



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 27th, 2017; 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 6:31 pm. Commissioners Joe Gibbons (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Mara Goldman (2E04), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Jim Wilcox (2E06), Monica Roache (2E07), and Zac Schroepfer (2E08) were present.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of February 27, 2017 ANC 2E Public Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the January 30, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the January 30th, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Community Comment

Presentation by Councilmember Jack Evans Regarding Ward 2 and Citywide Updates

Councilmember Jack Evans congratulated the new ANC commissioners on their elections, including Commissioner Gibbons on his election as the ANC's Chair. He said that DC continues to be the most dynamic city in America. He added that the city is adding more than 800 residents per month, that the city continues to have a balanced budget, and that the city's finances are the envy of every city in America.

Councilmember Evans gave an overview of the city's recent groundbreaking on the new DC United soccer stadium. He said that the city continues to struggle with many of the urban problems that other cities are facing, including with regards to improving the city's school system. He gave an overview of increases to teacher salaries, the renovation of school buildings, and the new Chancellor of the DC Public Schools.

Councilmember Evans said that the city's homelessness situation is rapidly worsening. He recognized the hard work performed by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). He also gave an overview of the Mayor's recent decision to retain Peter Newsham as MPD's Chief of Police, which he thought is a great decision.

Councilmember Evans gave an overview of his office's ongoing work to address the noise problems that the city is facing with airplanes traveling to and from Washington National Airport (DCA). He gave an overview of the the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) recent moving of the flightpaths into and out of DCA. He said that the city needs to reach out to U.S. Senators and Representatives living in Wards 2 and 3 to leverage their political power in order to force the FAA to move the flightpaths back to their original position.

Councilmember Evans said that he was recently re-elected as the Chair of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Board of Directors. He said that Paul Wiedefeld, the General Manager of WMATA, is doing a great job in his role as General Manager. He added that WMATA is currently running out of money and needs to raise additional funds from its funding jurisdictions and especially from the federal government.

Commissioner Wilcox asked how Councilmember Evans was going to work with President Trump and the President's new administration to advocate for DC priorities. Commissioner Evans said that any federal pullback on the commitments made under the Affordable Care Act will have many negative effects for DC. He added that the blocking of federal funding to sanctuary cities will also have negative effects for DC.

A local resident asked about the status of Hyde-Addison Elementary School's temporary move to the Meyer Elementary school building. Councilmember Evans said that the school move decision has been finalized at this point.

Commissioner Roache asked about Councilmember Evans' opinion regarding the proposed extension of the DC Streetcar to Georgetown. Councilmember Evans said that he thought the proposal was a bad idea and that the money could be better spent on WMATA improvements.

Administrative

Public Safety and Police Report

Officer McGovern, Officer Charles, and Captain Sledge, representatives for MPD's Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. Captain Sledge said that the majority of the crimes committed during the previous month were retail theft crimes.

A local resident asked about the recent kidnapping of a Georgetown University student. Captain Sledge gave an overview of the case. He said that the case is still under investigation and that a similar case also occurred with a George Washington University student.

Chair Gibbons asked about MPD's Crime Suppression Team. Captain Sledge said that the team targets high crime areas to in order to try to reduce crime.

Commissioner Palmer thanked the Second District team for continuing their regular neighborhood crime walks. She said that she has heard many compliments about the walks from her constituents. Captain Sledge gave an overview of the walks.

Approval of ANC Liaisons and Areas of Interest List for 2017

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the proposed list of ANC liaisons for 2017. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The list of ANC liaisons is as follows:

Alcoholic Beverage Control Matters: Lisa Palmer
Public Safety Matters: Ed Solomon
Airplane Noise Matters: Ed Solomon
Old Georgetown Board and Historic Preservation Review Board Matters: Joe Gibbons
Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment Matters: Joe Gibbons
Transportation and Parking Matters: Jim Wilcox
Education Matters: Monica Roache
University and Community Relations Matters: Rick Murphy
DC Water, Environment, Public Works, and Green Infrastructure Matters: Rick Murphy
Georgetown BID Board Member and Matters: Lisa Palmer
Liaison to the Georgetown Business Association: Jim Wilcox
Liaisons to Tudor Place: Monica Roache
Technology and Communications: Zac Schroepfer
Behind the Table Organizers: Mara Goldman

Approval of the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Chair Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's FY 2017 Quarter 1 financial report. Commissioner Schroepfer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Announcement Regarding the Launch of the New ANC 2E Website

Chair Gibbons said that the ANC's new website will be active on Tuesday, February 28th.

