



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

**Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale**

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April 9, 2023

Ms. Thennie Freeman  
Interim Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
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Washington, DC 20002  
[thennie.freeman@dc.gov](mailto:thennie.freeman@dc.gov)

Mr. Delano Hunter  
Acting Director  
Department of General Services  
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Washington, DC 20009  
[delano.hunter@dc.gov](mailto:delano.hunter@dc.gov)

### **RE: Community Priorities for the Jelleff Recreation Center**

Dear Director Freeman and Director Hunter,

On April 3, 2023 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

In February 2023, community leaders, including ANC 2E, the Burleith Citizens Association (BCA), the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), and the Georgetown Village, outlined priorities (and non-priorities) related to the renovation of the Jelleff Recreation Center.

The priorities were sent via email to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Department of General Services (DGS), and the DC Council. Outlined priorities included:

1. Building and Programming Priorities to be Priced in Advance,
2. Community Building, Landscaping, and Programming Priorities,
3. Process Priorities, and
4. Items Not to be Prioritized.

Community leaders hope this document will serve as a rough guide for the architects to use while working on initial design concepts. Furthermore, leaders requested the opportunity to speak with the agencies, as well as the architects, about the community's priorities prior to the revealing of initial working concepts.

#### COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1    Topher Mathews, District 2    Paul Maysak, District 3  
Joe Massaua, District 4    Mimsy Lindner, District 5    Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6  
Elizabeth Miller, District 7    John DiPierri, District 8

The community looks forward to a collaborative approach to building this once-in-a-lifetime community center.

The priorities are:

### **Jelleff Recreation Center**

**Building and Programming Priorities to be Priced in Advance (so options and tradeoffs are clear and concrete):**

- Question to DPR: In considering tradeoffs and selecting priorities, does the community need to factor in maintenance and staffing costs as well as the costs of construction? E.g., additional staff for fitness room? Lifeguards for pool?
- Items To be Priced:
  - Basketball Courts: Full-size v. half size.
  - Pickleball Courts: Cost of “lining” basketball courts, retractable netting, etc.
  - Pool: Renovated pool v. new outdoor pool v. new indoor pool v. “bubble” covering outdoor pool.
  - Automobile Parking: Moving current parking lot v. “under-grounding” parking.
  - Fitness room: Exercise equipment and weights.
  - Kitchen: Demonstration v. service.
  - Outdoor play equipment for children.
  - Outdoor exercise equipment.
  - Audio visual and sound equipment.

### **Community Building, Landscaping, and Programming Priorities:**

- New building with a different footprint and presentation on street or turning circle.
- High-quality building materials.
- High-quality, long-lasting performance furniture.
- Whether new or renovated, the building must be architecturally distinguished, reflecting Jelleff’s important location in Georgetown, and must harmonize with neighboring buildings such as the Dumbarton Oaks Museum and homes on S Street.
- Landscape design and architecture that provides ample greenspace and areas for outdoor play and exercise equipment, and also makes creative (and probably different) use of Jelleff’s current fields and open space. Landscape elements should include (but not be limited to):
  - Distinctive “edge” on S Street (e.g., masonry, signage, lighting).
  - “Screening” for parking lot, adjacent buildings, parking lots on Wisconsin Avenue, and Safeway ramp.

- “Green” features such as EV charging facilities (which might bring different, additional funding).
- Programming and amenities:
  - Continued access on weekends and evenings.
  - Full-size gym scaled for high school basketball, with retractable bleachers and ample room for parents and others to safely, comfortably watch and wait (e.g., like Kenilworth Recreation Center). [See items to be priced above.]
  - Second gym with floor-markings for pickleball. [See items to be priced above.]
  - Large, light-filled fitness room with exercise equipment and weights. [See items to be priced above.]
  - Inviting, comfortable, light-filled, flexible and multi-use meeting and waiting rooms (e.g., seniors, book clubs, yoga, birthday parties).
  - Fresh air; open windows and possibly balconies (e.g., like Marvin Gaye Recreation Center). DC recreation centers without windows that open are uncomfortable and sometimes not even usable when the air conditioning doesn’t work.
  - Full-size pool, either indoor or outdoor, with supporting locker rooms and facilities. [See items to be priced above.]
  - Adequate number of bathrooms or stalls.
  - Welcoming, light-filled entrance and meet-up area with community bulletin boards and comfortable seating.
  - Community access to facilities while meeting the reasonable security needs of after-school programs.
  - Service or “warming” kitchen, available for general community use; not a large, expensive kitchen available only to staff use or for use as a “demonstration” kitchen. [See items to be priced above.]
  - A hallway along the full-size gym sufficient to allow easy flows of large groups (i.e., athletes, coaches, and parents).
  - HEPA compliant air filtration; wi-fi sufficient to provide public hotspot.

Process Priorities:

- Input on initial concept designs (before, not after).
- Candid discussion of pricing and trade-offs now, not after creation and presentation of initial concept designs.
- Initial concept designs should have options and pricing, so tradeoffs are clear and concrete.
- Opportunity for the community to weigh in on options and trade-offs.
- Community input on the timing, structure, and content of community meetings and outreach.


- Consideration of public/private partnerships, such as a partnership with coffee house/food vendor, rental income from parking, leasing space for weekend exercise classes.

Items Not to be Prioritized:

- Separate, dedicated rooms for computer labs.
- Unused hallways; internal rooms without natural light; overly generous storage space.
- Dedicated offices and other spaces and facilities closed to the public.

Commissioner Elizabeth Miller ([2E07@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E07@anc.dc.gov)) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Miller', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Miller  
Chair, ANC 2E