



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, September 29th, 2020; 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), Joe Gibbons (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), Elizabeth Miller (2E07), and Matias Burdman (2E08) were present.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the ANC's September 29th, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's September 29th, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioner Burdman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's August 31st, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's August 31st, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Miller 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

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

Update from the Georgetown BID

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

Update from Georgetown Main Street

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

Update from the Department of Public Works

Inspector Sonya Street, the Ward 2 Lead Solid Waste Inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), gave an update from the department.

#### Update from Washington Gas

John O'Brien, the Executive Vice President for Strategy and Public Affairs for Washington Gas, and Apera Nwora, a Manager of Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach for Washington Gas, gave an update from the company.

### **Administrative**

#### Public Safety and Police Report

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

### **Community Comment (Continued)**

#### Update from the Georgetown Ministry Center

Ron Castaldi, the President of the Georgetown Ministry Center's Board of Directors, gave an update from the organization.

#### Presentation by The Georgetowner

Sonya Bernhardt, the Publisher of The Georgetowner, gave an update regarding the newspaper's 66th anniversary.

#### Update Regarding Proposed Changes to the Traffic Signals at the Intersection of Key Bridge and M Street NW

Will Handsfield, a Bicycle Program Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave an update regarding proposed changes to the traffic signals at the intersection of Key Bridge and M Street NW.

#### Update from EastBanc Regarding the Development Project at 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Anthony Lanier, the President and CEO of EastBanc, gave an update regarding the development project at 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

### **New Business**

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Rose Park Field Upgrade

Commissioner Lohse 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:

Rose Park has served the Georgetown community for nearly a hundred years. The park is not only a beloved spot for residents but has a historical role as one of the city's first integrated parks. ANC 2E appreciates the recent work done by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to update some of the key assets of Rose Park. This DPR work includes completed renovations to the recreation building that houses a local cooperative playground for toddlers (new floor, new HVAC, and new paint) and now the work underway to replace the athletic field by the end of November of 2020. The athletic field is a favorite among local children and softball teams and is used for summer camps as well as events such as Concerts in the Park, Christmas with Santa, and a much beloved weekly farmers market. It has been decades since the recreation building and the field were updated, so these renovations are very needed.

Over the past year and a half the ANC 2E commissioner in which Rose Park resides and the leadership of the Friends of Rose Park (FRP), a volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to Rose Park, have frequently been communicating with DPR regarding how to best partner around the needs of Rose Park. Given these meetings as well as community input, ANC 2E requests that DPR:

- Maintains its ongoing support for the Rose Park farmers market both during the field renovation and thereafter. If needed, after the renovations, DPR should work closely with FRP to determine an adjusted location for the market within Rose Park, helping with interagency communications as needed.
- Works with FRP and ANC 2E to pilot an accessible, electronic park maintenance tracking tool, thus allowing DPR and the community to easily track any maintenance needs from hedge trimming to broken equipment.
- Partners with the community to gain feedback on any long-term contracts and permits that would regularly impact daily community use of the athletic field by one organization.
- Continues to seek input from FRP regarding DPR's interest in forming partnership agreements with local groups such as FRP.
- Supports community efforts to have the National Park Service (NPS) pathway along Rose Park repaired given the longstanding safety issue of the pathway.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Jelleff Recreation Center Renovation Project

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

Jelleff Recreation Center, built in 1953, has never been modernized. Recently-renovated recreation centers around the city are spectacularly beautiful and absolutely brimming with neighbors exercising in the wellness spaces, playing chess and other games with neighbors, and hosting interesting classes and seminars. Our community has never had this type of space and we are truly excited at the opportunity to build something unique. Additionally, during the school year there are 100 public school children attending an after-care program on site every day. They have no outdoor time and are relegated to being indoors in a windowless basement, even on the most beautiful days. A high-quality space for them to study, play, cook, explore, and host competitions is critical.

Since 2018, Jelleff has been budgeted to receive a \$7 million renovation to bring the aging building into ADA compliance and upgrade the HVAC system.

