



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 6th, 2022; 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Jenny Mitchell (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Elizabeth Miller (2E07) were present.

Election of ANC Officers

Election of the ANC's Officers for 2022

Commissioner Lohse moved to elect Commissioner Murphy as the ANC's Chair, Commissioner Palmer as the ANC's Vice Chair, Commissioner Miller as the ANC's Treasurer, and Commissioner Mitchell as the ANC's Secretary for 2022. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's January 6th, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's January 6th, 2022 meeting agenda. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's November 29th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's November 29th, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

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

Approval of the ANC's 2022 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's 2022 meeting schedule. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's Participation in the 2022 ANC Security Fund

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's participation in the 2022 ANC Security Fund. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the Addition of New Officers to the ANC's Bank Signature Cards

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Approval of the ANC's FY 2022 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's FY 2022 Quarter 1 financial report. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Community Comment

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 Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an update from the Councilmember's Office.

Update Regarding Department of Parks and Recreation Projects

Commissioner Miller gave an update regarding the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Jelleff Recreation Center Project.

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding DPR's Ellington Field improvements.

Commissioner Mitchell gave an update regarding DPR's Volta Park improvements.

Update from the Georgetown BID Regarding New Staff Members

Joe Sternlieb, the CEO and President of the Georgetown BID, gave an update regarding the organization's new staff members.

Update Regarding DC Water's CSO 025/026 Sewer Separation Project

Commissioner Palmer gave an update regarding DC Water's CSO 025/026 Sewer Separation Project.

Update Regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study

Chair Murphy gave an update regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study.

Update Regarding Georgetown Cooks Sales

Commissioner Miller; Kristi Augenblick, the Associate Director of Development for the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky, Chief of MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's Division of Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Hematology/Oncology, gave an update regarding *Georgetown Cooks* sales.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B24-0044 – the “Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2021”

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 is concerned about a provision of DC Council Bill B24-0044 – the “Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2021” that would allow the holder of an Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) license to begin serving patrons in previously unlicensed outdoor space without having to apply for a change to the existing license. If the bill were enacted in its current form, residents, and the neighborhood organizations that represent them, would be denied any opportunity to negotiate for safeguards to protect nearby homes from the noise and disruption that inevitably accompany the arrival of dining and alcohol consumption in outdoor spaces near homes.

ANC 2E urges the DC Council's Committee on Business and Economic Development to amend the provisions of the bill that permit the creation of “pop-ups” and “streateries” in public and private space to provide for adequate notice to nearby residents, neighborhood associations, and ANCs, along with a meaningful, but not burdensome or lengthy, opportunity to negotiate for reasonable safeguards before the ABRA licensee is allowed to operate in new or expanded outdoor space in close proximity to residences.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Application by Church to Transfer the Establishment's Retailer's Class “C” Tavern License from 3295 M Street NW to 3222 M Street NW

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

ANC 2E protests Church's application to transfer the establishment's Retailer's Class “C” Tavern license from 3295 M Street NW to 3222 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.

Application by Spirits & Spice for a New Retailer's Class “A” Liquor Store License at 3237 M Street NW

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

ANC 2E protests Spirits & Spice's application for a new Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store license at 3237 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.

Public Space Committee

Public Space Application for Streetscape Improvements, Including the Relocation of Curb Cuts, Tree Planting, and the Installation of New Leadwalks and Bike Racks, at 3220 Prospect Street NW

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

ANC 2E supports the public space application for streetscape improvements, including the relocation of curb cuts, tree planting, and the installation of new leadwalks and bike racks, at 3220 Prospect Street NW, provided that the proposed improvements are in line with the set of plans for new construction of a building at 3220 Prospect Street NW, which the Old Georgetown Board is currently reviewing.

Public Space Application by Keshet Israel Congregation of Georgetown for the Installation of Bollards at 2801 N Street NW

Commissioner Lohse 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:

At its September 2021 public meeting, ANC 2E voted unanimously to support Keshet Israel's application to the Public Space Committee to install bollards in the public space adjacent to their property at 2801 N Street NW. This application had already been supported by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), which oversees all construction in Georgetown that is in public view, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and ANC 2E in the summer of 2021.

In November 2021, the Public Space Committee informed Keshet Israel that it should consider alternatives to the bollards that the committee would find acceptable, specifically public benches or bicycle racks. Keshet Israel's application to the committee has been placed on hold until Keshet Israel accepts one of the committee's proposed alternatives. Because of security concerns, Keshet Israel does not support having public bike racks or benches a few feet away from its building.

ANC 2E understands and appreciates that one of city's public space goals is to not have bollards used throughout DC; however, Keshet Israel's application is unique. Anti-Semitism, including in Washington, DC, remains at historic highs. Supporting the safety of those in and around this building is a very valid concern. ANC 2E reiterates its support for Keshet Israel's

initial Public Space Committee application regarding the installation of bollards. Keshet Israel is a nationally important religious institution that has been a part of the Georgetown community for nearly 100 years. Keshet Israel is at-risk given both the synagogue's location, on a corner lot feet away from public streets and inches off public sidewalks, and the national and international role played by the congregation and its members.

ANC 2E does not support alternatives to bollards such as a bench or a bicycle rack. The security needs of this synagogue must be paramount and bollards offer a reasonable and unobtrusive solution to a documented security need. ANC 2E notes further that Keshet Israel has reported to the Public Space Committee that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended a grant to the synagogue for the installation of the bollards. ANC 2E understands that this grant was given due to the potential security risk posed by the location of the building. Further delay on this matter imposes an unnecessary risk on the synagogue, its members, and the surrounding Georgetown community.

Zoning

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception from the Matter-of-Right Uses to Construct a Below-Grade, Self-Storage Establishment in an Existing Commercial Use Building at 3222 M Street NW

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

ANC 2E supports the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for a special exception from the matter-of-right uses to construct a below-grade, self-storage establishment in an existing commercial use building at 3222 M Street NW.

Adjournment

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.