



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

NOVEMBER 2019 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 12 November 2019

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

PRESENT: Commissioner Jamaal Burton, Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Kevin Wilsey, Angelic Nelson, Nicole Goines, Erica Dortch-Jones, Wendy Cadell, Bernard Grimsley, Renato Caldwell, John Sprague, Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Jacqueline Drayer, L Naril Lin, Lisa Shibaka, Dimitrios Moramoras, Andrew Harris, Stephen Petrucelli, Jessica Bloomfield, Kirk Solpini, Leslie Galiner, Jo-Ann Neuhaus, Antonis Karogounis, Jon Gann, Tom Kochel, Becky Miskell, Ellie Nicoll, Hector Del Valle, David Gilliland, Windy Abdul-Rahim, Martha Saccocio, John Lapozzi

ABSENT: NA

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Call to order made by Chair Kevin Wilsey at 6:37p.m. with two commissioners present. The third arrived later.
2. **OPENING REMARKS/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Wilsey moved to approve the agenda and Shankle seconded. (Vote: 2-0-1)
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Wilsey moved to approve the October minutes with two corrections which were: the budget allocation was for \$115M, not \$115 in the Ward 2 Mayor's liaison discussion. The second correction was that Lt Steve Endelman did the presentation not Capt Dorrough in the MPD 1st District discussion. Wilsey moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Shankle seconded (Vote: 2-0-1)
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shankle provided the treasurer's report. The current ending balance as of 30 October was \$52,142.43. There were two check disbursements in October--for October meeting minutes and for copying expenses.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

5. **Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison - Nicole Goines, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, 202-805-7120, Nicole.Goines@dc.gov.** There will be 26 new parking enforcement officers to enhance bike lane safety, as part of the city's Vision Zero DC Initiative. DPW has 272 officers that cover 109 locations. They have identified Penn Quarter as a high-priority area for bikes and will be on the lookout for parking violations.
On 15 November, the city will hold its 3rd annual event with employment services to hire veterans and their spouses. Qualifying individuals will be able to apply for positions in city government and other participating organizations.
DDOT has announced the new bus lanes at H St and I St are in effect. The hours are Monday-Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Loading zones have been moved south of I St. and north of H St. Traffic light sequences will change to accommodate the large volume of buses.



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The DC Comp Plan Open House will be 3 December from 6-8p.m. at Garrison Elementary School at 1200 F St NW. More information can be found at www.plandc.dc.gov.

Goines has asked for increased outreach and enforcement near the 600 block of Indiana Ave regarding the encampments.

A new crosswalk marking for 6th and I St, sidewalk repair for 759 9th St. and 801 7th St. have also been requested.

There was a question about a recent article regarding the mayor allegedly blocking protected bike lanes. DDOT, when asked, provided an unsatisfactory response. Goines said she would discuss this with the commissioners offline as she was unfamiliar with the article.

6. MPD 1st District Crime & Community Awareness, Sgt Erica Dortch-Jones, 202.729.2179.

Erica.Dortch-Jones@dc.gov and Sgt Bernard Grimsley: Sgt Erica Dortch-Jones said that not much has changed this month as there were three violent crimes. One was an ADW (assault with a deadly weapon) and an arrest was made in that case. There were also two robberies--one for which an arrest was made. There has been an increase in property crimes--primarily theft from auto and stolen vehicles.

There was a discussion about the park situation at Indiana Ave and whether or not patrols have been increased. Dortch-Jones said management is moving officers around and that CST has increased manpower in Chinatown. She is going to find out if more bike units can be assigned to that area.

7. MPD 2nd District Crime & Community Awareness, Captain Renato Caldwell, 202.506.0676 and Lieutenant Iris Beistline, 202.715.7339, iris.beistline@dc.gov.

Capt Caldwell said he was newly assigned to the 2nd District and is still getting up to speed on the area. There were three violent crimes within the last 30 days. In one case, at 600 Pennsylvania Ave, someone on a moped had their phone stolen. There have been several cases involving people on mopeds. No arrests have been made yet. There was also an ADW with a gun. It was traffic dispute around the National Museum of African-American History where some brandished a firearm. No one was hurt. There has been one arrest for a robbery in the 1200 block of New York Ave. Citizens detained the perpetrator until police arrived.