Our community has been advocating for more starting with community meetings in 2018 and 2019 and is working with Councilmember Brooke Pinto and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of General Services (DGS) for a larger budget.

For FY 2021, which recently began, \$200,000 was budgeted for a feasibility study to better evaluate different options, costs, and timelines. The budget also said, “DPR will submit a copy of the study and its findings to the Council and the Mayor by December 1, 2020.”

It is our understanding that this date has slipped. But, with DC’s FY 2022 budget request season beginning this fall, there is urgency to ensure that the study can assist with the best possible budget request for FY 2022 so that a modernized center could be constructed and opened before 2023, five years after the first community meetings. ANC 2E recently met with DPR and DGS and asked them for community input early and throughout this process.

Therefore, ANC 2E requests that:

- The first community meeting be held by December 1, 2020,
- A survey of the community be conducted by December 15, 2020, and
- A draft of the study's options and estimates be completed by January 15, 2021.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Ginkgo Pilot Project

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

Currently ginkgo trees are the only trees in the District of Columbia for which the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) of the Department of Transportation (DDOT) offers springtime spraying to halt fruit development and a property owner replacement petition process (“Female Ginkgo Tree Removal Policy,” given that only the female trees bear the contentious fruit). The replacement petition process was developed by UFD to address the safety and quality of life (stink and property damage) issues raised by property owners who have ginkgo trees in the public tree boxes outside their homes. ANCs have been given the role of supporting or not supporting these petitions should the petition have ample support from those on the specific block.

There are several blocks in Georgetown on which multiple ginkgo trees provide a mature tree canopy as well as fall foliage viewing. In late 2019, property owners on two different blocks in Georgetown began to pursue their right to petition to replace the female ginkgo trees on their blocks. Trees for Georgetown (TFG), a nonprofit affiliated with the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), shared its interest with the relevant ANC 2E Commissioners to be introduced to the property owners on these blocks so that TFG could propose a pilot clean-up program that aimed to address the concerns of the property owners. To date, TFG has primarily been focused on planting new trees, so a clean-up pilot to preserve existing trees is a new effort for TFG.

After dialog among the various parties, a pilot clean-up program will move forward during this fall season. TFG will fund this pilot program in two locations on the east side of Georgetown: on 27th Street between O Street and Dumbarton Street NW and on Avon Place between R Street and Dent Place NW. The ginkgo berries will be cleaned up on these blocks by a firm hired by TFG; the focus of the clean-up will be in front of the homes given safety and quality of life issues (versus public park land). The clean-up will occur two times per day, five days a week throughout the fruiting season. ANC 2E thus requests that the Urban Forestry Division:

- Pays close attention to the results of the TFG pilot program; a site-visit would be welcome.
- Works with TFG to understand the cost and effort of the pilot program.
- Attends a future ANC 2E meeting during which pilot program evaluation will be discussed.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's Certificate of Need (CON) Application for the New Surgical Pavilion

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

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that on March 25, 2016, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (MGUH) was issued a Certificate of Need (CON) from the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to relocate the hospital's medical-surgical and emergency department services to a newly constructed surgical pavilion on the hospital campus,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that MGUH's capital expenditure of \$567,000,000 was approved as part of the project.

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that under DC's CON regulations, CONs are valid for a three-year period, with the option for two additional one-year extensions, which MGUH has applied for and obtained from SHPDA in each of the last two years,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that if additional time is required to complete a CON-approved project beyond this five-year period, the CON holder must submit a new CON application seeking approval to renew the CON in order to see the project through to completion,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that MGUH has encountered many hurdles during the course of construction of the surgical pavilion which have resulted in significant delays in the project's progress. These hurdles have included, among other things, underground water main obstructions that needed to be addressed with DC Water, as well as other unanticipated challenges with the construction site that could not have been known until construction began. As a result, MGUH must seek renewal of its current CON in order to complete the project. MGUH's current CON expires on March 25, 2021,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that MGUH is in the process of preparing its CON renewal application which will be submitted to SHPDA in mid-October. The CON review process is typically a 90-day process, which sometimes extends for an additional 30-day period, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E understands that MGUH anticipates receiving the new CON by the end of February 2021.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E supports MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's Certificate of Need application for the completion of this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that the State Health Planning and Development Agency issues the Certificate of Need for the completion of this project.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting Georgetown Lutheran Church's Grant Application to the DC Preservation League

