



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 3rd, 2021; 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the ANC's May 3rd, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's May 3rd, 2021 meeting agenda. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's March 30th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's March 30th, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

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.

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 1 financial report. Commissioner Lohse 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 the DC Office of the People's Counsel Regarding the Work of the Office

Cheryl Morse, a Consumer Outreach Specialist for the DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC), gave an update regarding the work of the office.

Update from the Department of Public Works Regarding a Proposed Mural at Los Cuates at 1564 Wisconsin Avenue NW

No one was present regarding this matter.

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.

Announcement Regarding Parking Enforcement Starting on June 1st, 2021

Chair Murphy made an announcement regarding parking enforcement starting on June 1st, 2021.

Update on the Potential Use of Porous Flexible Pavement to Repair Sidewalks in Georgetown

Chair Murphy gave an update on the potential use of Porous Flexible Pavement to repair sidewalks in Georgetown.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Change in Policy Concerning Projects in the Old Georgetown Historic District

Chair 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:

The members of ANC 2E are dismayed and disappointed by the decision taken by the leadership of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to abruptly and unilaterally end DDOT's longstanding practice of cooperating with ANC 2E, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) when making decisions that affect the appearance of the federally protected Old Georgetown Historic District.

Over the course of the last 70 years, OGB has regularly reviewed DDOT's work in Old Georgetown when that work involves changes to the existing historic fabric. Recent examples of such review include: the restoration of pavement and trolley rails on O Street and P Street NW in west Georgetown, the restoration of the Key Bridge, green infrastructure installations in streets and alleys, bus shelter installations, and tree box protections.

Notwithstanding this longstanding practice, on March 23, 2021, DDOT delivered a memorandum to Thomas Luebke, Secretary of CFA and OGB, and Rick Murphy, Chair of ANC 2E, announcing DDOT's decision to use Porous Flexible Pavement (PFP), a flexible construction material composed of recycled vehicle tires and aggregate, to repair brick sidewalks damaged by root expansion in the historic district. In response to inquiries from

ANC 2E, DDOT confirmed that it was not seeking input concerning its decision from either ANC 2E or OGB.

Seven days later, at its regularly scheduled public meeting, ANC 2E voted unanimously to ask DDOT to engage in dialogue with interested stakeholders before proceeding with its plan. Although DDOT representatives have since met separately, but informally, with members of ANC 2E and CFA and OGB staff, DDOT has not changed its timetable, and has steadfastly refused to engage in a meaningful discussion of its decision, much less to submit the decision, which will have a significant impact on the appearance of Georgetown, to OGB for review and approval. DDOT has flatly denied requests from both ANC 2E and OGB to briefly delay PFP installation and has formally notified the three ANC commissioners in whose districts PFP will be used that installation will begin as soon as Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

With the above as background, ANC 2E respectfully urges Mayor Muriel Bowser and Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers to direct DDOT to:

- 1) return to its historic policy of consulting with CFA and OGB, the federal agency charged with responsibility for preserving the appearance of the Old Georgetown Historic District, when making decisions, like the decision to patch sidewalks with PFP, that affect the appearance of Georgetown, and
- 2) delay implementation of its plan to install PFP until there has been an opportunity for a meaningful discussion of how best to maintain the safety, accessibility, and appearance of sidewalks in the federally protected historic district with CFA, OGB, ANC 2E, and the community.

Community Comment (Continued)

Update Regarding Friends of Rose Park and the Department of Parks and Recreation

Gail Daubert, the President of the Friends of Rose Park, gave an update from the organization.

New Business (Continued)

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Community Impact Statement for the Recent Murder on Water Street NW

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

On April 19th, 2021, pursuant to a DC Superior Court arrest warrant, 20 year-old Roberto Cayetano-Mejia, of Falls Church, VA, was arrested by members of the Fugitive Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and was transported to MPD's Homicide Branch where he was charged with Second Degree Murder While Armed for the November 7th, 2020 murder of 19 year-old Franklin Hernandez Arevalo, of Alexandria, VA, which took place in the 3300 block of Water Street NW. ANC 2E authorizes ANC 2E05 Commissioner

Lisa Palmer to write and submit a community impact statement for consideration as part of the State's case against Mr. Cayetano-Mejia.

