



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1st, 2017; 6:30 p.m.

Georgetown Visitation School, Heritage Room – 1524 35th Street NW

Call to Order

Chair Joe Gibbons called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Commissioners Ed Solomon (2E01), Joe Gibbons (2E02), Mara Goldman (2E04), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Jim Wilcox (2E06), Monica Roache (2E07), and Zac Schroepfer (2E08) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of May 1st, 2017 ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the May 1st, 2017 meeting agenda. Commissioner Roache seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the April 3rd, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the April 3rd, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Lieutenant Gary Durand, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He said that, year-to-date, there has been an increase in violent crime over the previous year in the neighborhood. He added that the neighborhood continues to experience issues with business thefts and thefts from vehicles.

Financial Report

Peter Sacco, the Executive Director of the ANC, stated the current balance of the ANC's checking and savings accounts.

Approval of the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Community Comment

Presentation by Leif Dormsjo, Director of the District Department of Transportation

Leif Dormsjo, the Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and Sam Zimbabwe, Chief Project Delivery Officer for DDOT, were present. Mr. Dormsjo gave an overview of the Mayor's priorities as part of her proposed FY 2018 budget. He said that he recently attended a budget review hearing with the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

Mr. Dormsjo said that DDOT has a large portfolio of responsibilities, including maintenance of the city's bridges, tunnels, residential streets, sidewalks, alleys, and other city assets. He said that, over the recent years, there has been a sizable amount of deferred maintenance for neighborhood-specific infrastructure, including residential streets, sidewalks, and alleys. He added that the current administration has instituted a large budget increase for improving neighborhood infrastructure, including through the implementation of the AlleyPalooza initiative. He said that improving neighborhood infrastructure is a multiyear process for DDOT.

Mr. Dormsjo said that DDOT is also focusing on improving transit options for residents. He gave an overview of DDOT's efforts to replace the city's DC Circulator bus fleet. He said that DDOT is working to identify a maintenance facility for the Circulator buses moving forward. He said that the Mayor has also increased the city's allotment to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to help brace for the blow of service cuts and fare increases that will soon be implemented. He added that DDOT is currently installing 30 to 35 Capital Bikeshare stations across the city on an annual basis.

Mr. Dormsjo gave an overview of DDOT's Vision Zero efforts, which aim to eliminate pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in the city. He said that other major American cities have also committed to the Vision Zero goal. He said that DDOT has a Vision Zero action plan that the agency is in the process of implementing. He added that the action plan involves the re-engineering of roadways, the passage of legislation to crack down on "super-speeders", and the implementation of education efforts with the city's schools.

Mr. Dormsjo gave an overview of the DC Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment's upcoming roundtable hearing regarding DDOT's efforts to install LED streetlights across the city. He said that DDOT sees lighting as an important component of its efforts to make roads safer. He added that DDOT has reduced the Kelvin temperature of the LED streetlights it is installing to 4000 Kelvin in response to community concerns. He said that the streetlight industry is currently developing 3000 Kelvin LED streetlights that have the same benefits as 4000 Kelvin lights, and that DDOT is currently piloting the 3000 Kelvin lights.

Chair Gibbons asked if the community would be able to see examples of the new LED lights that have been installed in various locations. Mr. Dormsjo said that there will be opportunities for community members to see the lights in-person.

Commissioner Solomon said that the detour for the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project will go into effect on Tuesday, May 2nd. He requested that DDOT station additional traffic control officers (TCOs) in the area of the detour to help direct traffic. Mr. Dormsjo said that additional TCOs are being scheduled for the area.

Commissioner Wilcox said that he has received many resident concerns about the overabundance of construction dumpsters that are stationed for too long on neighborhood streets. Mr. Dormsjo said that DDOT will soon be implementing new regulations where, after a certain period of time, the fees associated with the construction dumpsters stationed on neighborhood streets will increase. He said that there will also be varying fees based on the size of the dumpster.

