



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 3rd, 2018; 6:30 p.m.
Georgetown Visitation School, Heritage Room – 1524 35th Street NW

Call to Order

Chair Joe Gibbons called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm. Commissioners Ed Solomon (2E01), Joe Gibbons (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Jim Wilcox (2E06), Monica Roache (2E07), and Zac Schroepfer (2E08) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's December 3rd, 2018 Meeting Agenda

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's December 3rd, 2018 meeting agenda. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's October 29th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's October 29th, 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Sgt. Lennox Antoine, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He encouraged local residents to not leave any valuables in their cars, especially during the holidays.

Approval of the ANC's FY 2018 Quarter 4 Financial Report

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

Community Comment

Update from the Mayor's Office

Reuben Forman, a representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that Mayor Bowser announced her nominee to be the next Chancellor of the DC Public Schools (DCPS), Dr. Lewis Ferebee, earlier today. Mr. Forman gave an overview of Dr. Ferebee's professional background.

Mr. Forman gave an overview of www.DC2Me.com, a new website launched by Mayor Bowser. He encouraged local residents to visit the website to submit suggestions for what they think the city should focus on during the next Mayor's next term.

Mr. Forman gave an overview of Mayor Bowser's selection of Shawn Townsend as the inaugural Director of the Office of Nightlife and Culture. He said that the office will help improve coordination between the city's nightlife establishments, the DC Government, and local residents with regards to the city's night time economy.

Announcement Regarding an Opening for the Ward 2 Representative on DC's Pedestrian Advisory Council

Chair Gibbons said that there is an opening for the Ward 2 representative on DC's Pedestrian Advisory Council. He gave an overview of the Pedestrian Advisory Council, which advises the Mayor and the DC Council regarding pedestrian safety matters across the city.

Announcement Regarding a Public Meeting for the District Department of Transportation's Georgetown Circulation Study on Wednesday, December 5th, 2018

Chair Gibbons said that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will host a community meeting regarding the agency's Georgetown Circulation Study on Wednesday, December 5th at 7:00 pm at the Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, 1524 35th Street NW.

Commissioner Palmer gave an overview of the designated study area for the Georgetown Circulation Study. She said that DDOT representatives will give a presentation and solicit feedback from residents during the community meeting. She heavily encouraged local residents to attend the meeting.

Community Commendations

Community Commendations for Commissioners Ed Solomon, Jim Wilcox, Monica Roache, and Zac Schroepfer

Chair Gibbons presented Community Commendations to outgoing Commissioners Ed Solomon, Jim Wilcox, Monica Roache, and Zac Schroepfer.

Councilmember Jack Evans thanked Commissioners Ed Solomon, Jim Wilcox, Monica Roache, and Zac Schroepfer for their service to the ANC and the neighborhood.

Community Comment (Continued)

Presentation by Huey Battle, Regional Manager of Community Involvement for Washington Gas; John O'Brien, Executive Vice President of Strategy & Public Affairs for Washington Gas; and Stephen Price, Assistant Vice President of Safety, Quality, and System Protection for Washington Gas, Regarding the Company's Operations Activities in Georgetown

John O'Brien, the Executive Vice President of Strategy & Public Affairs for Washington Gas, introduced his Washington Gas colleagues in attendance. He said that Washington Gas currently has a large amount of aging pipes across the city, which the company is addressing through PROJECTpipes, a 40-year project to upgrade the city's gas pipe infrastructure. He said that

Washington Gas is always checking pipes across the city to make sure that the company is proactively managing pipe integrity.

Stephen Price, the Assistant Vice President of Safety, Quality, and System Protection for Washington Gas, gave a visual presentation regarding the company's pipe integrity work in Georgetown. He said that the company currently walks along all of the city's gas lines with laser technology to identify any leaks. He added that each gas odor call that the company receives is checked by a qualified technician.

Mr. Price gave an overview of Washington Gas' efforts to improve communications between the company and local residents. He said that the company communicates directly with individual residents if a resident places a gas odor call, and also leaves door hangers for other nearby residents who may be affected by gas leaks.

Commissioner Wilcox said that he is concerned about the high number of gas leaks that are being reported in Georgetown. He said that he wants Washington Gas to spend more time focusing on a solution to the leaks. He asked if the company's upcoming 5-year PROJECTpipes plan includes pipe integrity work in East Georgetown. Mr. Price said he is not able to say at this time if there is East Georgetown work included in the 5-year plan.

