



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1st, 2020; 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Joe Gibbons (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Anna Landre (2E04), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), Elizabeth Miller (2E07), and Matias Burdman (2E08) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's June 1st, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's June 1st, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's May 4th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's May 4th, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Burdman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Captain Brian Bray, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Community Comment

Presentation by Jeff Marootian, Director of the District Department of Transportation, Regarding Proposed Transportation Changes in Georgetown During Reopening

Jeff Marootian, the Director of the District Department of Transportation, gave a presentation, answered questions, and responded to comments regarding proposed transportation changes in Georgetown during reopening.

Update from the Mayor's Office

Anna Noakes, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave an update from the Mayor's Office.

Update from Georgetown Main Street

Rachel Shank, the Executive Director of Georgetown Main Street, gave an update from the organization.

Update from the Georgetown BID

Joe Sternlieb, the CEO and President of the Georgetown BID, gave an update from the organization.

Announcement Regarding Changes to ANC November Ballot Access

Chair Murphy gave an announcement regarding changes to ANC ballot access in November.

Announcement Regarding DC Water's Clean Rivers Project Webinar

Chair Murphy gave an announcement regarding DC Water's upcoming Clean Rivers Project webinar.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Systemic Racism and the Unjust Death of George Floyd

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

Our heart goes out to the family and friends of George Floyd. While we will never truly understand the pain they have suffered as a result of the injustice inflicted on Mr. Floyd, we share the sorrow and anger brought on by his indefensible loss. ANC 2E acknowledges that systemic racism in policing continues to be a problem all over America, and we reiterate our condemnation of the actions that led to Mr. Floyd's death.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Sidewalk Widening During the Social Distancing Period

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E has serious concerns about public health issues on our sidewalks related to COVID-19.

The sidewalks in our community are lovely – cobble stoned, moderately sized, and create a sense of intimacy and connection in our community. However, given the Mayor's recommendation to continue social distancing practices, we have concerns that they are not wide enough for our businesses to reopen and operate while simultaneously providing space for walking. As we continue to move forward through the pandemic response, we recognize that the sidewalks and curb lanes provide multiple functions along M Street NW and Wisconsin Avenue NW, including but not limited to:

- Space for pedestrians to walk

- Curbside loading and unloading
- Bus loading and unloading
- Places for restaurants to set up tables and chairs for service
- Looking forward, potentially places for retailers to sell their products

We request that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) joins cities from around the country in maximizing our business' ability to reopen and operate successfully by strategically expanding the sidewalk on M Street NW and Wisconsin Avenue NW up to at least the 1500 block of Wisconsin Avenue NW. While doing so, we strongly reiterate the importance of managing for the various uses noted above, and we request close consultation on the location of such modifications, including the build out of parklets, streateries, and other uses. Any changes to the sidewalk must not impede our business' ability to succeed – rather, it should amplify such ability. ANC 2E affirmatively states its request to be a partner in the development, monitoring, implementation, and continued study of this pilot program to ensure it is meeting the community's needs throughout its life. Given no one knows the indirect impacts of this pilot, we urge DDOT to work closely with the ANC on the time period for which this pilot remains in effect. Ultimately, the goal is for our temporary street design to support both public health and economic policy goals, while disrupting the residential community in a sensitive manner.

Furthermore, ANC 2E notes that with no Metrorail access to our neighborhood, visitors and employees have limited means of coming and going from our community. In accordance with social distancing guidelines, we request that DDOT, alongside the sidewalk widening work, address the following:

- Increase the number of locations available for bike and scooter parking but do so without impeding vehicular traffic at corners
- Work with private parking lots to determine and implement a means for lowering the price to park inside private parking facilities, as we have limited capacity for managing an increase associated with the loss of parking in the commercial district within the residential community
- Incentivize and assist private entities to add bike and scooter parking on private property
- Create additional safe roadway infrastructure for bikes and scooters as we expect and encourage a significant uptick in the usage of these means of transportation
- Prohibit scooter and bike use on the sidewalks and widened sidewalks and enforce all restrictions on scooter use
- Provide ANC 2E with a point of contact at DDOT who can assist in enforcing penalties against the misuse of scooters and bikes within the designated widened sidewalks
- Ensure that curb cuts serving those with disabilities and different mobility needs are conserved
- Address all unnecessary impediments blocking the sidewalks, including the removal of unused newspaper boxes and the refurbishing of tree boxes to ensure safe movement of pedestrians
- Work with retailers to develop and implement a system for sidewalk queuing
- Adjust signal timing to ensure safety and efficiency for all users of our roadways

Finally, we know that creating these expanded sidewalks comes with a significant cost. We ask that the DC Council and the Mayor ensures that dollars are included in the budget to support such economy boosters we note herein both within ANC 2E and across the city. This is the time to respond to an unprecedented situation with creativity and we are eager to partner with city planners to move our community, and our city, forward. A pilot such as this is only an emergency measure. The ramifications of the pilot on Georgetown will be significant and thus this resolution is not intended to create a permanent solution.