Christopher Matthews, a local resident, asked about the state of DDOT's Georgetown Parking Task Force. Mr. Dormsjo said that there has not been any action that has resulted from the task force's meetings. He said that DDOT is not opposed to reconvening the task force, but that the agency would need to see a willingness from the ANC and the Georgetown BID before doing so.

Mr. Matthews asked about the planned extension of the DC Circulator's Georgetown-Union Station route to the National Cathedral. Mr. Dormsjo said that he previously testified that he does not believe the planned extension is sensible, especially given the other Metrobus routes that serve the corridor. He said that DDOT will be starting the process to create a new DC Circulator Development Plan this year.

Multiple residents of lower Georgetown, south of M Street NW, expressed frustration with the level of traffic in lower Georgetown. Mr. Dormsjo said that the city as a whole is experiencing record traffic levels because of the problems with Metrorail. Commissioner Solomon added that the ANC is currently taking a comprehensive look at the traffic problems in lower Georgetown.

Update from the Mayor's Office

Richard Livingstone, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that the Mayor will be in Georgetown on Saturday, May 6th to celebrate Grace Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary.

Update from Councilmember Jack Evans' Office

Ruth Werner, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' office, said that the DC Council's review of the Mayor's proposed FY 2018 budget continues. She said that the first Council vote on the budget will be on Tuesday, May 30th.

Announcement Regarding the DC Council Public Oversight Roundtable Hearing for the District Department of Transportation's Installation of LED Streetlights

Chair Gibbons said that the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment will be holding a roundtable hearing regarding DDOT's installation of LED streetlights on Wednesday, May 3rd at 11:00 am in room 123 of the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Presentation by DC Water Regarding the Georgetown Sewer Rehabilitation Project and Capital Crescent Trail Repairs

Tanya Hedgepeth, a Construction Outreach Coordinator for DC Water, gave an overview of two upcoming DC Water projects in the neighborhood: the Georgetown Sewer Rehabilitation Project

and repairs to the Capital Crescent Trail. She said that DC's water and sewer infrastructure is aging and that DC Water is currently working to get caught up on maintenance to the infrastructure.

Ms. Hedgepeth said that the Georgetown Sewer Rehabilitation Project will involve the rehabilitation of the sewers in the western portion of Georgetown. She said that, as part of the project, the sewers will be re-lined with a material that extends the lifespan of the sewers. She said that a 10-foot long section of the sewer pipe on O Street NW will have to be replaced via excavation, along with a replacement of a nearby catch basin. She added that the brick sidewalks on the affected portion of O Street NW will be restored to the condition they were in before the project started. She added that project contractors mobilized during the last week and that work will conclude on January 8th, 2018.

Ms. Hedgepeth said that the repair project for the Capital Crescent Trail is the result of sewer overflows near the trail in 2015. She said the project will involve the re-lining of the sewer under the C&O Canal, as well as the repairing of the affected section of the trail. She added that there will be pedestrian and cyclist detours in order to repair the trail.

Announcement by Sarah Fashbaugh, Community Resource Officer for ABRA, Regarding the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Control Bill of 2016 and Upcoming ABRA Trainings

Sarah Fashbaugh, the Community Resource Officer for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), gave an overview of ABRA's responsibilities as an agency. She said that she will be holding an upcoming community training on Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 pm at ABRA's offices, 2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400 South. She said that, during the training, community members can find out more information about the agency and its protest processes.

Ms. Fashbaugh said that grocery store license renewals will be taking place this year and that all liquor store licenses will be up for renewal next year.

Ms. Fashbaugh gave an overview for ABRA's enforcement hotline, which is staffed seven days a week from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am and can be reached at (202) 329-6347. She said that local residents can call the hotline if they have any issues with establishments.

Behind the Table

A representative for Innovo Consulting was present. She said that the group works with businesses and social entrepreneurs in the region to solve business problems and work on business projects. She encouraged local residents to refer any businesses in the community that may need help with business projects to the organization.