Chair Gibbons said that the ANC will continue to work to improve communications between Washington Gas, the ANC, and local residents moving forward.

Edward Segal, a local resident, gave an overview of his work to track gas leaks in Georgetown. He said that he has been frustrated with the lack of information that Washington Gas has been providing to the community regarding neighborhood gas leaks. He also said that he has not seen any door hangers in the neighborhood.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed Removal of Gingko Trees at 2709 Olive Street NW and 2721 Olive Street NW

Commissioner Wilcox moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Gibbons seconded the motion. Commissioner Murphy moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution in the nature of a substitute. Chair Gibbons seconded the motion for an amendment in the nature of a substitute, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E recommends that the Urban Forestry Division approves the application to remove and replace the Gingko tree at 2709 Olive Street NW and the Gingko tree at 2721 Olive Street NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Potomac River Tunnel Environmental Assessment Prepared by the National Park Service in Cooperation with DC Water

Commissioner Murphy moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E has reviewed the DC Clean Rivers Project Potomac River Tunnel Environmental Assessment dated October 2018 (the "EA"), which was prepared by the National Park Service in cooperation with the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority ("DC Water").

ANC 2E notes that the EA reflects DC Water's plan to install so-called Green Infrastructure ("GI") to control combined sewer overflows from three sewersheds in ANC 2E (CSOs 27, 28, and 29) if DC Water determines that use of GI for this purpose is "practicable."

The EA describes the proposed GI measures in very cursory fashion and says only that, "[d]etailed facility siting and design have not been performed for the level of GI implementation required . . . should GI be determined practicable."

The EA fails to disclose what, if any, objective criteria DC Water would use to determine whether the installation of GI in the identified sewersheds would be practicable.

ANC 2E notes, however, that the Amended Consent Decree mandates that DC Water consider, among other things, the public acceptability of GI when determining the practicability of the use of GI in the sewersheds connected to CSOs 27, 28, and 29.

Subject to comments from Georgetown University and a determination of the constructability, operability, efficacy, and cost per impervious acre of the GI proposed for CSO 29, ANC 2E does not object to further consideration of the use of GI in the sewerhed that flows into CSO 29.

The sewerhed connected to CSO 28 is relatively small. ANC 2E opposes the installation of GI in this sewerhed and requests that DC Water consider other alternatives for controlling overflows from CSO 28, including sending overflows to the Upper Potomac Interceptor sewer.

The EA indicates that if GI is determined to be practicable, DC Water proposes to use GI to abate storm water runoff from 31 acres of impervious acres in the sewerhed connected to CSO 27. As previously noted, the EA does not disclose exactly what facilities would be constructed and where those facilities would be sited, but it is indisputable that the installation of GI in the CSO 27 sewerhed would, among other things, have a severely negative impact on the Georgetown National Historic Landmark District.

ANC 2E firmly opposes the use of so-called Green Infrastructure to control overflows in the CSO 27 sewerhed and notes again that public acceptability is a critical factor in the practicability analysis mandated by the Amended Consent Decree.

According to the EA, the only alternative approach to addressing overflows in CSO 27 would be connecting CSO 27 to an extended Potomac River Tunnel, which would require construction of "gray infrastructure" facilities in or near the Georgetown Waterfront Park and along Water Street NW. ANC 2E applauds DC Water's efforts to reduce the intrusiveness of the proposed facilities, and supports the preferred construction options described in the EA. To be clear, however, ANC 2E opposes the construction of any "gray infrastructure" facilities on park land and would oppose any construction plan that contemplates the closing of Water Street and does not adequately address the impact that major construction would have on the

residents of the area of Georgetown south of the C&O Canal and west of Wisconsin Avenue NW.

ANC 2E requests that DC Water consider alternatives that would eliminate the need for the construction of any structures in the park or along Water Street NW. In that connection, ANC 2E supports the location of the proposed Emergency Surge Relief Pipe west of the Aqueduct Bridge and asks DC Water to consider alternatives to the "gray infrastructure" facilities described in the EA. In particular, ANC 2E requests that DC Water give serious consideration to the possibility of sewer separation in the areas of the CSO 27 sewershed that lie south of M Street NW. Separating sewers in this area could render it unnecessary to connect the CSO 27 sewershed to the Potomac River Tunnel.

