

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

December 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: December 14, 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 6:03pm 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). The following revisions were made: Councilmembers Brooke Pinto's update was moved first under Community Announcements, DDOT's Bus Priority Program presentation was moved to immediately follow Community Announcements, and the 616 E Street NW application to build a rooftop antenna facility was moved to the January ANC meeting.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2021 MINUTES:** Nelson motioned to approve the November 2021 minutes, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nelson amended the Treasurer's Report for October 2021 and provided the November 2021 Treasurer's Report. The opening balance for October was \$59,520.44. During the month, there were four activities (only two were originally listed): two quarterly allotments each in the amount of \$1,821.05 and two disbursements each in the amount of \$175.00 for the meeting minutes. The total change for October was \$3,292.10, leaving the closing balance at \$62,812.54. The November opening balance was \$62,812.54. There was one disbursement, an expense in the amount of \$33.00 that was charged by the bank for the stock payment for the checks that were lost in the mail. The closing balance for November was \$62,779.54. The Commission aims to initiate a \$10,000 grant program in January 2022. All information about the grant program will be posted on the website. Additionally, the Commission will file the Quarter 1 Financial Report in the January meeting.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update – Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director,** bromanowski@dccouncil.us.

Romanowski provided general announcements from Councilmembers Pinto's office. COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and flu shots are available at the MLK Library during walk-in appointments on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7am-5pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1pm-7pm. All three types of vaccines are available. The DC Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting a virtual community meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:30pm about the future of Cobb Park, the space between Massachusetts Ave, H Street, 2nd Street NW, and 3rd Street NW.

Romanowski then provided legislative updates. Last week the Council took the first vote on the Ward-level redistricting map. 11 councilmembers voted in favor of the map; Councilmember McDuffie and Councilmember Gray were absent. The voted-on map has a few changes to Ward 2, especially for ANC 2C. Some of Commissioner Miske and Commissioner Nelson's area will now be part of Ward 6. Councilmember Pinto will put Miske and Nelson in contact with Councilmember Allen's staff. Ward 2 will gain additional blocks in Shaw, north of New York Avenue and east to New Jersey Avenue. It will now be the largest Ward by population with almost 90,000 people. The second and final vote on the ward boundaries will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. The Council is still in the process of finalizing the members of the Ward 2 ANC Boundary Task Force. The task force will work in January and February to make recommendations to the Council. The final vote on the ANC boundaries is not expected until June 2022.

Last week Councilmember Pinto introduced the FUN for All Act, also known as the Fairness in Use and Negotiation for All Recreational Property Act of 2021. The Act is meant to ensure that all residents have fair access to DC's recreational spaces. The Act requires meaningful public engagement and Council oversight of all agreements for use of recreational property that lasts one year or more.

Also last week, the Council took the final vote on the ceremonial renaming of the street in front of the Saudi Embassy for slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Now the Council is waiting for the Mayor's signature and Congressional review. Additionally, Councilmember Pinto's bill to provide free period products in all public and private schools received another vote and will have its final vote on December 21, 2021.

Shankle confirmed that the ANCs would remain intact until the redistricting takes place. The voting on the ANC redistricting will happen in June 2022, but the changes will not go into effect until November 2022. Shankle said that the Commission would invite Councilmember Allen to participate in the meetings moving forward. Miske noted that she has not been put in contact with Councilmember Allen yet.

2. 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 updates from the Mayor's office. First, Mayor Bowser kicked off Fair Shot Week on December 13, 2021 to highlight the District's economic toolkit at ObviouslyDC.com and launched the next round of the Great Streets Retail Small Business Grant Program, a \$3.3 million investment. Second, Mayor Bowser announced a Request for Information on December 14, 2021 regarding the conversion of a commercial property to residential use at 1331 L Street NW. Respondents must submit questions by 5pm on Thursday, December 30, 2021. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday, January 28,

2022. Third, Children ages 5-11 are now eligible to get vaccinated. Booster shots are also available for residents 18 or older who are eligible to receive a third dose. Fourth, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have partnered to give \$2,500 to anyone who can provide information that leads to the recovery of an illegal firearm in the District. The ATF is offering an additional reward, up to \$5,000, for every recovery of an illegal firearm and arrest of an individual possessing or trafficking firearms. Fifth, the mask mandate was lifted on November 22, 2021. Masks are still required in any private business that wants a mask mandate within their business. Masks are also still required on public transportation, inside schools, libraries, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, dorms, and DC government facilities where there is direct interaction between employees and the public.