Community Comment (Continued)

Update from the Mayor's Office

Richard Livingstone, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), said that he was available if meeting attendees had any questions.

Presentation by Pepco Regarding the Upcoming Georgetown Conversion Project

Travis Culpepper, a Public Affairs Manager for Pepco, said that Pepco is currently working across the city to increase reliability and capacity. He said that the upcoming Georgetown Conversion Project will increase reliability in the Georgetown neighborhood. He added that the project will require excavation in order to carry out underground conduit work.

Mr. Culpepper said that all construction activity will occur on Water Street and K Street NW and that contractors will move down K Street towards GW Hospital as the project progresses. He said that construction will start in about two weeks and that Pepco will be using some parking spaces on the south side of Water Street and K Street NW and on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue NW in order to carry out the project work.

Mr. Culpepper said that his team has been meeting with property owners in the affected area, including representatives from Washington Harbor and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), to discuss project details.

Commissioner Wilcox asked if all the project work will be occurring in the street. Mr. Culpepper said that all work will occur in the street and that no work will occur on the sidewalk.

Commissioner Palmer asked Mr. Culpepper to send more built-out traffic control plans to the ANC once they are created. She asked if the Pepco team has communicated with the condo associations in the affected area. Mr. Culpepper said that some condo associations have been present at previous community meetings and that his team will be carrying out more outreach to other individual condo buildings.

Presentation by the Georgetown BID Regarding the BID's Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola Proposal

Commissioner Palmer 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:

WHEREAS, ANC 2E joins the Georgetown BID and the Citizens Association of Georgetown in endorsing the next phase of planning for the Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola project, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E members understand that many unanswered questions exist about the gondola project at this time. However, persistent traffic congestion continues to produce negative safety, health, and environmental impacts on our community. While we will continue to pursue immediate traffic mitigation solutions, we are also taking the long view and hope that the gondola will (a) mitigate some part of persistent traffic congestion in Georgetown and (b) further our goal of keeping Georgetown a great place to live, visit, and work. With that in mind, ANC 2E plans to be fully engaged in the next phase of planning and review of this project. We will engage our community and ensure that all impacts are identified via an exhaustive Environmental Impact Study and that all designs meet the highest quality standards of this historic neighborhood. We will also work with constituents to ensure that the project meets the needs of residents, workers, visitors, and institutions in the community before it moves forward to final approval and implementation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that the District of Columbia Government immediately, and independently, if necessary:

- A. Finalize a gondola station site on the Georgetown side of the river; and
- B. Undertake a Federal Environmental Impact Statement for the gondola, which we understand will take 3-4 years to complete and involve significant community input.

Announcement Regarding the National Park Service's Georgetown Non-Motorized Boathouse Zone Development Plan and Environmental Assessment

Chair Gibbons gave an overview of the National Park Service's (NPS) recently-released Georgetown Non-Motorized Boathouse Zone Development Plan and Environmental Assessment. He said that the ANC has some concerns with the plan and that the ANC will continue to follow the matter closely.

Bob vom Eigen, the President of the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), said that he was concerned that NPS has dictated a particular use for each of the five proposed boathouse sites and that there is no flexibility with the designations.

Announcement Regarding the Upcoming Department of Energy and Environment Hearing Regarding the DCA Airplane Noise Assessment

Chair Gibbons gave an overview of the upcoming Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) hearing regarding the DCA Airplane Noise Assessment. He said that the hearing will be on Wednesday, March 8th at 7:00 pm at Hardy Middle School, 1819 35th Street NW.

Commissioner Murphy said that the hearing will include an announcement regarding DOEE's plan to carry out its own noise study on the airplane noise.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Murphy said that Commissioner Solomon has been made aware that construction on the Duke Ellington School project is starting before 7:00 am on some mornings. He said that Commissioner Solomon has been contact with the Mayor's Office, Councilmember Evans' Office, and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to resolve the matter.