ANC 2E requests DC Water to give consideration to other alternative measures proposed by the Citizens Association of Georgetown, the Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park, and the Georgetown Business Improvement District with the goal of eliminating the need for either GI in the CSO 27 and CSO 28 sewersheds or permanent structures in or near the waterfront park.

ANC 2E contends that the discussion in the EA of DC Water's plans for the siting and construction of structures associated with CSO 24 is woefully inadequate in light of the fact that any construction in or near K Street east of 30th Street NW would have a profoundly negative impact on the entire Georgetown community. As has been suggested by the Citizens Association of Georgetown, the EA should include a discussion that is glaringly absent: a thorough assessment of the potential impact on traffic flows in lower Georgetown if major construction in this area were to be undertaken.

To summarize, ANC 2E is firmly opposed to the installation of Green Infrastructure in CSOs 27 and 28, and is equally opposed to construction in K Street and Water Street NW as currently described in the EA. Therefore, ANC 2E requests that DC Water rethink the plans for major construction in lower Georgetown to identify ways to minimize impacts on the Georgetown Waterfront Park and the entire historic district, its businesses, and its residents.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed Temporary Georgetown University Transportation Shuttle (GUTS) Stop at the Intersection of Reservoir Road and 37th Street NW

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

As a result of the on-going construction on the Georgetown University campus, the university-run Wisconsin Avenue NW shuttle will no longer be able to stop on campus. Through collaboration between the Georgetown Community Partnership, community leaders, and the District Department of Transportation, a stop on Reservoir Road NW has been identified as a temporary location. The stop is on the south side of the road at 37th Street, immediately east of the entrance to the Cloisters.

Two to three parking spaces will be eliminated for the temporary stop. The length of time that the stop is anticipated to be in operation is from approximately December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022. The shuttle will operate Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm in order to provide access between the university campus and stops on Wisconsin

Avenue NW. There will be no shuttle layover on Reservoir Road NW. ANC 2E supports this new temporary shuttle stop.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Proposal to Install Parking Restrictions for Passenger Loading on the East Curbside of the 1200 Block of Wisconsin Avenue NW

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

ANC 2E appreciates the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) focus on improving circulation throughout the Georgetown community, particularly in the area of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street NW. Additionally, the ANC notes that many challenges exist related to the double parking of delivery trucks and ridesharing vehicles on Wisconsin Avenue NW north of M Street, ultimately causing unnecessary traffic congestion. Data reported to ANC 2E shows that, on average, there are 3-4 metered transactions per meter per day on that block, suggesting that turnover in the area is low. Furthermore, other data suggests that the Apple Store alone is within the top five pick-up and drop-off locations for rideshare across Washington, DC.

As such, ANC 2E generally supports a one year trial implementation of a pick-up and drop-off zone in the area that would span the length of approximately 3-5 cars on the block of Wisconsin Avenue NW north of M Street. However, the ANC is concerned that the notice of intent (NOI) does not specifically note the size of the zone. In fact, ANC 2E has received competing information about the size of the zone, as some DDOT representatives have stated that the zone will span the length of the block. The ANC notes that the existing signage on the street represents this information already. Separately, DDOT has also shared, via verbal communications, that the zone will span from 1211 Wisconsin Avenue NW (the Tory Burch store) to 1229 Wisconsin Avenue NW (the south side of the crosswalk at the Apple Store).

ANC 2E strongly believes that converting the full block to passenger and commercial loading is significantly long, eliminating too many much-needed parking spaces for the community. If the purpose of this drop-off zone is to support pick-up and drop-off at this intersection, the ANC believes that this size of a zone is not necessary to achieve the stated goals and that some of these spaces would be better positioned as metered parking.

