

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

July 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 13, 2021

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Gigi Nelson, and Commissioner Ellie Miske

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:02pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
2. **INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS**
3. **QUORUM:** A quorum of three of three commissioners present.
4. **OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). A few revisions were made to the agenda: (1) Linda Greenan from the National Pepco Capital Grid Project provided her update during this portion of the meeting (moved to the item #8); (2) Mike Berman, President of Diverse Market Management, to now provide the 2021 DowntownDC on Wheels presentation on behalf of the DowntownDC BID; (3) George Branyan, Active Transportation Branch Manager at DDOT to now provide the presentation for the 9th Street protected Bike Lane with colleague Mike Goodno, Bicycle Program Specialist at DDOT. Miske made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Shankle made a motion to approve the June 2021 Minutes, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nelson provided the June treasurer's report. Opening balance: \$56,403.34. There was one disbursement in the amount of \$175 for June minutes. Closing balance: \$56,228.34.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. **National Pepco Capital Grid Project Update.** Linda Greenan, External Affairs Manager, Pepco, linda.greenan@pepco.com, 202.203.9509
Greenan gave the update that the project will now begin August 26, 2021 and noted that a portion of the project will happen 24/7. She asked for support for the after hours permit; Nelson said she was comfortable issuing the after hours permit.
8. **Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Joe Florio, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, Joseph.Florio@dc.gov, 202-805-7122.**

Florio provided general announcements. First, Mayor Bowser released the [Homeward DC 2.0 Plan](#), the District's updated plan for making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Second, the DMV service center locations and adjudication services will return to walk-in services beginning the week of July 19, 2021. The DMV will honor all appointments made through Saturday, July 17, 2021, but none will be available after that date.

Florio provided several updates related to the alleyway between 5th and 6th Street just north of H Street. He's working with the following groups: (a) DDOT to repave the alleyway; (b) the downtown BID to provide cleanup services; (c) DPW to notify them that their services are still required; and (d) stakeholders to set a meeting about enforcing grease trap violations.

Shankle brought up the encampments around the city. The National Parks Service has been engaged in conversations about encampments in the national parks; there is no imminent plan to remove existing encampments at this time. The ANC will be holding a special meeting to talk about this issue more broadly.

9. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058 or Genevieve F. Hulick, Chief of Staff, ghulick@dccouncil.us.

Hulick gave general updates from Councilmember Pinto's office. First, the Council passed legislation to allow ANCs to meet virtually through the end of January into February 2022. Second, Councilmember Pinto will be hosting in-person office hours in Logan Circle on Friday, July 16, 2021 from 4-6pm. Third, Councilmember Pinto introduced the Business and Entrepreneurship Support to Thrive (BEST) Amendment Act. Fourth, the first vote regarding the new budget will take place on July 20, 2021, followed by two additional votes on August 3 and August 10, 2021. Issues Councilmember Pinto continues to advocate for include: permanent supportive housing vouchers, additional Cure the Streets Violence interruption program locations, relief for excluded workers, and rent relief for small businesses. Fifth, DHS is extending the time that they are using the legacy Pat Handy Shelter site. Councilmember Pinto's office has shared a number of concerns with DHS about that decision; they have not received a response yet. Hulick and Florio will be working together to address all the concerns around that decision. Constituents expressed concerns about DHS extending their use of the legacy Pat Handy Shelter.

10. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant George Donigian, george.donigian@dc.gov, 202.815.1594 and Lendia S. Johnson, Community Outreach Coordinator, lenida.johnson@dc.gov, 202.299.3374,

Lieutenant Donigian provided the monthly crime report. Burglary and thefts are down dramatically compared to last year. However, as more retail establishments open, retail thefts have increased. There were two violent crimes. The first was an assault with a dangerous weapon that occurred in the 600 block of H Street NW on July 4, 2021. The victim sustained a laceration from a knife and went to the hospital where he recovered. The second was a shooting at the corner of 2nd and E Street NW on July 11, 2021. A vehicle pulled up to a car that a man had just gotten into and shot him a few times. He sustained

non-life threatening injuries and was taken to the hospital. There is a good video of the incident, but the motive remains unknown.

The commission had a discussion about how to best protect their safety and how best to report incidences of feeling unsafe. Constituent Reginald Black brought up the idea of having informational sessions outside of the ANC meetings for constituents to ask community-related questions. Miske asked Black to email her organizations that could be used as resources.

Johnson presented on the upcoming events in the 1st District: Beat the Street has three events this week; the District has a Keeping it Clean Initiative part of the Green Team Strategic Change Division has an event this week; and National Night Out is on August 3, 2021. Lastly, she announced that Chief of Police Contee is trying to recruit DC residents ages 17-24 to serve as MPD cadets.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

11. Support for Public Arts Project in 2C. Kathryn Wat, Deputy Director for Arts and Program/Chief Curator, National Museum of Women in the Arts, NWat@nmwa.org, 202.783.5000.

