



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 1st, 2021; 6:30 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Lisa Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Jenny Mitchell (2E02), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Elizabeth Miller (2E07) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's November 1st, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's November 1st, 2021 meeting agenda. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's October 4th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the ANC's October 4th, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Lieutenant John Merzig and Captain Steve Andelman, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Community Comment

Presentation by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton gave a presentation regarding her work in the U.S. Congress and answered questions and heard concerns from commissioners and meeting attendees.

Administrative (Continued)

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 3 Financial Report

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 3 financial report. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 4 Financial Report

Commissioner Putta moved to approve the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 4 financial report. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2022 Budget

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's FY 2022 budget. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Community Comment (Continued)

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 Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office

Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an update from the Councilmember's Office.

Update from Georgetown Main Street

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

Update Regarding the Upcoming Public Hearings on the Georgetown BID's Widened Sidewalk Project – Old Georgetown Board on December 2nd, 2021 and Public Space Committee on December 9th, 2021

Vice Chair Palmer gave an update regarding the upcoming public hearings on the Georgetown BID's widened sidewalk project.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Hours of Operation for George's King of Falafel and Cheesesteak

Commissioner Mitchell moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

George's King of Falafel and Cheesesteak is a family-run business that has operated in Georgetown for over 40 years. Its food is enjoyed by many and the owners work hard to maintain their building, including decorating for the holidays, private rodent control, and recent repainting. The customer base of George's has grown over the last several years, especially take-out services during COVID.

The business is located on a mixed-use block that is surrounded by several residential-only streets and the building faces a large condominium. Before and during COVID, the owners adjusted the hours of operation at their discretion given that there is not a transparent city process. Currently, George's is open until 3:00 am or 4:00 am depending on the day. There are no other establishments in the specific block or the surrounding blocks that are open that late. Because George's does not hold a liquor license, the community does not have any input into its hours of operation. By comparison, the overwhelming majority of eating and drinking establishments in Georgetown are closed by 11:00 pm on weekdays and 2:00 am on weekends.

In recent years, George's has become a late-night congregation spot through its in-person, take-out, and delivery services. The direct consequence is that the surrounding community's quality of life has significantly decreased; there has been an adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. For example, customers eat on the steps of residential homes at 3:00 am and car radios play loud music at 2:30 am. Trash from George's, as acknowledged by the owners, is found on surrounding streets. Additionally, two armed robberies have occurred on the block in the last year, one of which resulted in a shooting.

ANC 2E previously issued a resolution to the city to [enforce traffic and parking requirements](#), especially for third party delivery services, and partnered with the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) to remove the streatory for George's given that the streatory was further adding to the reduction in quality of life. Moreover, residents and the single member district Commissioner met with George's owners multiple times to share the harmful consequences of late night hours on residents, asking them to take proactive actions to remedy the situation.

ANC 2E urges the city and the Georgetown BID to work with George's to have it operate at reduced hours for a period of time – specifically, closing by 1:30 am on weekends and by 12:00 am on weekdays. During this period, George's can focus on proactive steps to address the quality of life issues caused by the busy operations. Using private security, developing a public complaint tracking system, increasing trash collection in the area, and improving delivery and take-out service processes are among the operational actions that could improve community relations between George's and the surrounding residents. George's has stated its intention to work on such actions. After such a period, George's can work with the community on extending its hours of operation and ensuring that the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood are upheld.

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting that the City Develops a Transparent Process for Restaurants Without Alcoholic Beverage Licenses on Mixed Use Streets that Want to be Open Past Midnight

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

The city lacks a transparent process for approving the hours of operation for restaurants that do not have alcoholic beverage licenses yet want to stay open past midnight. ANC 2E became aware of this lack of transparency while trying to address issues at three restaurants on different mixed-use blocks in Georgetown whose hours of operation went well beyond

midnight. All three restaurants have caused an adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of our neighborhood. In the last two months, two of them were shut down – one permanently and the other by city order due to negative impact on the community.

ANC 2E urges Councilmember Pinto, in collaboration with ANCs, business improvement districts (BIDs), and citizens associations, to work with city agencies to establish a transparent process for approving hours of operations for restaurants that:

1. are located on mixed-used blocks and/or within a specified distance to residential homes,
2. do not hold alcoholic beverage licenses, and
3. want to be open past midnight.

The process should also encompass any significant changes in hours. ANC 2E's neighborhood should easily be able to understand this process and be a partner in the process if appropriate, and there should be accountability when peace, order, and quiet are compromised. When the city has such a process it will help support a healthier resident-commercial area relationship.

