



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 4th, 2020; 6:30 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Joe Gibbons (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Anna Landre (2E04), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Elizabeth Miller (2E07) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's May 4th, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's May 4th, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's March 2nd, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's March 2nd, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Commander Duncan Bedlion and Captain Brian Bray, 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 DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson Regarding the DC Council's Response to the Coronavirus

DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson gave a presentation regarding the DC Council's response to the coronavirus.

Update from the Mayor's Office

Anna Noakes, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), provided an update from the Mayor'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, gave an update from the organization.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Recognizing the Community's Response to COVID-19

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:

ANC 2E has been devastated by the COVID-19 virus. For months now our restaurants, shops, salons, parks, community centers, and schools have been closed. The impact is impossible to measure.

But, amidst all the sadness and devastation our community has come together to support each other and our city.

From the Georgetown Safari that has managed to get over 270 homes to display stuffed animals in their windows to Feed the Fight which has provided over 27,000 meals from local restaurants to nearby health care workers to our dry cleaners and other small shops that have been sewing masks for residents.

But, it does not stop there....neighbors have been making grocery and pharmacy runs for the most vulnerable and delivering books and magazines to those in need. We wave at each other from a distance each evening at 6:00 pm as a show of solidarity and as a way to check in and make sure we are all ok. Many of our local gyms are streaming exercise classes for free. The children of ANC 2E have been particularly thoughtful in creating exceptional posters that they hang on their front doors thanking delivery drivers.

This quarantine will end and while Georgetown, Burleith, and Hillandale will be hurt and need time to rebuild, we will be stronger for it. In this time of crisis, we are rediscovering our social nature and the transformative power of mutual aid.

ANC 2E commends our neighbors for all the things they are doing – big and small – to help our village through this devastating time. Keep it up, Georgetown, Burleith, and Hillandale! Sometimes you have to get knocked down lower than you have ever been to stand back up taller than you ever were. ANC 2E looks forward to connecting again with our community and building back up this beautiful neighborhood that we all love.

Consideration of a Resolution Recognizing Graduating High School and College Seniors

Commissioner Lohse 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:

It is a tremendous achievement to be a high school or college graduate. For many years, current high school and college seniors have worked tirelessly towards earning their diplomas. These seniors have juggled their studies with participation in school sport teams, membership in student clubs, volunteering in community activities, helping family members, holding down jobs, and building new friendships.

For the Class of 2020, the traditional graduation celebrations cannot be held. Each year commencement time serves as a momentous way to celebrate all the accomplishments of graduating seniors. It is a time of joyous events, unique moments, and shared reflection. Missing the opportunity to hold these traditional milestones is so disappointing for students, their teachers and professors, their families, and their friends. This includes our Georgetown University seniors, who are no longer in the neighborhood but instead are now dispersed throughout the U.S. and the world. Although uncertainty surrounds us and our community, the graduation of the Class of 2020 is wonderful milestone that should not go unrecognized!

ANC 2E commends the Class of 2020. We recognize their achievements and applaud their contributions to our community. Graduating during quarantine is something the Class of 2020 will remember for their entire life. Let's make the Class of 2020 know that our community is celebrating them.

Should you have a graduating senior living in your house, ANC 2E asks that you place a sign up (homemade or ordered online) noting that you are "Celebrating the Class of 2020". The sign should be visible from the street. These signs will allow the community to recognize and congratulate your senior. Community members may recognize a senior however they wish: making them a card or gift, sending a present, giving them a phone call, asking them to Save a Date to do something after quarantine – let's get creative!

Here is to the Class of 2020!

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Sidewalk Widening for Social Distancing

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

ANC 2E supports the measures taken by Mayor Bowser to flatten the curve of COVID-19 across Washington, DC. In recognition of the fact that many sidewalks in the ANC are narrower than typically found across the city, the fact that many people continue to walk the streets of our neighborhood and shop at stores providing essential products, and that it is impossible to pass someone on the sidewalk minding the six-foot minimum social distancing recommendations on the narrow sidewalks, ANC 2E requests that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) widens the sidewalks in our community in the following areas:

- 1200 block of Wisconsin Avenue NW through the 1700 block of Wisconsin Avenue NW by removing the northbound parking lane

- In front of the Safeway located at 1855 Wisconsin Avenue NW to support queuing outside of the store
- In front of Janti Cafe located at 1826 Wisconsin Avenue NW
- In front of Stachowski's Market located at 1425 28th Street NW

Furthermore, ANC 2E recommends that DDOT considers encouraging northbound pedestrian traffic on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue NW and southbound pedestrian traffic on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue NW, recognizing that this pilot has not been tried yet across the District.

ANC 2E asks that these changes be put in place only for the duration of the Mayor's stay-at-home order and that considerations be put in place to ensure that businesses that remain open, like CVS, are still able to unload their trucks for deliveries. Additionally, the ANC requests that DDOT pays close attention to loading areas along the street. These may require a break in the widened sidewalks periodically and the ANC looks forward to working with DDOT to ensure that this is addressed to support our businesses.

