



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4th, 2019; 6:30 p.m.

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

Call to Order

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Joe Gibbons (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Elizabeth Miller (2E07) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's March 4th, 2019 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's March 4th, 2019 meeting agenda. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's February 4th, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's February 4th, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Commander Duncan Bedlion, Captain Kelvin Cusick, and Lt. Dustin Bellavance, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, were present. Commander Bedlion showed a video of a recent robbery in the neighborhood.

Lt. Bellavance gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He gave an overview of the Second District's work to address thefts from vehicles. He also gave an overview of MPD's recent work to try and locate a man who jumped into the Potomac River in Georgetown.

Commander Bedlion gave an overview of the Mayor's Private Security Camera Rebate Program. He encouraged local residents to participate in the program.

Presentation by Douglas Klein, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Regarding Community Impact Statements

Douglas Klein, an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, gave an overview of his professional background. He said that he works on community prosecution, including handling community impact statements, for MPD's First, Second, and Sixth Districts. He said that he will be attend-

ing the ANC's regular April 2019 meeting to provide more information regarding the U.S. Attorney's Office and community impact statements. He added that he can be reached via email at douglas.klein@usdoj.gov.

Presentation by Councilmember Jack Evans Regarding Ward 2 and Citywide Updates

Councilmember Jack Evans gave an overview of his concerns regarding DC's proposed small cell regulations. He said that he recently met with Jeff Marootian, the Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), to discuss the agency's plans for the small cell regulations. He said that Ward 2 appears to be the epicenter for the proposed small cell installations in DC. He also gave an overview of his conversations with Director Marootian regarding the state of the streets and potholes in Ward 2.

Councilmember Evans said that he is happy with the progress that is being made on the Hyde-Addison Elementary School modernization project. He gave an overview of his recent meeting with Washington Gas officials to discuss gas leaks in the neighborhood, as well as the company's communications processes.

Councilmember Evans gave an overview of the current state of the retail environment in Georgetown. He said that the neighborhood will continue to face challenges in trying to attract new retail tenants to Georgetown.

Councilmember Evans said that the city as a whole could not be doing any better. He said that the city currently has large financial reserves and a AAA bond rating. He added that the DC Public Schools (DCPS) continues to struggle with the educational outcomes for its students.

Councilmember Evans gave an overview of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) ongoing maintenance work to bring the Metrorail system to a state of good repair. He said that the recently-enacted dedicated funding mechanism for WMATA will help fund needed maintenance projects.

Update from the Mayor's Office

Amr Kotb, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that he has been working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to address trash collection blind-spots in the neighborhood. He asked local residents to let him know if DPW does not pick up their trash.

Mr. Kotb said that he is working with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to address construction work that is beginning earlier than allowed. He said that he is also working with DDOT to address needed sidewalk repairs in the neighborhood.

Mr. Kotb gave an overview of DPW's new smartphone app, which provides updates on vehicle towing as part of DPW's leaf collection schedule.

Mr. Kotb said that the DC Public Library (DCPL) is working on a planning process for its Library Facilities Master Plan. He said that DCPL will hold two upcoming community meetings regarding the matter: one on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 pm at the Anacostia Library, 1800 Good Hope

Road SE, and the second on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW.

Mr. Kotb encouraged local residents to call DC's shelter hotline at (202) 399-7093 if they see any homeless individuals out in the cold.

Commissioner Palmer asked for Mr. Kotb's help with addressing the potholes on Wisconsin Avenue NW.

Update from the Citizens Association of Georgetown – March Meeting on Historic Preservation and Zoning Processes, Led by Elsa Santoyo

Pamla Moore, the President of the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), said that the organization will hold a meeting regarding historic preservation and zoning processes on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O Street NW.

Update from Georgetown Main Street

Jessie Himmelrich, the Executive Director, of Georgetown Main Street, said that the organization's annual meeting will be held on Monday, March 18th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at The Capital Tailor, 3214 O Street NW. She encouraged local residents to attend the meeting.

Update Regarding the Hyde-Addison Elementary School Modernization Project

Commissioner Putta said that construction as part of the Hyde-Addison Elementary School modernization project is on track to be completed by July 1st. He said that the school will be receiving new furniture once the construction is completed.

Update Regarding the Recent DC Public Service Commission Hearing on Gas Leaks and Presentation by Washington Gas

Commissioner Lohse gave an overview of the ANC's previous resolution regarding the Public Service Commissions' hearing on gas leaks. She said that the ANC has been working with Washington Gas regarding the gas leaks and the company's communications processes. She added that the Washington Gas staff members have been responsive to the ANC's concerns.

John O'Brien, the Executive Vice President of Strategy & Public Affairs for Washington Gas, gave an overview of the company's aging pipe infrastructure and PROJECTpipes' work to upgrade the infrastructure. He said that the company always wants local residents to call the company at (844) 927-4427 if they smell gas. He said that the company works to address every call that comes in.

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of Washington Gas' methods for evaluating the severity of each individual leak, as well as the timeline that the company follows for addressing each type of leak. He also gave an overview of the company's updated communications processes for local residents who live on streets with upcoming gas line work.