Commissioner Gibbons 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 applauds the Georgetown Lutheran Church's historic preservation efforts as it focuses on restoring the church's 1914 bell tower, addressing moisture issues and dilapidated structures, and improving the site's accessibility to Georgetown neighbors and visitors.

ANC 2E understands the Georgetown Lutheran Church's urgency to complete the renovations in order to mitigate the hazards posed by the current structures. The two concrete staircases that the church is seeking to replace are access points to the church and both serve as fire exits. Both staircases show significant deterioration due to freezing, moisture, and erosion damage, and must be fully replaced. A second hazard results from the crumbling remnants of the 1943 stone bell structure in the garden in front of the church's bell tower. This structure is at risk of collapsing due to deterioration and freeze-thaw moisture effects.

ANC 2E applauds the Georgetown Lutheran Church's sense of urgency in improving the accessibility of the church building for greater access by individuals who rely on mobility devices or strollers. The church will be able to welcome all visitors and those who join for worship by integrating the future bell tower area with a flat pathway that can be used to reach the church's front door.

ANC 2E understands that, due to the church's location in a high-traffic pedestrian area, the Georgetown Lutheran Church regularly participates in a number of public outreach events sponsored by the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), including hosting works from the annual Georgetown GLOW art exhibition in the church's historic garden site. Additionally, the church provides displays and refreshments and opens its doors for public tours during the Book Hill French Market, a festival held each spring along Wisconsin Avenue NW. In 2019, the church increased its involvement in the neighborhood and with the Georgetown BID by hosting a booth for the first-ever Georgetown Fall Market. The church has also hosted a Saint Lucia choir as part of the Book Hill Holiday Festival.

Therefore, ANC 2E strongly supports the Georgetown Lutheran Church's DC Preservation League grant application. The ANC requests that the DC Preservation League awards grant funding to the church.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**

#### **Application by GothWine Limited Liability Company for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 2622 P 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: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E protests GothWine Limited Liability Company's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 2622 P Street NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood and agrees to withdraw such protest if and when an acceptable settlement agreement is signed by the applicant and ANC 2E.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse and Rick Murphy to sign a 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.

#### **Application by Logan Circle Liquors to Transfer the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 1018 Rhode Island Avenue NW to a New Location at 1515 Wisconsin Avenue NW**

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

ANC 2E protests Logan Circle Liquors' application to transfer the establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store license at 1018 Rhode Island Avenue NW to a new location at 1515 Wisconsin Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood and agrees to withdraw such protest if and when an acceptable settlement agreement is signed by the applicant and ANC 2E.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioners Rick Murphy and Joe Gibbons to sign a 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.

### **Old Georgetown Board**

#### **SMD 2E02 - OG 20-279 (HPA 20-510) 1556 Wisconsin Avenue, NW**

Commissioner Gibbons 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 applauds the Georgetown Lutheran Church's Old Georgetown Board submission for maintaining the defining characteristics of historic preservation in Georgetown as part of

the church's concept design. The ANC understands the church's need for proper drainage and agrees with the church's need to update the property's landscaping. The ANC is reassured that the church's concept design addresses safety concerns as community members occasionally use the church's open property for repose. The ANC believes that the concept design achieves the project's goals in an efficient and economical manner. The ANC also recognizes that the church generously uses its resources for the benefit of the community.

Therefore, ANC 2E supports the Georgetown Lutheran Church's concept design.