ANC 2E has consulted with the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), the Georgetown Business Association (GBA), and Georgetown Main Street (GMS) and makes this request in partnership with all three organizations.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for the Installation of a Two-Way Bikeway, Sidewalks, a Traffic Roundabout, and Changes to On-Street Parking on the 3400 and 3500 Blocks of Water Street NW

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

ANC 2E is pleased that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) continues to study and make recommendations to improve the safety of Water Street NW. Over the last three years, the ANC has seen the successful installation of a major protected cycletrack, which over a recent period of time served an average of 1,600 trips per day at Wisconsin Avenue NW and K Street NW, and the successful installation of three speed bumps between Wisconsin Avenue NW and 34th Street NW. However, the area west of 34th Street NW continues to be unmarked and poorly lit, encouraging high speeding vehicles, illegal behavior in the roadway, including what residents note to be an open air drug sale market, instances of prostitution, illegal access to the Old Aqueduct Bridge which, last year, was the site of the death of two young adults, and prohibited vehicular traffic beyond the Washington Canoe Club onto the Capital Crescent Trail which has led to, among other things, a serious water rescue when a car traveled along the bike trail, which runs parallel to the C&O Canal, for about three miles before the individual's car wound up in the canal. Clearly, this area of the ANC needs the installation of additional safety and traffic calming measures and a design solution which provides physical and visual cues that serve to limit traffic beyond 34th Street NW.

With this in mind, ANC 2E supports the installation of a two-way bikeway, sidewalks, a traffic roundabout, and changes to on-street parking on the 3400 and 3500 blocks of Water

Street NW. In addition, the ANC would like to see the following elements implemented as part of this work:

- Immediately boost the luminosity of the lights under the Whitehurst Freeway in this area to ensure pedestrians are safe while walking on the sidewalks at night and to minimize the pockets of darkness where illegal behavior frequently occurs,
- Quickly consider whether this increase in luminosity creates a safer environment and, if not, move to develop and implement a lighting plan which would include streetlights in this area, as this is a major safety concern,
- Change all crosswalks to raised crosswalks in an attempt to discourage speeding,
- Provide a missing crosswalk at the north leg of 34th Street NW,
- Change the center of the traffic circle to include a raised platform, to discourage speeding vehicles from driving through the center of the circle,
- Change the speed limit to 15 miles per hour and post speed limit signs accordingly,
- Include flexi-posts or some other physical barrier and increased lighting to ensure drivers do not accidentally drive west of the Washington Canoe Club unless they are authorized to do so,
- Pedestrian and cyclist movements should take priority at the west end of Water Street NW, with only limited parking provided west of 34th Street NW so as not to interfere with these movements,
- Turn Uber and Lyft at either the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) service area or at 34th Street NW,
- Work together at the appropriate time on a holistic signage package, indicating the speed limit, dead end, no turnarounds, etc.,
- Provide a physical design change in the roadway west of the 3400 block of Water Street NW to discourage through traffic, such as a mountable curb or additional turn-around point, and
- Provide openings in cycletrack infrastructure to allow entry into all boathouse sites.

ANC 2E notes that on September 6, 2017, ANC 2E submitted a resolution to DDOT (Attachment A), for which we have not yet received an official response, urging DDOT to implement the following on Water Street NW, west of 34th Street NW to the Capital Crescent Trail:

- Provide adequate lighting in this immediate area, and
- Manage the parking spaces on the north side of Water Street NW, west of 34th Street NW to the Capital Crescent Trail. Presently the spaces are free. The ANC requests that DDOT meters these spaces. At present there are approximately 20 to 25 cars parked in this area. Many of them appear to have been in this location for an extended period of time. Improving the appearance of this area would contribute to addressing the safety concerns of the community.

The changes being made as part of NOI #20-63-PSD, plus the lighting amendments noted herein, would largely fulfill the resolution's request. As a result, ANC 2E supports the majority of the recommendations provided in this NOI and requests to continue to be part of the conversation as the plans for this area are moved closer to implementation. Finally, ANC 2E would like to affirmatively state our appreciation for DDOT's attention to this corridor of our community.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Application by District Bodega for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 3276 M Street NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to support District Bodega's request for a stipulated license. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the request for a stipulated license as part of District Bodega's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 3276 M Street NW.

Commissioner Palmer moved to protest District Bodega's license application based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E protests District Bodega's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 3276 M Street NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood and agrees to drop such protest if and when an acceptable settlement agreement is signed by the applicant and ANC 2E.

Application by Nick's Riverside Grille for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 3050 K 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 Nick's Riverside Grille's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 3050 K Street NW for the inclusion of three Dragon's Ascent electronic games of skill machines within the establishment.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E06 - OG 20-169 (HPA 20-297) 3024 Q Street, NW

The Commission removed this matter from the meeting agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.