



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019; 7:00 p.m.

Georgetown Visitation School, Heritage Room – 1524 35th Street NW

### Call to Order

Commissioner Joe Gibbons called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Joe Gibbons (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 2019

Commissioner Gibbons moved to elect Commissioner Murphy as the ANC's Chair, Commissioner Palmer as the ANC's Vice Chair, Commissioner Landre as the ANC's Secretary, and Commissioner Burdman as the ANC's Treasurer for 2019. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### Approval of the Agenda

#### Approval of the ANC's January 2nd, 2019 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's January 2nd, 2019 meeting agenda. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

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

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's December 3rd, 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### Administrative

#### Public Safety and Police Report

Lt. Dustin Bellavance, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He said that MPD has been deploying a "bait car" in the neighborhood in order to address the thefts from cars in the neighborhood.

#### Approval of the ANC's 2019 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's proposed 2019 meeting schedule. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The 2019 meeting schedule is as follows:

- Regular January Meeting: Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- Regular February Meeting: Monday, February 4th, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular March Meeting: Monday, March 4th, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular April Meeting: Monday, April 1st, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular May Meeting: Monday, April 29th, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular June Meeting: Monday, June 3rd, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular July Meeting: Monday, July 1st, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular September Meeting: Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular October Meeting: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular November Meeting: Monday, November 4th, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Regular December Meeting: Monday, December 2nd, 2019 at 6:30 pm

#### Approval of the ANC's Participation in the 2019 ANC Security Fund

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's participation in the 2019 ANC Security Fund and the respective \$25 expenditure to participate. Commissioner Gibbons 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

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the addition of the new ANC officers as signatories for the ANC's bank accounts. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

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

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's FY 2018 Quarter 4 financial report. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### **Community Comment**

#### Update from the Mayor's Office

*There was no one present regarding this matter.*

#### Update from Councilmember Jack Evans' Office

Ruth Werner, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office, said that the DC Council is now back in session.

#### Update from Georgetown Main Street

Jessie Himmelrich, the Executive Director of Georgetown Main Street, said that the organization has helped open a pop-up show called Pop Georgetown at 1631 Wisconsin Avenue NW. She said that

the shop features locally-made goods and is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through Monday, January 21st.

Ms. Himmelrich said that Georgetown Main Streets will soon be opening the applications for the organization's small business grants. She said that local businesses can apply for grants up to \$5,000 that will help with operational and physical improvements.

Ms. Himmelrich said that Georgetown Main Streets will be holding "I Do: A Georgetown Wedding Event" on Saturday, May 11th.

#### Presentation by the Department of Public Works' Parking Enforcement Management Administration Regarding Neighborhood Parking Enforcement

Christine Chase, a representative for the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Parking Enforcement Management Administration, gave an overview of DPW's parking enforcement processes, including the escalating fine structure for second and third parking offenses. She said that DPW's Ward 2 parking enforcement team cycles through the various "beats" of the ward each month, returning to a particular "beat" once all the other "beats" have been inspected during the month.

Commissioner Gibbons asked if DPW's ticketing location data is available to the public. Ms. Chase said that she can ask her supervisor if she can make the data available to the public.

The Commissioners identified particular areas in the neighborhood where they believe DPW's parking enforcement team should focus on.

#### New Business

#### Consideration of a Resolution Appointing New Members of the Georgetown Community Partnership's Steering Committee

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 appoints Commissioner Joe Gibbons to replace former Commissioner Ed Solomon, Commissioner Anna Landre to replace former Commissioner Mara Goldman, and Commissioner Matias Burdman to replace former Commissioner Zac Schroepfer as members of the Georgetown Community Partnership's (GCP) Steering Committee.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Friends of Volta Park's Proposal to Install New Playground Equipment at Volta Park

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:

The Friends of Volta Park would like to install new playground equipment in Volta Park. The organization maintains a many decades-old relationship with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) through a public-private partnership. The new equipment will consist of a

tire swing to replace the seesaw. The organization plans to pay for the equipment and shipping with funds received from hosting the organization's last three Breakfast with Santa events.

ANC 2E applauds the dedication to public service that the members of the Friends of Volta Park have consistently shown the community. The ANC strongly requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation allows the Friends of Volta Park to install this equipment in the playground area of Volta Park.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Proposal to Ban Turns on Red at the Intersection of 29th Street, M Street, and Pennsylvania Avenue 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 has reviewed Notice of Intent (NOI) #18-227-TOA regarding the establishment of No Turn on Red restrictions at selected signalized intersections. The ANC received the NOI prior to the holidays and reached out to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to confirm precisely which intersection and turn will be affected by this change, but as of yet, the ANC has not received a response. The ANC believes that it is only for northbound traffic on 29th Street NW turning right/east onto Pennsylvania Avenue. However, this has not been confirmed and the ANC requests that DDOT provides clarification on this point.

As for the purpose of this NOI, ANC 2E expresses concern that if there is no ability to turn right on red, there may be no time that pedestrians are held at this crossing area and, as such, the right-turning traffic from 29th Street NW will hold up any left or northbound traffic when the light finally turns green. While the ANC supports DC's Vision Zero goals, the ANC has concerns about unintended consequences of this proposed change. Per the ANC's previous correspondence with DDOT, the ANC requests clarification on how this change, if implemented, will affect traffic in the neighborhood.