The building will be closed to the public starting on August 9, 2021 in order to begin a two-year renovation project. Scaffolding will be installed in January 2022, and the museum hopes to commission a new piece of art printed on its scrim—the breathable fabric that covers scaffoldings. The artwork will be up as long as the scaffolding, from March to September 2022. Artist Miss Chelove designed the piece, *“Lookout: Miss Chelove at the New NMWA,”* which depicts a Javanese woman surrounded by greenery, symbolizing the resurgence of nature during the pandemic. The museum seeks a letter of support from the ANC to accompany their application for Public Art Building Communities grant. Shankle made a motion for a letter of support, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

12. Support for Public Arts Project in 2C. Galin Brooks, Director of Planning, DowntownDC BID, galin@downtowndc.org, 202-270-0366 and Lisa Marie Thalhammer, Artist, lm@lisamariestudio.com.

Brooks provided follow-up information to the presentation she made last meeting about the DowntownDC BID’s project. Lisa Marie Thalhammer, the artist and curator for the project, discussed the “Ladies First” theme and proposed content. Shankle said their letter of support has been sent.

13. DC Bike Ride. September 25, 2021. Diane Romo Thomas, dianeromothomas@hotmail.com, 202.439.5104.

The DC Bike Ride was pushed back from May 2021 to September 25, 2021 due to the pandemic. The 20-mile bike ride event anticipates 5,000 riders. The Finish Line Festival will take place in ANC 2C at Maryland Ave SW & 3rd Street SW). Shankle made a motion for a letter of support to the Mayor’s Special Events Task Force for the DC Bike Ride, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

14. Rock N Roll Half Marathon. November 13, 2021. Diane Romo Thomas, dianeromothomas@hotmail.com, 202.439.5104.

The start line for the Rock N Roll Half Marathon will take place in ANC 2C at Constitution Ave & 14th St NW. The race begins at 8:30am and the last runner will leave the start line at 9:30am. 10,000 runners are expected. Shankle made a motion for a letter of support for the Rock N Roll Half Marathon, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

15. 2021 DowntownDC on Wheels, 800 block of F Street NW, September 17-19, 2021. Mike Berman, President of Diverse Markets Management.

Berman started his presentation on behalf of the DowntownDC BID to propose an event, DowntownDC on Wheels. The event will take place on the 800 block of F Street NW and will entail a roller skating rink with a jumbo screen for movie screenings. Setup will begin the morning of Friday, September 17 and breakdown take place during the evening of Sunday, September 19. The Homeland Securities Special Events Task Force has already given conditional approval. To anticipate noise concerns, the movies will be played via headphones and the DJ will be facing the skating rink to channel the noise. There is no estimate on expected attendees. Nelson made a motion for a letter of support for the DowntownDC on Wheels, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

Shankle provided the update that the ANC and Mather Studios Loft Condominium reached a settlement agreement with Taste LLC (located at 916 G Street) regarding the request to occupy additional space and extend hours.

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

16. 9th Street NW Protected Bike Lane Project. George Branyan, Active Transportation Branch Manager, Department of Transportation, and Mike Goodno, Bicycle Program Specialist, Department of Transportation, mike.goodno@dc.gov, 202.671.0681

Branyan started his presentation by providing context for the project and the expansion of protected bike lanes. The District's 2022 proposed budget includes funding for DDOT to add 10 miles of protected bike lanes a year, which are shown to increase bike use. By 2032, Sustainable DC has set a goal for 75% of all commutes to be accessible by walk, bike, or transit. Right now that level is at 50%.

In choosing 9th Street NW for a new protected bike lane, DDOT looked at all the streets between 4th and 9th Street NW. 9th Street NW ultimately had the fewest difficult tradeoffs. The plan includes 1.6 miles of protected bike lanes, one of the longer corridors in city. Other details include: 6 of 6 heavy turns are protected; 6 new pedestrians crossing aisles south of Mass Ave; and 9th Street will go from 89 metered spaces to 54 metered spaces south of Mass Ave. Branyan presented images of the plans. Constituents raised concerns about the bus lanes and the removal of metered parking spots.

The Project is currently in the outreach phase. They are reintroducing the plan to the community and will meet with the Downtown BID to get feedback from businesses and other stakeholders. They will come back to the ANC in the fall after incorporating feedback

to seek a resolution in support of the project. They plan to have a final design by the end of the year. Constituents can submit comments directly to Branyan and Goodno.