Officers are being debriefed so that if they encounter a repeat offender with two prior charges, they are going to enforce the law as it relates to arresting them. There has been a lot of theft, usually shoplifting.

There was a discussion about McGill Alley (between G St and F St on 9th St) not being in the 911 system. There have been issues of school children fighting there. Goines verified that it has been added.

8. The Department of Public Works, Inspector Wendy Caddell, Wendy.Caddell@dc.gov.

Sgt Cadell noted that we are in snow season. Businesses and residents are required to shovel snow within 24 hours. Sidewalks must be wheelchair accessible (generally 36" in width).

She noted that 438 Mass (not 400 Mass) is problematic because of the assisted living facility on H St. located there which is next to Station 9 restaurant. There is an alley there where random



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cars park and other illicit activity occurs. DPW and parking enforcement do walk-thru's weekly to enforce the law. Cadell did a walk-thru with the maintenance person from 400 Mass and the chef at the restaurant to apprise them of the issues. She didn't speak with anyone at the assisted living facility because they can only be asked to cooperate--not forced.

Cadell said to email her if we see garbage issues in alleys and that she is always available to do walk-thru's with residents.

Burton said he will contact DCHA to discuss issues with the facility and Caddell asked to be informed of the outcome.

9. Transforming DC Public Library - Reactivation of Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Executive Director, DC Public Library, richard.reyes-gavilan@dc.gov.

Reyes-Gavilan publicly recognized Joanne Neuhaus for her contributions to the renovation. The library renovation project began in 2014 and will reopen in September 2020. The building will be substantially completed in April-May of 2020 and the books, staff, and equipment will begin to move back during that time. The old library had a problem with vertical circulation so a lot of the old interior yellow brick has been removed and replaced with glass. There is also a new central and very visible staircase. There will be a slide from the children's second floor area to the first floor. ANC meetings will resume at the library and ANC-2C will possibly have a permanent space. There will be a workforce development café on the 9th and G St. side of the building with of social justice themes and opportunities for training (which speak to the spirit of the library). There will also be space for local vendors. On the second floor, there will be office space for community alliance organization and city services--a sort of "Main Street" for services for the DC community. The 3rd floor will house the library's robust book and periodical collection. The 4th floor has a 750 square foot conference center. There are also five smaller rooms of 600 sf each which can be reserved and are free to the public. The auditorium is actually two stories and goes from the 5th to the 4th floor. There is event space on the 5th floor adjacent to the auditorium and the roof terrace. This space will generate revenue for the library. There is a roof terrace that will be open to the public during the library's hours of operation. The basement will house the new emerging tech site, dance rehearsal space, recording space, and support for the creative community with free space and equipment. There will also be a tool library where city residents can "Check out" tools or equipment that it may not make sense to purchase. The space outside the building under the overhang called the loggia, will also be utilized for programming.

As it relates to homelessness, the library will continue to support UPO drop-off services to the day center at 1313 New York Ave for the homeless which offers showers, laundry, etc. There is a new Downtown BID Foundation, and their focus is homelessness services and the Franklin Park renovation which kicks off next year. The library plans to support to the BID.

Reyes-Gavilan emphasized that there are going to be so many more uses for the library which will draw many more people inside. There is 100,000 additional square feet of usable space so the building will be busier. 600,000 people came to the old building, and he estimates that about 1 million people will visit the library now so the vibe is going to be different.



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The Peer Navigator Program, introduced a few years ago in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health, employs people who were formerly homeless themselves to work with current homeless individuals in an effort to get them the services they need. The program is very successful and will continue when the library reopens. There will be more money allotted for the program in the FY21 budget to be able to do more.

Reyes-Gavilan said the story of the library is the story of DC and encouraged people to visit the www.dclibrary.org/mlkfuture to read about the history of the project and the historical significance of the MLK Library. The intent now is to honor the spirit of MLK in ways that haven't been done before.