As such, ANC 2E cannot support NOI #18-227-TOA in its current form and looks to DDOT to provide clarification and remedies for the concerns expressed herein.

Special Event Application for the 2019 Lawyers Have Heart 10K and 5K on Saturday, June 8th, 2019

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

ANC 2E had significant concerns about how the Lawyers Have Heart organizers had operated their race in 2017, noting significant issues related to noise, music, unexpected road closures, etc. The ANC thanks the organizers for setting aside time for a postmortem and is pleased that the organizers undertook specific measures to avoid these problems during the 2018 race. As a recap, in order for ANC 2E to support the Lawyers Have Heart race, the following must be true:

1. An open lane of access along K Street and Water Street NW must be available for residents throughout the staging of the race and the duration of the race itself. Furthermore, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) contact names will be provided to residents via ANC 2E. Race organizers will ensure that, should a resident have a problem getting to or from his or her home, residents may be in touch with these contacts to ensure that access issues are addressed immediately by MPD officers and that residents will be allowed to travel freely. At no time shall residents be denied the ability to enter or exit their blocks.
2. Amplified sound may not begin until after 7:00 am per DC's noise regulations. ANC 2E supports no amplified voices or music – whether as a sound check or otherwise – before this time. Furthermore, per an agreement with race organizers, the ANC can only be supportive of this race if, as previously agreed to, the speakers along K Street and Water Street NW are turned towards the water and not towards K Street and Water Street NW in an attempt to minimize the sound amplification throughout the area. The ANC appreciates the organizers' continued promise to review sound levels with the organizers' sound company and expects that adequate modifications will continue to be made.
3. ANC 2E also notes that should the provisions noted above and implemented in 2018 not be met in 2019, the ANC will no longer support the granting of permits for this race.

## **Zoning**

### **Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception Under the Accessory Apartment Regulations to Add an Accessory Apartment to an Existing, Attached Principal Dwelling Unit at 1920 35th Street NW**

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

ANC 2E has contacted the affected neighbors and has provided the neighbors with notification and information concerning the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 1920 35th Street NW. The ANC supports the application for a special exception.

### **Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception the Rear Addition Requirements to Construct a Third Story and a Rear Addition to an Existing, Attached Principal Dwelling Unit at 3617 T Street NW**

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Gibbons 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 3617 T Street NW. However, the ANC expresses its concern about the fact that the project plans include a roof deck, an element that the ANC consistently opposes for applications that the ANC reviews.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception From the Nonconforming Structure Requirements to Construct a Rear Shed Dormer on the Fourth Story of an Existing, Detached Principal Dwelling Unit at 3323 P Street NW

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

ANC 2E has no objection to the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 3323 P Street NW.

**Historic Preservation Review Board**

Historic Preservation Review Board Landmarking Application for Capital Traction Company Union Station and Part of the 36th Street NW Right-of-Way

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

ANC 2E notes that this is the second application for historic landmark designation filed by the applicant. The first application, which was withdrawn by the applicant, sought landmark status only for the stone stairway and retaining wall that are adjacent to the west-facing wall of the Capital Traction Company Union Station (the “car barn”). The earlier application made it clear that the applicant believes that the stairway and retaining wall could be considered separately from the car barn. The current application, however, includes the much larger and arguably more significant car barn but the narrative description of the application once again treats the retaining wall and stairway and the car barn as separate entities.

ANC 2E further notes that the applicant has not identified any immediate threat to either the stone stairway and retaining wall or the car barn. All three structures lie within the Old Georgetown Historic District as designated by the Old Georgetown Act of 1950 and are therefore protected from alteration or destruction by the provisions of the federal statute. Therefore, ANC 2E cannot identify a need for the extra layer of protection sought by the applicant.

ANC 2E expresses no opinion with respect to whether the car barn, separate and apart from the stone stairway and retaining wall, possess qualities that would merit its inclusion in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites under Criteria B, D, and F as advocated by the applicant, but notes that the car barn has undergone significant alterations in recent years, well after the end of the period of significance. However, ANC 2E is concerned that landmark status could make it more difficult to make changes to the fourth floor of the car barn that would be designed to improve access to the building for persons with disabilities.

ANC 2E is of the opinion that, considered separately, neither the stairs nor the retaining wall meet any of the criteria set forth in Section 201.1, Chapter 2 of Title 10A for designation of historic landmarks to be included in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. Other than the fact that they are located next to the car barn, the applicant’s principle argument in support of

designating the stairs and retaining wall as historic landmarks is the fact that they are associated with a 1973 motion picture, *The Exorcist*. ANC 2E does not believe that the fact that the stone stairway made a brief appearance in a 1973 motion picture supports the applicant's apparent assertion that the stone stairway, the retaining wall, and the car barn, which was not visible in the movie, are the "site of events that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture, or development of the District of Columbia or the nation." It cannot plausibly be argued that the filming of one scene of *The Exorcist* on the stone stairway contributed significantly to the heritage or culture of our city or our nation and ANC 2E therefore opposes landmark status for the retaining wall and stone stairway.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.