17. Kenyattah Robinson, President & CEO Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District, Letter of support MVT CID Cobb Park project, kr@mvtcid.org, (202) 321-0102.

Robinson started his presentation about green spaces and park improvements in Mt. Vernon Triangle (MVT). He provided a history of the development within MVT over the past decades and explained the need for more green space.

A first priority is the reactivation of Cobb Park, a 52,000 square foot area that has long been planned to add green space within the community. There was some money in the budget to support its reactivation once the developers of Capital Crossing left. A second priority is to secure \$10 million for the MVT Parks Network to help activate parks and open spaces for the community in the next 3-5 years. Their request is for this money to get placed in the District's capital budget, the long-term 5-year budget, opposed to the operating budget for this upcoming year. They petitioned this proposal to the community in June 2021 and received overwhelming support and are now seeking support from the ANC.

Constituents talked about ideas for the project and provided general support. Miske made a motion for a letter of support for the Cobb Park reactivation and the future MVT Parks Network project, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

18. HAAD Thai Restaurant, Inc., 1100 New York Avenue, NW. New Sidewalk Café Unenclosed (DDOT 10868242). Charles Kia, the owner, is in attendance instead of Chrissie Chang, chrissiechang@yahoo.com, 203.992.3994.

Kia asked for support for the continued operation of the sidewalk café noting that many customers still do not feel comfortable eating indoors due to the pandemic. The proposed hours of operations are 11am-11pm Sunday to Saturday. There will be 4 tables, 12 seats total. The ABRA has already approved the request pending on the sidewalk café permit issuance. The public space committee hearing will be held next month on August 26, 2021. Shankle made a motion for a letter of support for HAAD Thai Restaurant's sidewalk cafe, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

19. Alyssa Stein, Lead Entitlements, EHT Traceries, Square 487 Public Space Review, 600 5th ST NW, Alyssa.Stein@traceries.com, (202) 393-1199; and Katie Lens she was the one who was talking

Katie Lenss from the Rockefeller Group, along with her colleagues Jane Mahaffie from Stonebridge and Emmanuel Egoegonwa from Rockefeller Group, provided updates regarding the redevelopment of the Jackson Graham Building. The building served as the WMATA headquarters since the 1970s; WMATA selected the Rockefeller Group and Stonebridge to redevelop the property. The project intends to preserve the 8-story office building and its structure, add 3 additional floors and a penthouse on top, and renovate the building into a trophy quality office building. The decision to preserve the existing structure

was driven by the fact that WMATA has infrastructure that needs to remain within the building (e.g. a Red Line Metro tunnel runs right through the B3 level of the parking garage).

Lenss presented concept plan to the ANC back in February 2020, but there have since been changes. They recently filed with DCRA and DDOT an application for a code modification related to the façade system in order to meet energy requirements. As part of the approval process with DCRA, they need the support of the local ANC. Lenss presented the new concept plan.

Shankle made a motion for a letter of support for Square 487 code modification related to the façade system on the 3 property lines, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0) Shankle asked for Lenss to send over written documentation and a technical summary for the letter of support to DDOT.

20. Baker's Daughter, 675 I ST NW – Exterior Signage per Chinatown Design Review. Matt Baker, mbaker222@gmail.com, (281) 627-8865.

Shankle presented the proposed signage for the Baker's Daughter—a laminated storefront sign and a double-sided pop out sign from the building. Both include Chinese characters. The Commissioners had no objections. Shankle made a motion for a letter of support for the Baker's Daughter signage, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

21. Smashburger, 804 Seventh Street NW – Exterior Signage per Chinatown Design Review. Jeff Lee, (804) 271-5685.

Shankle presented the proposed signage for the Smashburger—a 10ft long sign with acrylic cut out Chinese characters and a blade sign that sticks out from the building. The Commissions had no objections. Shankle made a motion for a letter of support for the Smashburger signage, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

OTHER

- 22. Grant application process.** Nelson presented the idea of forming a volunteer committee to distribute grants for community events and/or associations using ANC funds dedicated for this purpose. The volunteer committee would be tasked with coming up with a list of ANC 2C priorities and designing the criteria on how to disperse the funds. If constituents are interested, they should reach out to Commissioner Nelson or Harold, who has already volunteered to be on the committee.
- 23. Return to in-person.** The logistics of returning to in-person meetings are still in flux and bound by legislation. The ANC needs to find a place to host the meetings and would like to move towards a hybrid model.
- 24. August 2C ANC meeting cancelled, next meeting September 14, 2021.** The ANC can call a special meeting for any pressing matters, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT: Shankle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Miske. All three members were in favor of adjourning meeting

Minutes Submitted by: Laura Stateler

Minutes Approved by:

Next Meeting: September 14, 2021, 6:00PM

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.