Mr. O'Brien said that Washington Gas is looking into developing texting or app technology that would help communicate gas outages and gas repair work to local residents.

Presentation by TeleWorld Solutions Regarding the Use of Rooftops for Small Cell 5G Installations

Shervin Gerami, the CEO of TeleWorld Solutions, gave a visual presentation regarding the possible deployment of small cells on rooftops as opposed to in the public right of way. He said that his company has developed a website that can help property owners who live in areas where telecommunications companies are looking to add small cells to connect directly with the telecommunications companies.

Announcement Regarding a Pre-Construction Community Meeting on the District Department of Transportation's Replacement of the 31st Street Bridge Over the C&O Canal Project on Thursday, March 14th, 2019

Commissioner Palmer said that there will be a community meeting regarding DDOT's Replacement of the 31st Street Bridge over the C&O Canal Project on Thursday, March 14th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue NW. She encouraged local residents who live or travel near the 31st Street NW bridge to attend the meeting.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Use Agreement for Jelleff Field

Commissioner Palmer recused herself from voting on the matter.

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

ANC 2E strongly supports the availability of public fields in Washington, DC and ensuring those fields be used by as many District residents, especially children, as possible. We all recognize that safe and properly scaled playing fields in Georgetown – and across the city – are limited and in high demand. Public and private schools, sports leagues, and families often find it very difficult to find green space to practice field sports, host competitions, or throw a ball around.

In late 2009, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) entered into a Use Easement and Maintenance Agreement (the "Agreement") with a private school (the "School") that gives the School the exclusive right to use the Jelleff Recreation Center field (the "Field") during most of the highest demand hours in the late summer, spring, and fall.

Under the Agreement, beginning on June 30, 2019 the School has the right to request that DPR extend the exclusive use arrangement for an additional nine years, ending on June 29, 2029. If the School makes such a request, DPR will be required to either consent to or deny the requested extension within thirty (30) days.

At this time, ANC 2E takes no position with respect to the ultimate outcome. However, ANC 2E believes, as a guiding principle, that DPR should establish a transparent process – within DPR guidelines – that will give all interested user groups an opportunity to have a seat at the table and an equal opportunity to present the needs of their institutions.

Acknowledging that public-private partnerships can be a useful tool in developing public infrastructure, it is ANC 2E's opinion that preserving adequate public access to a public facility such as the Field during high demand hours should be a principal consideration in DPR's decision-making process.

It is worth noting to DPR that the upcoming Jelleff Recreation Center renovation project – currently funded in the FY 2019 budget – has potential impact on the playing field in terms of building design potential and construction.

ANC 2E strongly recommends that DPR host a community meeting open to all interested parties within the next sixty (60) days to gather the input needed to make a fair and informed decision when, and if, the School requests that the exclusive use arrangement be extended pursuant to the terms of the Agreement.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2019 Rose Park Farmers Market

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

ANC 2E supports the Friends of Rose Park's application to stage the 2019 Rose Park Farmers Market in Rose Park, located at 2609 Dumbarton Street NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2019 Volta Park Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 7th, 2019

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2E is proud to support the 2019 Volta Park Easter Egg Hunt,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E is grateful for the Friends of Volta Park's dedication and financial support of this wonderful event, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E invites our community to join the Easter Egg Hunt festivities on April 7th.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation allow for and provide all assistance necessary to the Friends of Volta Park to ensure a most joyous 2019 Volta Park Easter Egg Hunt for our community.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2019 FRESHFARM Georgetown Farmstand

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's regular April 2019 meeting.

Special Event Application for the 2019 Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 27th, 2019

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

ANC 2E supports the Marine Corps Marathon's route through ANC 2E provided that:

1. There will be no amplified music or amplified voices prior to the first runners entering ANC 2E, which is expected to occur at approximately 7:57 am.
2. Emergency vehicles will have access to residents in ANC 2E at all times throughout the race.
3. A complete list of contact information, including key Marine Corps Marathon contacts and Metropolitan Police Department Special Operations Division officers, will be provided to Commissioner Lisa Palmer at least 30 days prior to the event.
4. The closed streets will reopen within 30 minutes of the last runner exiting ANC 2E.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's After-Hours Construction Permit Request to Run Water Pumps

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2E has been informed that high water levels are compromising the drilling operations to install ground-stabilizing beams (soldier piles) as part of the construction project for MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's new surgical pavilion at 3800 Reservoir Road NW,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E was notified of this emergency situation by Regina Knox Woods, Vice President of Government Affairs for the District of Columbia for MedStar Health,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that the water levels increase the possibility of the holes collapsing (within 6 inches of their centerlines) while they are being drilled, thus preventing the proper and timely installation of the soldier piles and delaying this critical path activity,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that they have located three submersible pumps below grade and have located a generator to run the pumps near the hospital's Gate 1,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that ongoing pumping during normal workday hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Saturday has failed to lower the water to a level where the drilling operations can be safely and successfully completed, and thus MedStar is requesting an after-hours construction permit to run the pumps overnight,

