

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

November 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 9, 2021

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:00pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
2. **INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Gigi Nelson was not in attendance.
3. **QUORUM:** A quorum of two of three commissioners present.
4. **OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). He made the following changes to the agenda: added Declan Falls from the Office of Chairman Mendelson under "Community Announcements"; added Brett Curtis from the 20th Annual Thanksgiving Trot for Hunger under "Local Events that Impact the Community"; and amended Taffer's Tavern and Tom's Watch Bar under "Alcoholic Beverage License," to include a request for a stipulated license in addition to the Class C restaurant license (Note: Tom's Watch Bar rescinded the stipulated license request during the meeting). Miske motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0)
5. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 2021 MINUTES:** Shankle motioned to approve the October 2021 minutes, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shankle gave the Quarter 4 Financial Report covering July, August, and September 2021. The starting balance was \$56,228.34. During the quarter there were two District allotments and two \$175 disbursements for the preparation of meeting minutes. The closing balance was \$59,520.44. Shankle motioned to accept the Quarter 4 Financial Report, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **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 was not in attendance of the meeting; he was away on his honeymoon.
2. **Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update – Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us.**

Romanowski provided general announcements from Councilmember Pinto's office. The first round of leaf collection occurred last week and the second round will take place between November 29 and December 3, 2021. Leaves must be left on the curb by November 27, 2021 to be collected. Second, children ages 5-11 can now receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Information about appointment locations can be found at coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine. For ANC 2C, the closest location is the Safeway on L Street. Third, the Council recently held a citywide meeting about redistricting bill and proposed maps. Councilmember Pinto anticipates that Ward 2's boundaries will expand, and she does not want to lose any neighborhoods currently within Ward 2. The Council takes the first vote on December 7, 2021, followed by a second vote concerning just the ward boundaries on December 21, 2021. There will be a subsequent task force regarding the ANC boundaries that will run from December 2021 to February 2022 with the final vote in June.

Romanowski provided one legislative update. Pinto introduced the Recovery Act that incentivizes vacant office space to be converted into residential, hotel, and retail space within the Golden Triangle and the Downtown BID.

Shankle voiced his concerns with the redistricting proposals and encouraged constituents to provide feedback on the redistricting bill and maps before the comment period closes on November 12, 2021. Miske reminded constituents about the walk-up COVID-19 testing centers.

3. Office of Chairman Mendelson – Declan Falls, Community Outreach Specialist, dfalls@dccouncil.us, (312) 292-0022

Falls recently joined Chairman Mendelson's constituent services team and wanted to introduce himself to the ANC. He also provided one update. Chairman Mendelson will host a public virtual meeting tomorrow Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5pm via Facebook live.

4. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov, (202) 729-2179

Captain Dorrough provided the monthly crime report. The area is down 24% in violent crime and down 8% in property crime. Stolen auto thefts have increased 120% in the area and are up throughout the city. Most of the auto thefts happen during food pick-ups and drop-offs. Captain Dorrough reminded constituents not to leave cars running unattended. There were three violent crimes in the last month. On October 26, 2021 there was an assault with a deadly weapon (ADW). A gun was pointed during an altercation at the 600 block of 8th Street. The suspect has been identified. There was another ADW this month at the Pat Handy shelter on 5th Street. A subject assaulted another subject with a bike lock. The incident is under investigation. There was an attempted unarmed carjacking on October 27, 2021 at the 400 block of 8th Street. Nothing was stolen but someone was assaulted and the subject attempted to steal the car. Finally, there was a shooting at 4th and L Street NW involving two subjects who had a verbal altercation. They both pulled out guns and shot at each other. One subject was struck in the leg.

Shankle followed up about the incident at Club 202 from last meeting. Captain Dorrough said he would follow up with ABRA about Club 202's operation without the proper license.

5. **MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, michael.hamelin@dc.gov, (202) 715-7340, and/or Sergeant John Sprague, john.sprague@dc.gov**
No updates provided.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. **DC St. Patrick's Parade, March 13, 2022. Stephen Petruccelli, Board of Directors for the DC St. Patrick's Parade Committee for Government Service, stephenpetruccelli@gmail.com, (202) 669-7837.**

Petruccelli began his presentation about the 50th anniversary of the DC St. Patrick's Parade. Due to the pandemic, this will be the first St. Patrick's parade in two years. The parade will take place on Constitution Avenue starting at 7th Street and ending at 17th Street. They expect 5,000+ spectators, local bands, floats, Irish dancers, DC fire and police, etc. The parade starts at 12:00pm and will end at 2:30pm. Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the DC St. Patrick's Parade, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)

2. **Brett Curtis, Special Events Manager, Local Trot for Hunger - November 25, 2021, bcurtis@some.org, (202) 797-8806**

Curtis started his presentation about the Local Trot for Hunger on behalf of SOME (So Others Might Eat). The race will begin at Freedom Plaza, and the route will go straight up Pennsylvania Avenue and then down on Independence Avenue and D Street SE. The event has gone through the DCRA permitting process, the Mayor's task force, and is working in collaboration with the Department of Health and MDP. Registration starts at 7:00am, but there will be not audible noise until 8:00am. The 1-mile Turkey Trot begins at 8:30am; the full 5k starts at 9:00am. Roads will reopen by 11:30am.