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting Traffic Control Officers on Weekends at the Intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street NW for the Duration of the Widened Sidewalks Program

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 is pleased that pedestrian and vehicular counts are on the rise in our neighborhood. Alongside the increase in visitor activity to our community, the ANC is also experiencing novel roadway changes related to streateries and widened sidewalks along Wisconsin Avenue and M Street NW. The combination of the increase in visitors and the decrease in parking and roadway for vehicles comes with an increase in difficult to manage traffic that would be aided significantly with the addition of traffic control officers (TCOs) as the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has provided in past years. During recent weekends it has become increasingly difficult throughout the day to make a southbound turn off of M Street NW due to the significant number of pedestrians crossing M Street NW during the period of time typically allotted to vehicular traffic in that direction. This challenge has led to a blocks-long backup on M Street west of Wisconsin Avenue NW.

With the challenges noted above in mind, ANC 2E requests that DDOT provides traffic control officers (TCOs) to mitigate the effects of these changes and to provide a safer experience for all roadway users on Saturdays and Sundays until at least the end of October of 2021. The ANC specifically requests coverage from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays to coincide with the busiest time at the intersection. The ANC also notes that Saturday at 3:00 pm continues to be the busiest time for traffic and pedestrians at this intersection and requests that DDOT ensures that coverage is at least provided for the time leading up to and after this time on a weekly basis.

Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the ANC to Testify on Proposed Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration Changes Affecting the ANC

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

WHEREAS, the Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2021 is pending before the DC Council,

WHEREAS, several provisions of the bill could impact how the sale and consumption of alcohol is regulated in Georgetown,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E will have an opportunity to present testimony on the bill on May 10th, 2021, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E Commissioners Lisa Palmer and Rick Murphy have participated with the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG) and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) on a working group formed to analyze the relevant provisions of the bill.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E Commissioners Lisa Palmer and Rick Murphy are authorized to testify on behalf of the ANC during the DC Council hearings concerning the Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2021.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Application by Towne Wine & Liquor to Transfer the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License to a New Location at 1438 Wisconsin Avenue NW

and

Application by Towne Wine & Liquor to Renew the Establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store License at 1326 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Chair 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:

ANC 2E has no objection to Towne Wine & Liquor's renewal application or to the establishment's application to transfer the establishment's license from 1326 Wisconsin Avenue NW to 1438 Wisconsin Avenue NW. The ANC is concerned, however, about the confusion regarding the licensed hours for the site.

Therefore, ANC 2E protests Towne Wine & Liquor's application to transfer the establishment's Retailer's Class "A" Liquor Store license to a new location at 1438 Wisconsin Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

Zoning

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception from the Minimum Rear Yard Requirements to Construct a Rear Addition to an Existing, Attached, Three-Story with Basement, Mixed-Use Building at 1338 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Chair 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:

With respect to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application for 1338 Wisconsin Avenue NW, ANC 2E respectfully urges BZA to approve the application for special exception relief in the case because, in the judgement of the ANC, the construction of the proposed pergola in the rear yard of the property will not tend to adversely affect the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and the zoning maps.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation's Notice of Intent for Water Street NW

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

ANC 2E has been working the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for well over five years to improve safety along the Water Street NW corridor. Adding the protected cycletrack was a first step in providing order in the area. Adding speed bumps on Water Street NW has been another step to encourage slowed traffic. While they have been helpful, both neighbors who live along the street and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) state that many vehicles continue to speed over the bumps because they are so low to the ground. As a result, the ANC continues to seek support from DDOT in developing more significant traffic calming solutions. With this in mind, the ANC has been working with DDOT to:

- develop an extension to the cycletrack so that bikes and cars have their own dedicated space on the roadway,
- connect bicycle and pedestrian facilities to the planned trailhead at the Aqueduct Bridge, providing a safer and significantly more pleasant environment for enjoying the public parks in the area,
- add a sidewalk so that many pedestrians who live on the corridor and the thousands of visitors who use Georgetown Waterfront Park on a weekly basis have a safe place to walk,
- add a raised pedestrian crossing so that pedestrians can safely cross the street and as a vehicular traffic calming measure,
- reconfigure and reduce public parking to mitigate the deleterious effects that come with drivers seeking free parking and making illegal and highly dangerous U-turns in the middle of the roadway or parking in the area and engaging in well documented illegal behavior ranging from illicit drug sales, deadly shootings, and prostitution, and
- lowering the speed limit from 20 miles per hour to 15 miles per hour, which will provide MPD with additional support for holding drivers to the posted speed limits.

ANC 2E is pleased that Notice of Intent (NOI) #21-135 PSD addresses each of the elements noted above and strongly requests that this much improved design for Water Street NW be brought to fruition as soon as possible. The ANC has been working on these plans for many years and the ANC needs to move this forward before there is another tragic outcome in our community. Furthermore, the ANC asks DDOT to be sure to include significant signage in the area to ensure that users of the roadway understand the rules and so that the appropriate authorities are best able to enforce the rules of conduct. Finally, the ANC continues to request that:

- DDOT works with the boathouses to provide limited access for their users to efficiently use the roadway for boathouse operations, and
- additional street level lighting be added to this area as it continues to feel unsafe to walk in the area during the night because the area is so poorly lit.

Old Georgetown Board

SMD 2E05 - National Park Service C&O Canal National Historic Park

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

ANC 2E supports the new temporary floating kayak and canoe launch dock located in the C&O Canal adjacent to the 34th Street NW pedestrian bridge. The ANC looks forward to adding this wonderful amenity to our community.

SMD 2E06 - OG 21-164 (HPA 21-303) 1305-1315 30th 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: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The community is extremely pleased that The Colonial will be moving into a new chapter of its historic role in Georgetown. The building is in dire need of work and the newly renovated condominiums will be a great addition to east side of Georgetown. The applicant has done the proper outreach, which is much appreciated.

Overall, ANC 2E is very supportive of the proposed plans, however the ANC strongly recommends a few items with regard to the proposed concept:

- Total removal of the proposed balconies on the back of the building or very significant reduction of the size of such balconies so that outside entertaining and storage are not feasible. From just the ground floor parking lot area of The Colonial, one can see the gardens, parking spaces, and/or backside of nearly twenty different residential homes. The Colonial and these homes all share an “open block area” between 30th Street and 29th Street NW. The addition of multiple outside balconies on the higher level Colonial, which overlooks the majority of the homes in the “open area”, will impact the quality of life and privacy of several residents. ANC 2E frequently reviews applications for balconies on single family homes and the ANC traditionally does not support such applications due to the negative impact on surrounding neighbors; this rationale for non-support of balconies is amplified in this case.
- Careful planning be done with regarding to water management; there are already drainage issues impacting the immediate neighbors and The Colonial. This renovation provides an opportunity to address this structural need on the east, west, and south sides of the parking lot.
- ANC 2E appreciates that the applicant has included an ADA accessible entrance, with an automatic door button, in the rear of the building in order to serve accessible parking, however the ANC also requests that the applicant spends some time and effort determining if the street-side entrance could be ADA accessible, with an automatic door button, as well and to move forward as such if it is possible. The ANC

believes that disabled individuals have as much of a right to enter the building through the front as anyone else.

- Support for inside space allocated for garbage storage. The alley behind the building is too small for city trucks to enter and garbage should be well secured and only left out immediately before pick-up.
- Every effort be made to put the utilities and associated wires underground; the addition of more wires across the alley will be unsightly and unsafe.
- Maintaining a fence to designate the end of The Colonial's parking lot and the beginning of other property lines.
- Consideration of whether trellises pose any navigation issues for larger activities like snow removal or trash trucks that will visit the back of the building, and how outside lighting will be used in the back of the building along with the trellises given that the trellises extend out from the building.

SMD 2E06 - OG 21-162 (HPA 21-301) 2801 N 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: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E fully supports the proposed concept and project plans.

SMD 2E06 - OG 21-168 (HPA 21-307) 2714 Poplar 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: 6-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports this project, understanding that the proper care and expertise will be given to it moving forward.

SMD 2E07 - OG 21-171 (HPA 21-310) 2920 R Street, NW

Commissioner Miller recused herself from voting on this matter.

Chair Murphy 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 respectfully suggests that the Old Georgetown Board removes this project from the agenda for the Board's May meeting and defers action until the Board's June meeting in order to give neighbors who are very interested in the outcome of this application more time to prepare and consider what is proposed.

Adjournment

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 10:17 pm.