WHEREAS, MedStar has provided the ANC with a plan and a map of the emergency situation, which are attached to this resolution,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that the generator type, size, sound attenuating enclosure (fence with sound absorbing blankets), and location were all carefully selected to minimize noise,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that, in the opinion of their acoustic engineer, Cerami & Associates, adjacent residences, with their windows closed, will not be able to differentiate the generator noise from normal ambient noise levels,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that the generator will operate within the Georgetown Community Partnership's (GCP) Construction Management Plan (CMP) and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs' (DCRA) noise regulations,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that this is an emergency, temporary situation directly affecting the safety and the timeline of the entire construction process for MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's new surgical pavilion,

WHEREAS, MedStar has informed the ANC that it should expect the operation to last several weeks or until such time as the installation of the soldier piles is complete, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E Commissioner Kishan Putta, whose single member district encompasses the construction site, and ANC 2E Commissioners Anna Landre and Joe Gibbons, whose contiguous single member districts are directly impacted by MedStar's request, are jointly sponsoring this resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that DCRA approve MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's after-hours construction permit request for overnight hours on Monday through Saturday, as well as for 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday, until the situation has been corrected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and Clark Construction, the hospital's project contractor, provide the ANC and the community with regular status updates with regards to the emergency construction situation.

Public Space Committee

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Public Space Committee's Second Meeting on DC's Proposed Small Cell Guidelines

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

Having reviewed the February 1, 2019 version of the Small Design Guidelines (the "Draft Guidelines") proposed by the Public Space Regulation Division of the District Department of Transportation ("DDOT"), ANC 2E has the following comments:

- ANC 2E supports the deployment of true Fifth Generation ("5G") broadband infrastructure that complies with International Industry Standards in the District of Columbia, with the goal of ensuring that residents, businesses, and public safety agencies have reliable access to the latest wireless telecommunications network Technology.

- ANC 2E is concerned, however, about the impact the deployment of small cell infrastructure, including, most disturbingly, stand-alone poles, could have on the historic character of Old Georgetown and urges DDOT to give careful consideration to the recommendations that follow, as well to such recommendations as may be submitted by the Citizens Association of Georgetown.
- ANC 2E strongly believes that the Congressionally-designated Old Georgetown Historic District, which is also a National Historic Landmark, should be afforded at least the same protections as the Draft Guidelines provide for the area of the District of Columbia covered by the L'Enfant Plan.
- ANC 2E recommends that small cell infrastructure should be deployed on stand-alone poles in Georgetown only as last resort, after all other possible alternatives have been carefully considered and determined to be impractical. In that connection, ANC 2E notes that reasonable, but less intrusive, alternatives may be available, such as deployment of small cell infrastructure in manholes, on rooftops, or in locations where cellular communications equipment is currently installed.
- ANC 2E notes that the Old Georgetown Act, which was enacted in 1950, was intended to protect the Old Georgetown Historic District from the construction or installation of structures that might negatively affect the historic character of Old Georgetown. Therefore, ANC 2E recommends that the Draft Guidelines be reviewed by the Old Georgetown Board and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts before they are finalized. Furthermore, ANC 2E believes that the Guidelines should provide that specific plans for the deployment of small cell infrastructure in locations that are visible from public streets or alleys should be reviewed by ANC 2E, the Old Georgetown Board, and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts before permits that would allow installation are issued by the appropriate agency or agencies of the Government of the District of Columbia.

ANC 2E hereby authorizes Commissioners Joe Gibbons (2E02@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) to provide specific written recommendations with respect to the deployment of small cell infrastructure to the Public Space Committee and to represent ANC 2E at the public meeting of the Public Space Committee scheduled for March 21, 2019.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E03 - OG 19-087 (HPA 19-192) 1324 35th Street, NW

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

ANC 2E endorses the Citizens Association of Georgetown's comments with respect to the deficiencies of the project design.

ANC 2E has no further comments regarding the proposal.

SMD 2E03 - OG 19-093 (HPA 19-198) 3263 N Street, NW

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

ANC 2E has reviewed the proposal, including the options for the proposed addition. The ANC states a preference for Option B, the more traditional option. The ANC has no further comment regarding this proposal.

SMD 2E03 - OG 19-084 (HPA 19-188) 3217 P Street, NW

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

ANC 2E is concerned about the apparent failure of the applicant to consult with the property's neighbors, particularly the abutting neighbors, about the plans for the project. The ANC is particularly concerned about the height of the street lamps now being proposed and would recommend that they not be any taller than the existing street lamps in the neighborhood and be designed in a way that is compatible with the historic neighborhood. Once a design for the street lamps is proposed, we would recommend that the applicant conduct a light study so it is certain that the street lamps as designed will not have a negative impact on the historic character of the homes that front on P Street and 32nd Street NW in the area

Finally, ANC 2E endorses the Citizens Association of Georgetown's request regarding the replacement of non-permeable pavement with permeable pavement. The ANC encourages the applicant to consider sustainable solutions in order to address rainwater runoff from the property.

SMD 2E06 - OG 19-075 (HPA 19-164) 2737 O Street, NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

SMD 2E06 - OG 19-092 (HPA 19-197) 2907 P Street, NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Adjournment

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.