Presentation Regarding the Glover Park-Burleith Farmers Market

Hugo Mogollon, the Director of Community Foodworks, which manages the Glover Park-Burleith Farmers Market, said the Market will be opening for the year on Saturday, May 13th. He said that the market is a weekly community event, and that in addition to food there are also events for children and places for community groups to table. He said that the market will take

place every Saturday during the summer from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the parking lot of Hardy Middle School, 1819 35th Street NW.

Announcement by the Georgetown University Student Association's Accessibility Policy Team

A representative for the Georgetown University Student Association's Accessibility Policy Team gave an overview of the accessibility map of neighborhood businesses that the team has created. She said that the map will be published online this coming summer.

Commissioner Schroepfer said that the team and he will be working to improve accessibility amongst neighborhood businesses.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Roache said that on Saturday, April 8th she and several other ANC commissioners attended a community cleanup at Mt. Zion Cemetery. She that many students from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School also volunteered for the event. She gave an overview of the history of the cemetery, which served as a cemetery for the African American residents of Georgetown. She said that the cemetery currently does not have much funding for maintenance.

Other Public Announcements and Comments

Kishan Putta, a representative for DC Health Link, said that the organization will be hosting a small business event on Friday, May 5th at 8:00 am at the Fairmont Hotel Georgetown, 2401 M Street NW.

New Business

Letter of Support for the Citizens Association of Georgetown's 2017 Summer Concert Series

Chair Gibbons moved to adopt a letter of support for the Citizens Association of Georgetown's 2017 Summer Concert Series. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the park permit application to allow the Citizens Association of Georgetown to hold its Concerts in the Park series at Volta Park on Sunday, May 21st, 2017 and Sunday, June 18th, 2017 and at Rose Park on Sunday, July 9th, 2017. This annual concert series is very popular and is welcomed by the community.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Application by Grace Street Coffee Roasters (ABRA-106064) for a New Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant License at 3210 Grace Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Letter of Support to Allow for the Transport of Alcohol from and to Tony and Joe's (ABRA-01076) and Nick's Riverside Grill (ABRA-017308) on New Year's Eve

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E endorses the one day exception for Tony and Joe's and Nick's Riverside Grill for New Year's Eve. This includes allowing patrons to take their alcoholic beverages from Tony and Joe's to Nick's Riverside Grill and vice versa. ANC 2E has supported this exception over the years and we continue to do so.

Resolution Regarding the ANC's Protest of Smith Point's License Renewal at 1338 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-060131)

Chair Gibbons recused himself from discussing and voting on this matter.

Commissioner Roache moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the applicant's motion for an extension of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board protest hearing date in order to attempt to settle this matter with the understanding that the applicant will close the establishment's summer garden no later than 10:00 pm as long as the applicant owns and operates the establishment.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E03 - OG 17-140 (HPA 17-254) 1400-1404 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Chair Gibbons moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The applicant proposes to use both buildings to create four large family-style apartments; renovate an existing O Street NW entrance for the four residential apartments; construct a new rear hallway to connect the apartments; construct a new, not in the public view rear indented balcony; renovate the 1400 Wisconsin Avenue NW retail space; and rehabilitate the contiguous facade of the 1400-1404 Wisconsin Avenue NW buildings.

The applicant is currently using the second and third floors of both buildings as retail storage. The upper levels are an open floor plan so there will be minimal interior demolition. The interior construction of the new apartments will use the existing window configuration. The new construction of the walkway will be built in the rear with exceedingly minor demolition to the party wall separating 1400-1404 Wisconsin Avenue NW. The existing O Street NW door will be restored and allow residential access to the walkway and apartments.

The applicant seeks to add a rear unobtrusive balcony. ANC 2E usually opposes balconies, however this construction is not in the public view, does not violate a neighbor's privacy or enjoyment of their property, and is sufficiently recessed.

The applicant is renovating the 1400 Wisconsin Avenue NW retail space and removing a staircase and an "L" shaped room that accesses the upper levels, which are open floor plans. This staircase is not historic and leads to the "L" shaped non-historic room, so these interior alterations are reasonable for the construction needs.

The applicant is seeking to renovate the facade connecting the two buildings with a design(s) that the ANC 2E finds suitable.