Florio gave an update about the alleyway between 5th and 6th Street just north of H Street. DDOT cleared the drain in the alleyway, but Florio noticed further pooling of water in the alleyway and sent a note to DDOT for next steps. Additionally, a DCRA investigation will take place on December 17, 2021 at 477 H Street NW to make sure that construction is being done properly.

Constituent Howard Marks noted a pedestrian hazard at the southwest corner of 7th Street and K Street NW. There is a pipe that is sticking 3-4 inches above the sidewalk. Shankle said there is fire hydrant missing from that street corner and at the Eagle Bank down the street there is a pipe sticking out of the ground about 3 feet in front of the ATM machine. Florio said he would take a look at these concerns and get DDOT involved. Shankle also noted a vacant building at 403 8th Street. Florio said he would check on that with DCRA.

Shankle noted that the DowntownDC BID is conducting a parks master plan survey and encouraged residents to participate. Additionally, the DowntownDC BID has engaged the ANC regarding an economic development plan for the downtown area and they will create a broader committee to address economic development challenges in the area.

3. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant George Donigian, george.donigian@dc.gov, (202) 815-1594

Lieutenant Donigian provided the crime report. There were five violent crimes in the last month—four robberies and one shooting on the 1300 block of Constitution Ave NW in a car. The motive of the shooting is unclear. Property crimes are down but theft from autos and stolen autos continue to be up.

Shankle asked what measures the community can take to be vigilant about violent crimes. Lieutenant Donigian said to report ghost guns and encourage neighbors to get security cameras if they have a good street view. There is a camera rebate program through the District that residents can utilize. Constituent Thomas Lee asked about mass lootings that are being organized online. Lieutenant Donigian said MPD is aware of the problem and they try to take preventative measures with local businesses.

4. **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.

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

1. **Bus Priority Program 11th Street NW from Pennsylvania Ave NW to K Street NW. Yohannes Eagle Bennehoff, Transportation Planner, WMATA Coordination, DDOT, 202.497.1608, yohannes.bennehoff@dc.gov.**

Bennehoff began his presentation about the 11th Street NW Bus Priority Project. This is the first round of introducing the project to the community in order to solicit feedback. The goals of the Project are to (a) provide reliable, fast transportation on 11th Street, (b) provide reliable, fast connections onto the K Street transit way, (c) implement improvements to existing bike facilities (d) implement road safety improvements. The Project will span from Massachusetts Avenue to Pennsylvania Ave. Additional services will be added when the K Street transit way opens. A Bus Priority Program Toolbox is available on the DDOT website.

Residents can provide feedback in three different ways: fill out a Google Form on the Bus Priority DDOT website, send an email to buspriority@dc.gov, or call 202-671-2376. The Project will present the initial concept design to the ANC in January 2022. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY2023.

Shankle asked how the Bus Priority Project measures success and progress. Bennehoff said the team internally tracks how a completed project is performing and works with WMATA to gather data and monitor the projects. Miske asked about protections for bikers along the bus route. Bennehoff said automated bus cameras would be installed soon.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. **2022 PanCAN PurpleStride 5K Walk-Run, April 29-30, 2022. Jeff Ruday, Jeff Ruday Productions, 202.495.1870, jeff@jeffruday.com.**

Ruday presented on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the owner and operator of PurpleStride 5K Walk-Run. The event has been in DC every year for the past 15 years with the purpose of raising money for pancreatic cancer research. PurpleStride is held in 59 markets across the country. In 2019, the DC event raised \$1 million, more than any other market. They have already received conditional approval from the Mayor's Task Force.

The event is a timed 5K run and an untimed fun run for an expected 3,000 participants. There will be road closures on Pennsylvania Avenue between 12th and 14th Street starting at 7pm on Friday night to allow time for all of the event tents to be constructed. The entire race route will close at 8:15am on Saturday morning. The race will start at 9am and end at 11am. The streets will reopen at 11am, except for Pennsylvania between 12th and 14th Street, which will remain closed until 2pm for the tents to be deconstructed. There will be opening ceremony before the race starts and an awards ceremony when the race is over. The race will use the established 5k course: starting and finishing on Pennsylvania Avenue between 12th and 13th and following along 3rd Street, Independence Avenue, 4th Street, and

D Street. There will be over 70 MPD police officers to provide security and there will be emergency services.

Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the 2022 PanCAN PurpleScribe 5K Walk-Run, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. 2022 Chinese Lunar New Year Parade, February 6, 2022. Rita Lee, CCBA Parade Committee Vice Chairperson, ritalee@wahluck.org.

Lee and Dr. Wong began their presentation about the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Chinatown for the Year of the Tiger. Set up for the event will take place the morning of the event between 9am-11am. The event will commence at 1pm and a parade around the surrounding blocks will start at 2pm. A ceremony with the Mayor and distinguished guests will start at 3pm and the event will end with firecrackers at 4pm. Lee provided further information about where specific performances and the showmobile will be located.

Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the 2022 Chinese Lunar New Year Parade on February 6, 2022, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

1. Letter of Protest, 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.

Shankle provided a recap on the conversation last meeting and the concerns raised by the residents of 777 Gallery Place regarding potential noise and disruptions from the establishment. The ANC voted that if a community agreement was not reached, the Commission would submit a formal protest. The community agreement did not happen due to holidays and scheduling. Therefore, the ANC did submit a letter of protest for the license. On Monday, December 20, 2021 there will be a roll call meeting for the parties to set dates for potential mediation if an agreement is not eventually reached.

The parties agreed to find a time to virtually meet to discuss the various concerns and reach a compromise. Shankle promised to send over some proposed times to meet.

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE (continued)

2. Penn Social LLC, 801 E Street NW -- Change Cafe Hours of Operation (DDOT –10898602). Matthew Minora, 202.625.7700, mminora@malliosobrien.com.

No one from Penn Social showed up. The commissioners agreed to move this item to the January meeting. The commissioners want to hear feedback and concerns from nearby residents about Penn Social's temporary outside seating becoming a permanent.

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- 1. 610-624 Eye Street NW. Extension of BZA Order No. 19124 / 19124-A. Josh Olsen, Monument Realty, 202.777.2012, jolsen@monumentrealty.com and Christine Shiker, Christine.Shiker@hklaw.com.**

Shiker began her presentation regarding a BZA extension for a residential project located at 610-624 Eye Street NW. The project seeks an additional extension under a provision of the zoning regulation that allows for an extension if good cause is shown. Shiker explained the challenges the project has encountered due to the pandemic. They are asking for a two-year extension to get the building permit plans finalized and submitted so the project can go forward. Shiker also provided an overview of the project, which has been previously presented in front of the ANC for approval.

Miske asked if the two-year extension is standard for a good cause showing. Shiker confirmed it is the standard BZA extension and said the project does not anticipate needing the full duration of the extended time. Shankle asked about the construction timeline. Olsen said the timeline depends how quickly the project can get the needed permits. Construction would ideally begin late summer or early fall of 2022. A constituent asked if the property owner during the interim would improve security and lighting of the street. Olsen said they have a parking officer stationed until 10pm and have people managing the area, but he acknowledged security is a challenge. Shankle said he would ask MPD about setting up a mobile camera system on the street.

Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the BZA extension, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

OTHER

Shankle said he received notice from the Department of Housing Services (DHS) that the Pat Handy legacy site located on 5th Street NW will be extended through April 15, 2022 in its current usage. DHS made this decision based on social distancing guidelines and hypothermia season approaching. Shankle posed questions to the Mayor's office and the Councilmember's office and is hoping for some resolutions from DHS about the shelter's continuation.

Shankle noted that the ANC does not have its meeting schedule for 2022 yet. He proposed that meetings continue on the second Tuesday of the month for the meantime; Miske and Nelson agreed. The ANC is required to return to in-person meetings beginning in February or March. The commissioners aim to hold hybrid meetings at the MLK Library.

ADJOURNMENT: Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm, seconded by Miske. Commissioners were in favor of adjourning meeting (Vote 3-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Laura Stateler

Minutes Approved by:

Next Meeting: January 11, 2021, 6:00PM

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.