Additionally, ANC 2E requests that DDOT consider limited hours for this zone, noting that the number of pick-ups and drop-offs in this area falls significantly after rush hour and that opening up these parking spots at night and through the morning rush hour would reopen parking spaces that will otherwise be unused. As such, ANC 2E supports the installation of a trial drop-off zone on Wisconsin Avenue NW per NOI #18-192, but with a more limited number of spaces and a shorter time of day.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

goPuff – Application to Transfer the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Internet License from 3401 Water Street NW to a New Location at 1077 30th Street NW

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

ANC 2E protests goPuff's application to transfer the establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Internet license from 3401 Water Street NW to a new location at 1077 30th Street NW based on adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

Request from Tony and Joe's and Nick's Riverside Grill to Allow for the Transport of Alcohol From and to the Establishments on New Year's Eve

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

ANC 2E endorses the one-day exception request from Tony and Joe's and Nick's Riverside Grill for New Year's Eve 2018. This includes allowing patrons to take their alcoholic beverages from Tony and Joe's to Nick's Riverside Grill and vice versa. ANC 2E has supported this exception over the years and we continue to do so.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Extension of Holiday Hours for all Establishments with Settlement Agreements

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

ANC 2E supports the businesses in the ANC that have settlement agreements to allow them to stay open for one additional hour on New Year's Eve from December 31st, 2018 to January 1st, 2019.

Request for Amendments to Sequoia's Settlement Agreement

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

ANC 2E designates Commissioner Lisa Palmer as the commissioner for single member district 2E05 to modify the ANC's existing settlement agreement for Sequoia.

Community Comment (Continued)

Update from the Georgetown Business Association

Hope Solomon, the President of the Georgetown Business Association (GBA), said that Georgetown Main Street will be creating a holiday window in the former Paolo's Ristorante space at 1303 Wisconsin Avenue NW that will showcase neighborhood businesses.

Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by the Georgetown BID to Install a Temporary Art Installation as Part of the BID's Georgetown GLOW Event at the Intersection of M Street and 28th Street NW

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

ANC 2E has no comment on the Georgetown BID's public space application to install a temporary art installation as part of the BID's Georgetown GLOW event at the intersection of M Street and 28th Street NW.

Zoning

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception From the Rear Addition Requirements to Construct a Rear Addition to the Existing Attached Principal Dwelling Unit at 3602 Prospect Street NW

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

ANC 2E recognizes that there exists specific and unique conditions which would lead the owners of 3602 Prospect Street NW to request a special exception and variances for their home. However, the ANC is concerned about the potential loss of light as a result of the proposed work, which the sun studies show. ANC 2E requests that the Board of Zoning Adjustment give this issue great thought in consideration of granting the special exception and variances required to move this project forward.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E01 - OG 19-027 (HPA 19-071) 1801 35th Street, NW / 1800 34th Street, NW

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

The concept plan review submission before ANC 2E for the Halcyon Arts Lab at 1801 35th Street NW includes the following elements: a freestanding canopy not attached to the building to provide protection during inclement weather and a solar panel which will power all exterior lighting and will not generate any noise or have any impact on the neighbors. The exterior lighting will reduce light pollution spillover to the neighbors while providing a more secure environment on the property and the boardwalk.

Further enhancements to the property include additional plantings on the property, the replacement of the flag pole, the installation of tree boxes along 35th Street NW, the replacement of pavers, and the installation of a sign. ANC 2E asks the Old Georgetown Board to pay particular attention to the logo on the proposed sign. Furthermore, the ANC supports the concept plan review submission as presented.

SMD 2E03 - OG 19-049 (HPA 19-099) 3414 Volta Place, NW

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

ANC 2E, having reviewed the plans and received a presentation from the applicant's architect, has no comment on the proposal.

SMD 2E06 - OG 19-029 (HPA 19-073) 2801 M Street, NW

Commissioner Wilcox moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-1-0).

ANC 2E opposes the current application for concept approval. The project was previously considered and rejected by the Old Georgetown Board. The current plans are minimal and could well be considered insufficient, however the applicant is plainly proposing to make substantial changes to the historic façade by dropping the Juliet balcony, which is currently half a story above-grade, to ground level, and by removing the existing front door, which is also half a story above-grade, and replacing it with a door assembly from the sidewalk level to the current door header height.

The applicant also seems to be seeking to demolish the first floor framing and finish. The proposed addition on the rear also may be stylistically inconsistent with the existing building and its use may reasonably intrude on adjacent neighbors. ANC 2E also asks the Old Georgetown Board to consider the appropriateness of the signage being proposed.

Further, to the extent that the Old Georgetown Board may consider zoning limitations as part of its design review, the property is zoned MU-4, which has a 60% lot occupancy limitation and a 15-foot rear yard setback requirement. ANC 2E asks the Old Georgetown Board to take this into account.

Adjournment

Chair Gibbons adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm.