankle moved to write a letter of support for more scooter/bike lanes. Seconded by Wilsey (Vote: 3-0-0)

LOCAL EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY:

8. **The Atlantic Festival, 24-26 September 2019. Erica West, Groundwork Events.** Erica@groundworkevents.com. Erica returned to answer any questions about the festival. Its between 6th and 9th streets. They will have tents, a conversation well, an idea stage--everything from culture to politics. There will be many speakers to include Yo-Yo Ma, Mayor Bowser, Jose Andres. Arnold Schwarzenegger will be there to discuss gerrymandering. The festival is open to the public. Individuals can register at www.atlantic.com.

This proposal has already been presented to the Mayor's office. The majority of the festival will be between the Portrait Gallery and the Hotel Monaco. The layout accommodates for the Farmers Market—from whom they have a letter of support. They plan to reconfigure and share the space. 8th Street will be open to local traffic. Barriers will be on F Street on the east side, but only for people who live in that area. Hotel Monaco valet will move from F Street NW. DDOT is

partnering to provide proper signage and permits enough in advance so that the residents in the area are notified with more than 24 hours. Barriers will be police cruisers, not hard barriers for easier mobility in case they do need to move. Space for 200 sitting and/or standing. Wilsey moved to send a letter of support to the Mayor's office; Shankle seconded. (Vote: 3-0-0)

9. **Susan G. Komen: "More Than Pink Walk", 7 September 2019, Ms. Joey Farmery, Director, Eventage, JFarmery@eventage.net.** Farmery briefed about the Pink Walk which was formerly called "Race for the Cure". This is the third year for the Walk at this location (Penn Ave). The walk is just under three miles. They are using the standard 5K route that MPD favors—its just shorter. Volunteers will arrive at 6am. People can register at 7 am. Opening ceremony at 8:45 am and begin the walk at 9am. At 11am they will begin taking down the event site and plan to depart by 3pm. At midnight Friday night/Saturday morning, Pennsylvania Ave between 12th and 14th Streets will close. Penn Ave will be open again by 3pm. Saturday afternoon. Setup will happen Friday at 8am for tents on Freedom Plaza. The name was changed due to the fact that runs aren't really for fundraisers, and that research showed that walks generate more money. Wilsey moved to send a letter of support for the walk, and Burton seconded. (Vote: 3-0-0)
10. **The Fast and Fierce 5K, Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ), 14 September, 2019, Joe Kogan, Aegis Project, JKogan@consultaegis.com.** Kogan briefed that his company had a project to come up with the best community service event and came up with a 5K for FONZ to benefit rhinoceros preservation (the rhino is the company mascot). Last year they raised between \$40-50K with about 600 runners. They hope for 1000 runners this year. They have conditional approval from the Mayor's task force for the street closures. Setup will begin the morning of the 14th at 5:30am. They have very small tents that will not generate a lot of noise. The race will end by 11am. Wilsey moved to send a letter of support, Burton seconded (Vote: 3-0-0).

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING:

11. **Riggs F&B LLC, Riggs Washington DC at 900 F St NW—ABRA 114149 – Retailers Class "C" Hotel. ABRA License request for approval of a new license.** Shankle briefed that this was for information purposes only regarding alcoholic beverage licensing for Riggs Washington DC. The company asked ANC-2C for a letter of support for a liquor license for the hotel on F Street. ANC in July said Riggs should complete the settlement with Ventana at 912 F St. limiting sound and putting agreements in place that would be binding to the license. The settlement

agreement was reached so ANC-2C did send the letter supporting the alcohol license along with the settlement agreement.

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION:

12. 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Newseum/Johns Hopkins Project Update—
Mitch Bonnano, Chief Real Estate Officer, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine; Marissa McKeever, Sibley Hospital Director of Govt & Community Affairs. McKeever briefed on the footprint of Johns Hopkins in the DC community and the legacy of the school in the area. She noted that JHU's largest footprint is Sibley Hospital. JHU provides a lot of scholarships to area residents and also healthcare and community investments with things like free care to patients.

Bonnano discussed Johns Hopkins proposed purchase of the Newseum site at Penn and 6th Ave. They currently have three buildings in the DuPont Circle area on Massachusetts Ave. They want to consolidate their graduate programs into one campus. The planning for growth and consolidation has been ongoing for three years. However, the museum has been closing for about 5 years. They wanted a commercial partner to take some of the space, but nothing ever worked out. Recently, JHU came to an agreement with the Freedom Forum (the owners of the building) to purchase the building. JHU looks at this as a 100-year proposition.

He noted if the Newseum purchase goes through, that the construction will be primarily interior. It's a complicated building—there is deep space with not many windows for light. The façade on Penn Ave and on 6th Street will be renovated to allow more natural light with an atrium. The roof terrace will remain. The original design team has been hired for the remodel. Noise issues will be at a minimum as there will be no structural work on the outside. Johns Hopkins is purchasing the entire building to include the residential apartments and the Wolfgang Puck restaurant. The existing 135 market-rate apartments will remain as such. Johns Hopkins does not have student housing in D.C. The restaurant will remain and there will also be a dining facility with outdoor seating on the Penn Ave side nearer the Canadian embassy. It will not be a cafeteria or fast food, but also not fine dining, but will be affordable to students and also open to the public. The goal is to enliven Penn Ave in the evenings. This is in line with the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) initiative to revitalize Penn Ave from the White House to the Capitol. He also said that Johns Hopkins plans to be a true community partner and will engage with all stakeholders, especially the local condo residents, at each phase of the process. Additionally, the building will be

open to the public. There will be an event in September that everyone in the community will be welcome to attend.

ADJOURNMENT: At approx. 8:36p.m. Wilsey moved to adjourn. Shankle seconded.
(Vote: 3-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Aungelic Nelson

Minutes approved by: ANC 2C Commissioners

Next meeting: 10 September, 6: 30pm, Wilson Building, Room G-9.

Minutes Approved: September 10, 2019