The applicant is working with an attorney to comply with all DC zoning regulations. The applicant is aware of all Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs regulations governing their concept design.

The applicant understands the historic characteristics of the properties' location and will limit its dumpster usage.

ANC 2E applauds the applicant for building apartments suitable for families, for understanding the need for interior historic preservation, and for properly renovating two important Georgetown buildings. The ANC fully supports this concept design, and specifically supports the applicant's "Scheme B" proposal.

SMD 2E05 - D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) 31st Street Bridge over C&O Canal

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E is grateful for the attention that DDOT is paying our community to ensure that our bridges are safe and looks forward to a renovated bridge on 31st Street NW. However, we do have concerns about the process and the product. Our concerns include:

1. Significant concern regarding construction related noise, which is scheduled to begin at 7:00 am in a highly residential neighborhood. We strongly request that sound-producing work does not begin until 8:00 am.
2. We would like to ensure that construction workers will not be blocking off parking spots or utilizing residential spots in a neighborhood where parking is already stretched thin.
3. ANC 2E is interested in better understanding how the work on the bridge will coincide with the refilling of the canal underneath the bridge, which is scheduled to occur prior to the bridge project being finished.
4. We would like to reiterate that individuals who live and/or work on the canal remain concerned about the narrowing of the bridge and the elimination of loading spots.

Thank you again for your attention to our neighborhood and we look forward to continuing to work together on this crucial project.

SMD 2E05 - OG 17-192 (HPA 17-337) 3220 Prospect Street, NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The applicant at 3220 Prospect Street NW is seeking an extension of their concept approval, which was granted in 2015. The design of the building has not changed from the date of which the original concept approval was granted. As such, ANC 2E supports the extension of concept approval for the project located at 3220 Prospect Street NW.

SMD 2E05 - OG 17-174 (HPA 17-310) 3602 Prospect Street, NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

While ANC 2E generally supports the plan, we have heard serious concerns from neighbors on both sides of the proposed project over the depth of the addition on the backside. As drawn, one next door neighbor shares that the new home will extend 43 feet past the backside of their home, approximately 20 feet deeper than it already extends. As a result, the ANC encourages the Old Georgetown Board to consider whether the depth of the extension is appropriate for this particular block.

SMD 2E06 - OG 17-195 (HPA 17-390) 3009 N Street, NW

Commissioner Wilcox moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E objects to the application to construct a subterranean connection between the three dwellings at 3003, 3009, and 3017 N Street NW. The three dwellings are adjoining properties on separate lots. The applicant has apparently owned 3003 and 3009 N Street NW for a considerable period of time, and he recently purchased 3017 N Street NW, which is the iconic 1794 residence into which Jacqueline Kennedy and her children moved after the assassination of President Kennedy.

The proposal is essentially to connect the basements of all three properties and to install a sizable “turntable” in the basement of the middle property, which could possibly be used to turn around and facilitate the garaging of numerous motor vehicles. The walls between the existing basements would apparently be demolished, and the basement of 3009 N Street NW would be expanded to the property line of 3017 N Street NW so that the three basements could be interconnected.

The applicant represents that the work would not be visible from public space. If this modification were to be permitted, it is not clear how the three separate lots would be handled if the current or a future owner were to sell less than all of them. In any event, ANC 2E is opposed to the physical combination of these three properties, including the iconic 1794 former home of Jacqueline Kennedy, which is a very stately building of a distinctively different style and age from the others. The ANC also has concerns about the adverse impact of the proposed application on the historic fabric of the three properties.

SMD 2E06 - OG 17-197 (HPA 17-392) 3035 West Lane Keys, NW

Commissioner Wilcox moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E does not object to the application filed for 3035 West Lane Keys NW, which seeks to add dormer windows on the front of the residence. However, ANC 2E notes that this property is part of a line of residences from 3015 to 3045 West Lane Keys NW, none of which currently have dormer windows at the front. The ANC suggests that the Old Georgetown Board considers whether adding dormer windows at the front of this one property is appropriate from a design perspective.

Adjournment

Chair Gibbons adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm.