



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 4th, 2021; 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), Jenny Mitchell (2E02), Rick Murphy (2E03), Anna Landre (2E04), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), Elizabeth Miller (2E07), and Matias Burdman (2E08) were present.

### Community Commendations

#### Community Commendation for Former Commissioner Joe Gibbons

Commissioner Murphy 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:

WHEREAS, our friend and colleague, Joe Gibbons, chose not to run for a third term as the commissioner for single member district 2E02 so that he could spend more time with the rapidly growing second generation of his family,

WHEREAS, while serving as commissioner for four years, during which he served as Chair of ANC 2E for two terms, Joe set an example of energy, engagement, devotion to duty, and good cheer that his colleagues all try to emulate, but are rarely, if ever, successful, and

WHEREAS, Joe was a friend and mentor to everyone who served with him and may well have been the most accessible commissioner in the history of ANC 2E.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E thanks former Commissioner Joe Gibbons for his tireless and effective efforts on behalf of our community and directs Executive Director Sacco to memorialize this resolution in an appropriate certificate suitable for presentation to former Commissioner Gibbons at the February 2021 public meeting of ANC 2E.

### Election of ANC Officers

#### Election of the ANC's Officers for 2021

Commissioner Lohse moved to elect Commissioner Murphy as the ANC's Chair, Commissioner Palmer as the ANC's Vice Chair, Commissioner Burdman as the ANC's Treasurer, and Commissioner Landre as the ANC's Secretary for 2021. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Approval of the Agenda

### Approval of the ANC's January 4th, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's January 4th, 2021 meeting agenda. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Approval of the ANC's November 30th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's November 30th, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

## **Administrative**

### Public Safety and Police Report

Commander Duncan Bedlion, the Commander of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

### Approval of the ANC's 2021 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's 2021 meeting schedule. Commissioner Burdman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Approval of the ANC's Participation in the 2021 ANC Security Fund

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's participation in the 2021 ANC Security Fund. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

### Approval of the Addition of New Officers to the ANC's Bank Signature Cards

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

## **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, and Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave an update from the Councilmember's Office.

### Update from the Georgetown BID

Jamie Scott, the Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Georgetown BID, gave an update from the organization.

## Update from Georgetown Ministry Center

Kelly Andreae, the Executive Director of the Georgetown Ministry Center (GMC), gave an update from the organization.

## Presentation by Perkins/Eastman Regarding the Jelleff Feasibility Study

Peter Nohrden, a Landscape Architect for the Department of Park and Recreation's (DPR) Office of Planning and Capital Projects; Tommie Jones, the Chief of External Affairs and Director of Strategic Partnerships and Development for DPR; and Christian Calleri, a Senior Associate for Perkins Eastman DC, gave a presentation regarding the Jelleff feasibility study.

## **New Business**

### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Classifying 3000 M Street NW as a Blighted Property

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 would like to formally recognize its significant concern over the lack of activity at the now, essentially, abandoned lot at 3000 M Street NW. More importantly, the ANC strongly requests that the city formally treats this property as the blight on our community it is. The ANC is, quite simply, tired of waiting for something to happen here; it has been too many years of zero progress.

In May of 2015, the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) approved a demolition permit for this building, formerly known as the Latham Hotel. Thor Equities, the owner of the property, has been filing for permits from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) since approximately May of 2016 and a permit for a tower crane was issued on or around August 16, 2017. Since that time, the ANC has reviewed a number of concept proposals by the owner. The crane was erected, demolition occurred, and then nothing. There has been no sustained active work on the site for years and yet the spectacularly large crane still stands and looms ominously over our neighborhood, swinging and spinning in the wind yet serving zero purpose relative to the redevelopment of this vacant site. A partial structure exists and some temporary fencing exists. However in over three years the owner has not moved forward with any concept put forth to DCRA and OGB.

ANC 2E constantly fields feedback from constituents about the future of development on this very large site, located in a central and prominent location in our neighborhood, over multiple lots, measuring close to 10,000 square feet per the Office of Zoning's (OZ) website:

“What is going on there? When will work begin? Why has nothing been done to this site in our neighborhood? If no work is happening, why has a crane been looming over our neighborhood for three years?”

As the duly elected representatives for our community, ANC 2E hereby shares that our neighborhood is simply fed up. The site is stuck. It has blighted our community and the developer has made zero progress in stabilizing or even, simply, activating the site, despite multiple conversations around how this could be done. It is, quite simply, time for the city to declare this property the blight that it is in an effort to mitigate this issue. Designating this property as vacant has not moved the needle, or any needle, at all. Once again, the ANC would like to be clear that our community has had enough. With this in mind, the ANC resolves the following:

1. ANC 2E strongly urges DCRA to declare 3000 M Street NW a blighted property until such time that the property is stabilized and activated in a community friendly and ANC approved manner.
2. While ANC 2E understands that DC regulations allow for tower cranes to remain in place “as long as they are needed”, the ANC requests that the relevant agencies review the case for “as needed,” noting that the crane has performed zero work in recent memory and that there are no concepts currently in front of any DC agency for work to move forward in the future. With these facts in place, the ANC requests that DCRA evaluates the necessity of this tower crane on the site; develops a plan, alongside the ANC, for what needs to be true in order to remove the crane; and communicates this plan to the property owner so that the crane can either be put to use or removed. Finally, the ANC notes that our primary objective is to see this property be redeveloped. With this in mind, the ANC hopes that a crane will be necessary to facilitate development in the near future and requests that requirements be put in place going forward such that the crane is appropriately sized for any proposed work and that the crane be used, and removed, in a timely manner.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**

#### **Application by Charcoal Town for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1027 31st Street NW**

*The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC’s regular February 2021 meeting.*

#### **Application by Dent Place Market for Renewal of the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “B” Grocery License at 1643 34th Street NW**

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

#### **Application by Wisemillers Grocery & Deli for Renewal of the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “B” Grocery License at 1236 36th Street NW**

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

### **Public Space Committee**

Public Space Application by the Georgetown BID for Repairs to Existing Concrete Steps, Cutting Down an Existing Concrete Wall, and Creating a Small Concrete Pedestrian Plaza with Two Landscaped Beds at 36th Street and Whitehurst Freeway 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:

Particularly in light of ongoing public safety concerns in the area of the proposed project along Water Street NW, ANC 2E strongly supports the measures suggested as part of the Georgetown BID's public space application. The ANC is particularly supportive of the stairs treatment as it will be a cleaner and safer environment for all who enjoy this community treasure. The ANC continues to believe that if the physical conditions of the area improve, we will see a reduction in illegal drug use and high speed racing, which continue to be common issues in this area. The ANC looks forward to seeing this project come to fruition in an expedient manner.

Public Space Application by the Georgetown BID for the Placement of Wood and Composite Decks in Curb Lanes at Sidewalk Grade with Barriers at 22 Locations in Georgetown

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

ANC 2E continues to support the addition of widened sidewalks through the duration of the Mayor's emergency response to the COVID pandemic. Given the Mayor's recommendation to continue social distancing practices, the ANC continues to have concerns that the existing sidewalks are not wide enough for our businesses to reopen and operate while simultaneously providing safe space for walking. Furthermore, the ANC has witnessed firsthand the vitality that the existing streateries have brought to our neighborhood and supports a coordinated effort to expand this temporary alteration to our built environment.

As we continue to move forward through the pandemic response, ANC 2E requests that the Public Space Committee review this sidewalk widening proposal with the following attributes in mind:

- ADA compliance
- Pedestrian safety
- Efficient commercial loading and trash pickup access
- Availability of on-demand delivery and parcel delivery
- Safe and efficient traffic flow
- Suitable passenger pick-up and drop-off
- Accessible and useful bus stop access and functionality
- Utility accessibility
- Ease of snow treatment and removal
- Availability of bike and scooter parking
- Support for safe dining and retail streatery usage
- Aesthetic integration
- Clear regulatory signage

With these attributes in mind, ANC 2E would like to see the addition of a slip lane to northbound Wisconsin Avenue at M Street NW for northbound and eastbound traffic. Otherwise, the ANC believes that the proposal in front of the Public Space Committee works to support each of these elements and the ANC encourages the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to ensure that each block affected by this proposal is acting at its highest and best use with the attributes above in mind. Any changes to the sidewalk must not impede our businesses' ability to succeed – rather, they should amplify such ability. The ANC furthermore understands that the Georgetown BID has already or will be presenting this proposal to the following external organizations for feedback and appreciates the feedback provided by each of these organizations: DDOT, the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture (MONC), the Historic Preservation Office (HPO), the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), DC Water, Pepco, Washington Gas, Verizon, and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).