Commissioner Goldman introduced the "Behind the Table" organization for the evening's meeting, the Georgetown University Farmers Market. A representative from the market said that the market is held every Wednesday during the university's spring and fall semesters. She encouraged local residents to also attend the market, which will be starting on March 15th for the spring semester. She said that the market runs from 12:00 to 5:00 pm in Red Square on campus and that all the farmers are based in the DC region. She encouraged attendees to tell their neighbors that the market exists.

Commissioner Wilcox said that he is working to address the proliferation of construction dumpsters that are taking up valuable space on neighborhood streets.

New Business

Discussion Regarding Neighbor Notification Laws as Part of the Old Georgetown Board Review Process

Commissioner Wilcox 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:

The District of Columbia enacted a law effective in October of 2016, which is very important to the preservation of the character of Georgetown by enhancing input from the community. The law establishes notification requirements concerning certain applications for the demolition, construction, and alteration of buildings, including applications made to the Commission of Fine Arts for concept and permit review. It requires that the following actions be taken immediately after the application is filed: (1) a notice of the application must be posted in plain view at the front of each property and building subject to review; and (2) the applicant must provide three items by hand delivery or by US mail with a certificate of mailing both to the owners of record of all confronting or abutting properties and to the affected ANCs: (a) notice of the application; (b) information regarding how to obtain the schedule for review; and (c) a copy of the plans or instructions regarding how to access the plans on a publicly available website, or upon request for viewing in person.

We emphasize that these notifications are required to be given immediately after applications are filed and not at some later date. Further, the affirmative obligation to notify falls on the applicants and their representatives, and neither the ANC nor adjacent neighbors are required to request or otherwise obtain these items from the Old Georgetown Board or on their own.

From the ANC's experience in processing and evaluating applications to the Old Georgetown Board and the Commission of Fine Arts, although these legal requirements have been in effect for approximately five months now, compliance appears to have been sporadic and inadequate. These requirements are an extremely important part of the process of evaluation. ANC 2E therefore urges applicants and their representatives to fully comply with the above legal requirements and expects them to do so from this date forward.

Request for Sunday Work Permit for Project at 3324 Dent Place NW

Chair Gibbons moved to approve a Sunday work permit for 3324 Dent Place NW that would include work hours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Special Event Application for the Race to Beat Cancer 5K on September 16, 2017

Chair Gibbons moved to support the special event application for the Race to Beat Cancer 5K. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the special event application for the Race to Beat Cancer 5K on September 16, 2017.

Special Event Application Regarding the DC Bike Ride on May 14, 2017

Chair Gibbons moved to support the special event application for the DC Bike Ride. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the special event application for the DC Bike Ride on May 14, 2017.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Application by Dean & Deluca for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant License at 3276 M Street NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to support Dean & Deluca's substantial change application and to support a stipulated license to allow for the immediate implementation of the substantial change. Chair Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports Dean & Deluca's application for a substantial change to the establishment's Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant License at 3276 M Street NW and supports the applicant's request for a stipulated license in order to begin the immediate implementation of this substantial change.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E03 - OG 17-103 (HPA 17-190) 1316 34th Street, NW

Commissioner Murphy 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 has no comments regarding the plans and we defer to the Old Georgetown Board to make a decision.

SMD 2E03 - OG 17-117 (HPA 17-208) 3323 P Street, NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

SMD 2E05 - OG 17-121 (HPA 17-213) 3265 M 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:

Given the historic opposition to blade signs for first-floor retailers, ANC 2E does not support the blade sign plans for 3265 M Street NW.

SMD 2E06 - OG 17-122 (HPA 17-214) 1342 28th 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: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E appreciates the attractive nature of the proposed addition, however we request that the Old Georgetown Board consider whether the massing is appropriate in view of the expansion of the second floor that is proposed and also consider the appropriateness of the roofdeck extending off of the second floor.

SMD 2E06 - OG 17-120 (HPA 17-212) 1414 29th 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: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E objects to the application to construct a roofdeck at 1414 29th Street NW. As a general rule we object to the construction of additional roofdecks in Georgetown because of their potential adverse impacts on adjacent neighbors and their successors and we follow that approach in this case.

Adjournment

Chair Gibbons adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.