Consideration of a Resolution Asking Mayor Bowser to Return Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the Office of Planning for Reconsideration in Light of the Anticipated Impact of the COVID-19 Emergency

Chair Murphy 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:

Amendments to the District of Columbia’s Comprehensive Plan (the “Amendments”) have been proposed by the Office of Planning and are currently pending before the Council of the District of Columbia. If adopted, the Amendments (many, if not most, of which are based on the assumption that the District will experience “a greater pace of growth” in coming years) would make dramatic changes to our city’s Comprehensive Plan. Ironically, the Office of Planning submitted the Amendments to the DC Council on April 23rd, 2020, a day on which the District reported 167 new coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and 14 COVID-19 related deaths. At this point, it is impossible to predict the impact the pandemic will have on our city’s population growth, employment, and revenue, but ANC 2E believes it is virtually self-evident that the growth assumptions on which the Amendments are based can no longer provide a reasonable basis for responsible urban planning.

Given the dramatic change in circumstances, ANC 2E urges Mayor Bowser to withdraw the Amendments from consideration by the DC Council. Failing that, ANC 2E urges the DC Council to return the Amendments to the Office of Planning for comprehensive reconsideration once it is possible to reasonably analyze and predict the impact the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the future of our city.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting Georgetown Main Street as Part of the DC Council Committee on Business and Economic Development’s Budget Oversight Hearing Regarding the Department of Small and Local Business Development

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2E provided a sponsoring resolution to create our Georgetown Main Street (GMS) organization in 2017,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E commends Georgetown Main Street for instilling a strong community collaboration by comprising its board of 11 members representing a variety of affiliations: small business owners, Georgetown University officials, and Georgetown residents, among other affiliations,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E is very proud of Georgetown Main Street's financial operating metrics:

- A. The organization's annual operating budget is around \$165,000, a majority of which comes from the DC Government.
- B. Georgetown Main Street does not receive mandatory dues or business assessments. They rely on grants from the DC Government and generous contributions from the community and its Board of Directors to fund the variety of projects and services they provide.
- C. To date, Georgetown Main Street has awarded \$112,835.76 in direct financial assistance to small businesses for facade improvement projects, business operations, and emergency COVID-19 relief.
- D. To date, Georgetown Main Street has awarded \$39,655 in emergency COVID-19 relief, with an additional \$10,345 to be allocated in the coming months.

WHEREAS, ANC 2E strongly believes that Georgetown Main Street is a perfect complement to our hardworking Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), as Georgetown Main Street serves our community beyond the BID's zone,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E has watched Georgetown Main Street, with one single employee, Executive Director Rachel Shank, provide effective and efficient services to over one mile of the Georgetown commercial corridor and to 300 businesses,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E has watched Executive Director Rachel Shank tirelessly work for our community and provide technical assistance, nonstop promotion, and critical information to our small Georgetown businesses as they navigate this new normal,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that Georgetown Main Street receives its support from the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2E recognizes that the upcoming budget cycle is a difficult one, the ANC strongly believes that investment in the small and local businesses of DC will pave the way to recover and restore DC's vibrancy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E urges the DC Council to fully fund the Department of Small and Local Business Development's Main Street program for FY 2021 in order to ensure the continued success of our Georgetown Main Street organization.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E05 - OG 20-160 (HPA 20-285) 3000 M 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:

ANC 2E is very pleased to see that this project is moving forward again. We remain extremely frustrated by the lack of development on this site, an important block in

Georgetown. Between the crane that has been standing on the site with no work and the empty and unkept space on M Street NW, the neighborhood is looking forward to the expedient creation of a new building that is in keeping with the historic guidelines of our community.

With that said, ANC 2E has some concerns about the proposed plans where design and use intersect. First, we have concerns about the roof deck. We would like to ensure that it is built to contain noise, especially music, and are uncomfortable with moving forward any plans that do not contemplate how the roof will be designed to protect peace, order, and quiet in the neighborhood, particularly in the evenings.

Second, ANC 2E wants to ensure that an adequate plan is in place to ensure that cars dropping off and picking up guests do not cause traffic issues on the block, particularly when considering the plans for building in the alley across the street. We would prefer to see a place for two to three cars at any given time to be pulled to the side of the block without interfering with traffic. While we know that this will be part of a zoning conversation, there are design considerations here that we would like to see incorporated into the plans prior to moving forward.

Separately, ANC 2E appreciates the green touches and would like to see more to soften a large building which will be looming quite large over small homes and the mule yard. We also leave issues related to massing to the Old Georgetown Board to resolve but ask the Board to pay particular attention to the height differential between the proposed building and the more modest buildings to the south.

ANC 2E is extremely eager to see a project move forward and appreciates that there are significant financial considerations that must be incorporated into the review process. We look forward to working with the applicant to ensure that the building designed for this important block of our community is both economically viable and sensitively designed.

SMD 2E06 - OG 20-169 (HPA 20-297) 3024 Q Street, NW

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

ANC 2E requests that the applicant resubmits its application along with communications demonstrating that all of the immediate neighbors have seen the project plans and have the opportunity to share any concerns with the ANC.

Administrative (Continued)

Approval of the ANC's FY 2020 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's FY 2020 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.