SMD 2E03 - OG 20-270 (HPA 20-501) 1529 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

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

ANC 2E is disappointed and concerned that the applicant proceeded with replacement of all of the windows on the Wisconsin Avenue NW façade of this historic building without proceeding through Old Georgetown Board review or applying for a building permit from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. The ANC is appreciative of the applicant's decision, taken after a stop work order was posted, to apply for Old Georgetown Board approval of the windows put in place, however the ANC requests that the members of the Old Georgetown Board and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts insist that the windows currently in place in the building be replaced with windows that fully conform to the Old Georgetown Board and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts' policy on windows. The windows should be wood, single glazed, true divided-light windows.

ANC 2E requests that the Old Georgetown Board insists on the enforcement of its policies.

SMD 2E05 - OG 20-282 (HPA 20-513) 2900-2922 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: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E notes that the applicant has incorporated the Old Georgetown Board's feedback into its latest submission and has scaled back their proposed project significantly. The ANC appreciates that the elements which are built looking over the historic M Street NW buildings have grown smaller and the ANC supports the more modern design of the new structure.

Generally speaking, ANC 2E does not take issue with the idea of a new building that is taller than the historic structures to the north and we look to the Old Georgetown Board's advice on the appropriateness of the overall height of the new structure.

SMD 2E05 - OG 20-278 (HPA 20-509) 3100 Dumbarton 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: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E appreciates that the applicant has spent time with neighbors to ensure that the abutting neighbors are comfortable with the plans as conceived. The ANC notes that the abutting neighbors have not shared any concern about the concept design. Furthermore, the ANC notes that the applicant and the Ryan family, one of the abutting neighbors, have already begun to discuss management of the construction process and are working towards an agreement around the actual construction process. The ANC encourages the neighbors to continue to work together on this in an attempt to mitigate any disruption in the neighborhood during the period of work.

Regarding the design, ANC 2E notes that the current owners inherited the home with the HVAC on the roof and endeavor to develop a solution for the HVAC which appropriately hides the machines. The ANC supports leaving the unit where it is proposed to be left and encourages the applicant to develop an aesthetically pleasing solution for hiding the unit to the greatest extent possible; the ANC understands that Old Georgetown Board staff have already provided some guidance regarding this topic. Finally, the ANC has no concerns around the design and, while this should not be considered determinative, it is useful to note that the Old Georgetown Board approved a similar concept for this home in 2007 in application #07-128.

SMD 2E06 - OG 20-258 (HPA 20-452) 2908 N Street, NW

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

ANC 2E notes that the plans for 2908 N Street NW highlight the goal to retain the two magnolia trees at the southern edge of the property. These trees dominate the tree canopy in the interior of the block and enhance the privacy of residents on all sides of the block. With the addition of a pool in the backyard, the focus on retaining these trees is important to the neighbors.

ANC 2E would also like to note that the Foxall House at 2908 N Street NW is one of the oldest houses in Georgetown, owned by Henry Foxall, Mayor of Georgetown in 1819, and built in 1790, according to the 1944 publication, "Georgetown Houses of the Federal Period, 1780 to 1830." Other sources cite a construction date of 1820. It is an important historic structure in Georgetown. Given this it has been conveyed to the ANC that the Old Georgetown Board should pay close consideration to the appropriateness of retaining the shutters on the front rather than removal and preserving the historic doorway entrance with its sidelights and lintel. The proposed plans would eliminate the sidelights and the lintel, creating a glass canopy and steel brackets framing the doorway entrance. Plans should include if and how the existing brick wall and iron gates at the front of the house will be impacted by the renovation. The assumption is that they will not be impacted. Maintaining these external features is essential to preserving the historic elements of the house presenting to the street.

SMD 2E07 - OG 20-276 (HPA 20-507) 1511 28th 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 is concerned that the applicant did not reach out to adjoining neighbors and is also concerned about the overall scope of the project. The ANC requests that the applicant provides an update regarding the project during the ANC's next meeting in November.

SMD 2E07 - OG 20-267 (HPA 20-492) 1601 30th Street, NW

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

ANC 2E supports an in-kind replacement of the roof deck, as previously permitted, at 1601 30th Street NW. However the ANC does not support an expansion of this roof deck.

**Adjournment**

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:39 pm.