There was discussion of a possible noise issue but the event spaces will be closely managed. There won't be amplified noise on the 5th floor. The only speakers are inside the event space and access to the outside can be controlled with movable glass walls. The rooftop terrace has large planters that invite sitting and talking, it is not a performance/event space.

EVENTS IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

- 10. D.C St. Patrick's Day Parade (50th Annual). 15 March 2020. Stephen Petrucelli, Board of Directors/Government Services, DC St. Patrick's Parade Committee, 202.669.7837.** The parade setup begins at 9 a.m. The parade itself is from 12-2:30. The entire route is in Ward 2 and they estimate about 5000 marchers, 18 floats, 80 cars, 15 horses, 20 dogs, and 25 marching bands. There will be 100 parade marshals stationed along the route, they will have official jackets or sashes. And the entire parade will disband between 17th and 23rd St. about 3pm. Ambulances will be parked at both 7th and 15th Streets. There will be street closings to accommodate the parade. Shankle moved to send a letter of support and Wilsey seconded (Vote: 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING:

- 1. Ultrabar/Chroma at 911 F St NW - ABRA 074767 -Objections to renewal of an alcoholic beverage license Class "C" Nightclub license. Toppromo Inc.** There were objections to the Ultrabar license renewal and a discussion on the problems ensued--primarily loitering, screaming until 3 a.m., large numbers of drunk people vomiting on the sidewalk and in the street, falling over and starting fights. There is also a traffic issue with the streets being blocked, and often the doors of the club are open which increases the noise level. The objectors submitted a FOIA request for all city records relating the business and have been compiling written and video records for the past few years. There have been 50 ambulance visits in the past year and 500 911 calls in the past three years. A petition was filed with the police three years ago and a new one was field recently. They said the goal of protesting the license was not to close the club--although they would like that--but the goal was to get the managers/owners to a meeting where all issues can be adjudicated. They have come up with several ways to solve the problems. It was said that the owners/managers never responded to the complaints. The owners/managers responded by saying that they have been inspected several times regarding the decibel levels and have passed the inspections. They have also soundproofed the doors and monitor all patrons to control excess drinking. Wilsey recommended that the objectors, the



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owners, and the ANC commissioners set up a meeting to discuss the issues and try to work out the differences. The issues have come up before and there has never been a binding resolution addressing them. Wilsey moved to protest the license and Shankle seconded (Vote: 3-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

2. **401 9th St NW (corner of 9th and E Streets NW). New sidewalk Café Un-enclosed (DDOT-10758504), Andrew Harris, FARMBIRD, 540.580.2217, Andrew@Farmbird.com.** Leslie Galiner made the presentation for the new café which is a fast-casual lunch and dinner spot and will have 6 tables with 12 seats outside on the southwest corner of 9th and E. There will be planters at either end to define the space. The sidewalk is 18 feet wide on both 9th and E Streets, so foot traffic will not be impeded. The tables will be flush with the building. The main entrance is on E Street and there are no side entrances into the café. There will be no umbrellas or awnings or railings. The hours will be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday thru Sunday. Shankle moved to support the café and Burton seconded. (Vote: 3-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION:

3. **MR 622 Eye St, Land LLC. Request for Extension of Combined Lot Development Escrow Agreement Square 453, Lots 815 and 816. Jessica Bloomfield, Associate, Holland & Knight LLP, 202.469.5272, jessica.bloomfield@hklaw.com.** Bloomfield said that there are two parcels of land-- on 6th and 7th and I and H Streets. The parcel on the north side is the POD Hotel and the other is a lot that is to be developed into housing. A CLD covenant exists. The covenant transferred residential density from the POD hotel to the undeveloped parcel. The covenant allowing that transfer expires in Feb 2020. If they don't satisfy the requirement that they must certify that 50% of the residential development that was transferred from the northern site has been completed, the funds in the escrow account get transferred to the housing development trust fund. This will delay the development of affordable housing in ANC-2C. There are a number of reasons the development has not begun--which are outlined in the extension application. They are requesting a one time three-year extension of the escrow period. That will allow them to complete at least 50% of the construction in January or February of 2023. That completion will satisfy the certification requirement of 50% of development being completed. The history behind these parcels is that the BZA approved the residential development in 2016. There was an extension in 2018 for two years. The ANC supported it then.
There was a discussion about the alley closing, but it is more of an administrative procedure and not an actual physical closing.
Shankle moved to support the extension of the CLD covenant, and Wilson seconded (Vote: 3-0-0)



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4. **Recorder of Deeds Building, 515 D St NW. Historic Preservation Review Board - Application for Historic Landmark or Historic District Designation. Jacqueline Drayer, Outreach and Grants Manager, DC Preservation League, 202.783.5144. jaqueline@dcpreservation.org.** Jacqueline Drayer briefed the commission about the nomination for the Recorder of Deeds' building nomination for historic preservation. The Recorder Building had initially been in ANC-6C, but in 2011 the ANC boundaries were redrawn so now it is in ANC-2C. The application is for the exterior and parts of the interior of the building to be preserved. The inside includes the lobby, the foyers, the east and west vestibule, the library, the Recorder's Office, and the public file rooms on first floor and the "Four Freedoms" (Roosevelt Statue), Lincoln Statue. "Groundbreaking Day" painting, and portraits of recorders. There is also a mural of Benjamin Banneker, Matthew Henson, and Frederick Douglass. The DC government recently appropriated \$1M for roof repair of the building. DCPL is submitting the nomination based on two criteria. One is the building's embodiment of events that contributed greatly to the city's history and the other is the architecture of the building, which speaks to its artistic significance. No one knows if the DC government has plans for the building at this time. The hearing for this is 19 December. There was some discussion as to whether the building can be renovated with that designation. Drayer noted that it can be renovated inside and out and stories added. The designation only means that any alteration of the building will go before a review panel first. Wilsey moved to support the landmark designation and Burton seconded. (Vote: 3-0-0)

OTHER:

5. **Flavors Hook Kids DC (<https://flavorhookkidsdc.org>) - Request for Support. Elizabeth Feinstone, MPH, Organizer, Flavors Hook Kids DC, 609.350.5997. feinstonee@gmail.com.** Shankle briefed on the non-profit program organized by Elizabeth Feinstone which is focused on reducing the use of flavored tobacco products among youth. The proposed bill (3230453) to city council addressed only the use of e-cigarettes (electronic smoking devices). The hearing was today Feinstone wants to amend the bill to prohibit all flavored tobacco products for youth and adults in D.C. Many African-American organizations like the NAACP, the National Black Churches Association, and the National Black Nurses Association support the amendment because of the previous targeting of menthol products to the Black community. Use of flavored products in the Black community is high. There were many statistics about the use of tobacco products in communities of color. There was a discussion about the idea of banning products for adults. Some thought that prohibiting the marketing of these products was a better alternative to banning the products themselves. If anything, adults would just go to Maryland and Virginia for the products. Shankle called the vote to support the amendment. There was no second.
6. **District of Columbia's Comprehensive Plan - Formation of Community Committee to review and provide feedback to DC Office of Planning (community members sought to participate.) Michael D. Shankle, MPH, ANC2C01 Commissioner, 617.304.4372. 2c01.anc.dc.gov.** Shankle briefed the Comprehensive Plan and the need for ANC-2C to form a committee with community



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residents on it to study the element of the plan that includes Ward 2. There is a 30 January 2020 deadline for input from the community. The commission agreed to get the word out to the community about the need for a committee.

7. **ANC Website Update - Formation of Community Committee to provide input (community members sought to participate.) Michael D. Shankle, MPH, ANC2C01 Commissioner, 617.304.4372. 2c01.anc.dc.gov.** Shankle briefed on the need for a committee to revise and update the website. The commission agreed to get the word out to the community about the need for a committee.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:17 p.m. Wilsey moved to adjourn. Shankle seconded. (Vote: 3-0-0)

Secretary: Jamaal Burton

Minutes Submitted by: Aungelic Nelson

Next meeting: 10 December, 6:30pm, John Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, Room G-9.

Approved: 10 December 2019