The ANC discussed this event last meeting and sent a letter of support. Shankle encouraged constituents to participate.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

1. **Sip Wine and Spirits, LLC, 1212 New York Ave, NW (ABRA-119777) – New Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store with Tasting Permit Endorsement. Chrissie Change, Chrissiechang@yahoo.com, (703) 992-3994.**

A representative gave an overview of the store. Sip and Wine Spirits is a boutique-style store opening in March 2022 that will sell high-end items and provide delivery within the District. The hours of operation are 10am-9:30pm every day of the week. Sip and Wine Spirits is seeking a tasting endorsement for people to taste the various wines sold at the store. Shankle motioned to send a letter of support Sip Wine and Spirits LLC for New Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store with Tasting Permit Endorsement, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)

2. **Eat BRGZ 2, LLC, 704 7th ST NW (ABRA-119439) – New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant. Brandon Gaynor, (202) 450-5074.**

No representative from the restaurant was present. Shankle said he struggled to get in contact with anyone from the company. Shankle motioned to postpone this item until next meeting, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)

3. Taffer's Tavern, CSDAK, LLC, 700 6th ST NW (ABRA-119792) – New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant. Sean Morris, The Morris Law Firm LLC, stm@morrisesq.com, (301) 654-6570.

A representative provided an overview of Taffer's Tavern. Jon Taffer—the host of the hit show Bar Rescue—owns the restaurant. This will be the second location in the DMW, scheduled to open in March 2022. The restaurant is right next to Capital One Arena and will serve upscale food and elevated cocktails. They request a sidewalk café, the same dimensions as the previous tenant. The requested hours of operations for the restaurant are 7am-2am with the sidewalk café closing at 11pm Sunday-Thursday and 12am Friday-Saturday. The total occupancy is 290 people. The Commissioners had no concerns with the hours of operation because the restaurant is not located in a residential area. Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for Taffer's Tavern New Retailer's Class "C" restaurant license for ABRA-119792, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0) Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for Taffer's Tavern stipulated license, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)

4. TWB DC Chinatown, LLC, Tom's Watch Bar, 781 7th ST NW (ABRA-119403) – New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant. Sidon Yohannes, Esq., The Veritas Law Firm, syohannes@theveritaslawfirm.com, (202) 686-7600.

Yohannes and John Prescott, the regional operating partner, provided an overview of the restaurant. Tom's Watch Bar will occupy Circa's old space and seeks the same Class C restaurant license. The restaurant seeks the hours of operations of 8am-2am on weekdays and 8am-3am on weekends with no entertainment endorsement and no outside space. Tom's Watch Bar is a high-end sports bar designed for an optimal viewing experience. They operate around sport events and, therefore, do not anticipate staying open as late as the operating hours. This location anticipates opening around February 1, 2022. Another location is scheduled to open in Navy Yard by April or May 2022.

Shankle brought up the food-to-drink ratio for the Class C license. Prescott said there is more food than alcohol. He anticipates a balance of people visiting the restaurant before games at the Capital One arena and people dining at the restaurant during games. The restaurant has technology that enables customers to broadcast the audio of a specific game through an app downloaded on their phone.

Shankle said he received concerns from residents who occupy the condos above the restaurant. Howard Marks sent a letter this morning on behalf of the Condo Board Association at the Residence at Gallery Place 777 Street NW. Marks read a statement detailing the Board's concerns about the noise, hours of operations, and crowd control. The Board asks the ANC to delay endorsing the ABRA license.

Prescott responded to each of the concerns and the involved parties discussed how to proceed, noting the license protest period ends November 29, 2021. The parties agreed for Prescott to meet with the Condo Board, building engineer, and resident manager of the Residence at Gallery Place when Prescott is in town November 18-20, 2021 to discuss strategies to alleviate the condo residents' concerns. The ANC will move forward with a

letter of support when the parties come to an agreement, ideally before the protest period ends on November 29, 2021. Shankle motioned to protest this license at this time with the understanding that the parties will meet in good faith to come to an agreement, and when an agreement is met a letter of support will be sent. Miske seconded this motion. (Vote 2-0-0). Shankle said the ANC would revisit this matter until the December meeting and that he will hold on sending a letter of protest until after the parties meet.

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- 1. 719 Sixth ST NW -- Brick Fundraising (CDR-2021-06). Christine Yang and Katja Sipple, German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA, info@gahmusa.org, (202) 467-5000**

A representative from the German-American Heritage Foundation was not present. Shankle described the application put forward by the German-American Committee of the USA to have a fundraiser in order to replace 100 standard paver stones in front of the building. The Chinatown Design Review Committee submitted an approach to the design. Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the Brick Fundraiser at the German American Heritage Foundation pending that bricks are laid according to sidewalk standards in the city and properly maintained, seconded by Miske. (Vote 2-0-0)

OTHER

Shankle said he would invite the Department of Housing Services to provide an update on the Pat Handy legacy shelter at next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Shankle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm, seconded by Miske. Both commissioners were in favor of adjourning meeting (Vote 2-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Laura Stateler

Minutes Approved by:

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

ANC Commissioners and Website

Michael Shankle 2C01@anc.dc.gov

Elizabeth Miske 2C02@anc.dc.gov

Gigi Nelson 2C03@anc.dc.gov

www.anc2c.us

Subscribe to the ANC 2C listserve at www.anc2C.us.

Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.