Additionally, ANC 2E affirmatively states its request to continue to be a partner in the development, monitoring, implementation, and continued study of this pilot program to ensure that it is meeting the community's needs throughout its life. Given that no one knows the indirect impacts of this pilot, the ANC urges DDOT to work closely with the ANC to ensure that any poor unintended consequences are mitigated quickly. Since the design of the sidewalks is modular, the ANC appreciates that changes can indeed be made throughout the permitted period. Such potential unintended consequences include, but are by no means limited to, poor traffic circulation or diminished safety conditions. Ultimately, the goal is for the neighborhood's temporary street design to support both public health and economic policy goals, while managing any disruptions to the residential community in a sensitive manner.

Furthermore, ANC 2E notes that with no Metrorail access to our neighborhood, visitors and employees have limited means of coming and going from our community. In accordance with social distancing guidelines, the ANC reiterates our June 2020 request that DDOT, alongside this sidewalk widening work, address the following:

- Increase the number of locations available for bike and scooter parking but, importantly, do so without impeding vehicular traffic at corners,
- Work with private parking lots to determine and implement a means for lowering the price to park inside private parking facilities as the ANC expects an uptick in the percentage of private vehicles coming to and from our neighborhood over ridesharing and public transport and expects limited capacity for on-street parking, at least in the near term,
- Incentivize and assist private entities to add bike and scooter parking on private property,
- Create additional safe roadway infrastructure for bikes and scooters as the ANC expects and encourages a significant uptick in the usage of these means of transportation,
- Prohibit scooter and bike use on the sidewalks and widened sidewalks on those blocks with the widened sidewalks and enforce all restrictions on scooter use,
- Provide the ANC with a point of contact at DDOT who can assist in the misuse of scooters and bikes within the designated widened sidewalks,
- Ensure that curb cuts serving those with different mobility needs are conserved and opportunities for new ones are sought and implemented,

- Remove all unnecessary impediments blocking the sidewalks, including unused newspaper distribution bins,
- Adjust traffic signal timing to ensure safety and efficiency for all users of our roadways, and
- Recognize that with the elimination of parking along M Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW, there may be increased parking demand within the residential neighborhood and the ANC requests that DDOT works alongside the Department of Public Works (DPW) to monitor the parking impact within the residential area and enforce parking restrictions accordingly.

Finally, ANC 2E appreciates that this is only a permit request for a temporary emergency response measure. Accordingly, these comments are expressly reserved to only respond to the proposal intended for the emergency response period. Should the pilot be deemed successful and there be interest in extending the enhanced sidewalk widening efforts beyond the period of time designated by the Mayor’s emergency order, the ANC reserves the right to recommend a change in direction and looks forward to partnering with the relevant agencies and organizations to develop an oversight plan to ensure that all built environments adhere to the aesthetic guidelines set forth by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and OGB within Georgetown’s historic district and that all traffic and parking issues are addressed.

This is the time to respond to an unprecedented situation with creativity, a nimble spirit, and great partnership across various community organizations. ANC 2E is eager to partner to move our community, and our city, forward.

### **Old Georgetown Board**

SMD 2E06 - OG 21-065 (HPA 21-120) 1306 27th Street, NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

SMD 2E06 - OG 21-048 (HPA 21-089) 2616-2620 P Street, NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

SMD 2E06 - OG 21-052 (HPA 21-107) 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Commissioner Lohse 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 supports the proposal by EastBanc. It is the ANC’s understanding that this is a temporary fence that is proposed to be installed until December of 2021. At that point should any permanent fence be proposed, a resubmission would be made to the ANC and the Old Georgetown Board.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:41 pm.