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting Information on the District Department of Transportation's Recent Policy Changes Regarding Processes to Gather Community Input

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

ANC 2E requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) shares its criteria around what falls under the new guidance related to installation of safety-related interventions so that ANCs citywide may partner with DDOT to ensure that conditions in our public spaces are safe. It is unclear to the ANC at this time where ANCs may continue to provide on the ground feedback on interventions and where ANCs will not be invited to participate in such conversations. ANC 2E requests clarity on this new policy.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the U.S.-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce's Statue Application Before the Commemorative Works Committee

The Commission removed this matter from the ANC's meeting agenda.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Jelleff Recreation Center Project

Commissioner Lohse 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's community, unlike most others in DC, has been lacking vibrant public indoor spaces for community functions, gatherings, performances, and physical exercise and sports competition. In October, \$21 million was added to the \$7 million budget to renovate the Jelleff Recreation Center, bringing the total renovation budget to \$28.188 million. The Georgetown and Burleith communities look forward to embarking on this important, much

needed, and long overdue project with a significant and more realistic budget. This is the first step toward creating a vibrant community center for the Georgetown and Burleith communities. The important four-fold budget increase to the Jelleff Recreation Center renovation project that was passed this year will give the community the public indoor spaces they have been lacking for so long.

As a reminder ANC 2E's community priorities can be found on the ANC website [here](#).

ANC 2E writes to respectfully request that the project kick off in earnest within the month, as funds are now available and the need for a modern, renovated recreation center in Georgetown and Burleith is critical.

ANC 2E requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) do the following:

- hire a project management contractor by December 1, 2021,
- hold a minimum of three community meetings during the initial planning phase,
- have a Community Input Team (CIT), similar to DC Public Schools' School Improvement Team (SIT), that meets monthly,
- distribute a public survey with survey input from the CIT to avoid the confusion found in the Jelleff Feasibility Study survey,
- publish comments from the chats at the three community meetings on the construction website, and
- consider the Jelleff Feasibility Study as a guide but not a final plan.

In addition, ANC 2E suggests the following timeline for the project:

- December 2021 Hire project management contractor
- January 2022 First community meeting
- February 2022 Second community meeting
- February 2022 Community survey
- March 2022 Third community meeting
- May 2022 Design complete
- July 2022 Construction start
- July 2023 Construction end

ANC 2E looks forward to working closely with DPR and thanks the agency for its continued partnership.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Removal of Parking Meters on S Street NW

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

ANC 2E supports the permanent removal of the two parking meters on the north side of S Street NW between Wisconsin Avenue NW and the Jelleff Recreation Center. Removing these two meters will unquestionably alleviate traffic and congestion issues that have existed for years.

Consideration of a Resolution Commending the S&R Foundation on Maintaining and Improving the Adjacent Playground

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until a future ANC meeting.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Application by Bozzelli's Italian Deli for a New Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant License at 3000 K Street NW

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

ANC 2E protests Bozzelli's Italian Deli's application for a new Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant license at 3000 K Street NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. The ANC agrees to drop the protest if and when an acceptable settlement agreement is signed by the applicant and ANC 2E.

Application by Afghania for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 2811 M Street NW

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

ANC 2E protests Afghania's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 2811 M Street NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. The ANC agrees to drop the protest if and when an acceptable settlement agreement is signed by the applicant and ANC 2E.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse to sign the settlement agreement with the applicant. The ANC also authorizes Peter Sacco, the ANC's Executive Director, to represent the ANC at all related hearings regarding the application.

Zoning

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception from the Rear Addition Restrictions to Construct a Third Story and Rear Addition with Roof Deck to an Existing, Attached, Two-Story with Cellar Principal Dwelling Unit at 3625 T Street NW

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. There was no second so the motion was not voted on.

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 3-0-2). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E has reviewed the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 3625 T Street NW and has no comment regarding the application.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception from the Lot Occupancy Requirements to Construct a Third Story Addition to an Existing, Attached, Two-story, Mixed-Use Building at 1517 Wisconsin Avenue NW

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 has no objection to the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for a special exception from the lot occupancy requirements to construct a third story addition to an existing, attached, two-story, mixed-use building at 1517 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E05 - OG 22-004 (HPA 22-014) 3524-3526 K Street, NW

Commissioner Miller 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:

ANC 2E has no objection to demolition of these properties but does not support the application for construction at 3524-3526 K Street NW. The ANC agrees with feedback provided by the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG) submitted previously to the Old Georgetown Board and shared at tonight's ANC meeting as well. The ANC looks forward to reviewing a more complete application in the future.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.