



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 17th, 2024 7:00 p.m.

In-Person at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW
and online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chairperson Warren called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Ashley Warren (2D01) and Carole Feld (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Warren moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Feld thanks Peter Sacco for helping with the ANC meetings in a volunteer capacity, she also gives a huge thank you to James Wood and Sean Lee for approving necessary repairs to the Spanish Steps scheduled to take place next quarter in 2024. She also thanks Patricia Gracyalny for being so responsive to us regarding the 2201 R Street NW.

Chair Warren announced that she is not running for re-election, that she has found her time on the ANC very valuable and she is looking forward to spending next year in the audience.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$16,445.24

Chair Warren motion to approve payments for the website hosting and domain name as part of the regular website upkeep, payments for Mailchimp services used to update the neighborhood listserv, and final administrative payments to Peter Sacco for the 4th quarter of



2023 and part of the first quarter prorated to the day he left the ANC in mid-February of 2024. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Government Reports

Mayor's Office

Ty Abilla, a representative from the Mayor's Office introduced herself and her role as the Ward 2 MOCRS. She encouraged neighbors to download and use the 311 app, spoke about job opportunities within DC government agencies, covered activities and resources available during suicide prevention month and recovery month, covered activities going on during Theatre Week, and provided information about upcoming events including the Asian Night Market, Soca in the City, Art All Night, and the High Heel Race. Abilla also shared agency contacts that neighbors can reach out to when they face a local issue.

Abilla reiterated that the Mayor continues to work on three key focus areas: public safety, revitalizing downtown, and education.

Abilla also commented about the ongoing noise issue at the corner of 23rd St NW and S St NW. She said that MPD encouraged residents being impacted to call 911 although it may not be an absolute emergency, it helps to monitor it while we try to figure out a long-term solution.

Neighbor Pierre de Lucy offered an invitation to breakfast so that Mayor's Office can have a first hand experience of the noise from the protesters.

Abilla ended her presentation by offering to conduct community walks with neighbors when there are specific issues that are concerning.

Councilmember's Office

Maddy White, a representative from Councilmember Pinto's office, attended the meeting. She announced that Chair Mendelson will be removing Councilmember White from the RLYA Committee and an ad hoc committee of all other members will investigate his conduct. She also announced that Councilmember Pinto is extremely concerned these allegations involve contracts for violence prevention programs, and she plans to hold public oversight hearings on this issue and will work to restore public trust on these issues.

She spoke the Office of Unified Communications – the 911 operation center and stated that the SecureDC legislation passed this year included hiring and retention incentives for the 911 call center. They are working on other initiatives to improve the 911 operation center as well.

She said that Councilmember Pinto continues to prioritize noise issues, acknowledging that noise issues cause serious mental health issues, and that she is working on solutions with Secretary Basset's office (Sec. of State for DC) as well as Foreign Missions Office and Secret Service. Councilmember Pinto has sponsored 2 bills to address these issues – the Amplified Sound Mitigation Act and the Harmonious Living Act

She encouraged neighbors concerned about parking on Belmont to keep calling 311.



Chair Warren asked how the two proposed bills regarding noise legislations will specifically impact this issue in ANC 2D because it seems like they are not written to mitigate the noise issue we are dealing with. White says that the Amplified Sound Mitigation Act is written with 2D in mind.

Neighbor Don Friedman mentions he has emailed suggestions on the Amplified Sound Mitigation Act to Councilmember Pinto's office. He has also started calling 911 to deal with the parking on Belmont and then they get DPW to come out and enforce things, he has not had good luck with 311.

Neighbor Pierre de Lucy says he feels secret service presence by the noise on the corner of 23rd St NW and S St NW is also not helping the residents.

Traffic Safety Input (TSI) Updates from the District Department of Transportation

Christophe Wassmer from DDOT attended the meeting. He relayed the outcome of a meeting he had with the contracting officer on September 3rd regarding the missing call box. He said they sent a final determination letter to Milani (the subcontractor of the MARP) about the stolen/missing call box. In the letter DDOT wrote they will withhold payment to Milani for the cost of restoring the call box. Now DDOT will open up the contracting process to restoring the call box. DDOT was able to source a call box from their own warehouse that matches the description of the missing one. Wassmer said that hopefully by the October meeting will have more updates on the actual restoration process.

Regarding Waterside Drive, Wassmer relayed the outcome of his meeting with Commissioner Feld and residents in early June along with an NPS representative to discuss issues related to drivers going in the wrong lane, speeding, and general safety concerns on accessing Waterside Drive. He stated that DDOT action is limited at this location because most of it is under NPS purview. Wassmer is working on a TSI to install flex posts at Waterside Drive and Mass Ave to deter drivers from crossing over when they are taking a right turn from Mass Ave coming East turning South onto Waterside Drive.

Wassmer mentioned there is also a TSI for flex posts at Mass and Belmont where there is an ongoing issue of illegal parking.

Neighbor Kindy French asks what being 'in the queue' for TSIs means and Wassmer explains how DDOT selects TSI locations to evaluate every year and not all TSIs can be evaluated. Commissioner Feld asks how to prioritize specific TSIs in the queue. Wassmer says you can ask your Councilmember to prioritize a TSI, but DDOT has their own method that includes proximity to schools and parks, vulnerable road users, proximity to metro stations, volume of traffic, type of road etc.

Wassmer provided an update on the Columbia Road bike lanes. Chair Warren asked if DDOT was planning to repaint the missing crosswalk by the L2/42/43 bus stop at Columbia Rd NW and California St NW that has been missing since the construction was complete. Wassmer says he will look into it.

Commissioner Feld asks for update on the Dupont Deckover Project. Wassmer says they have started receiving bids for the project.



Neighbor Kindy French asks about traffic study of the Mass Ave bus stop. Wassmer says DDOT's policy has been to assume they are in the ideal locations unless they receive concerns or issues from bus drivers.

New Business

Mitchell Park Fall Fun Day

Chair Warren moves to approve the permit for Mitchell Park Fall Fun Day on 10/27 Sunday from 230-5 at Mitchell Park. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

HRPB Application for 2525 Belmont Road NW

The architect representing the residents of 2525 Belmont Road NW presented plans which included a series of small additions to the home. The Sheridan Kalorama Historic Association stated they do not object to the plans for the design. The Sheridan Kalorama Neighborhood Council also did not object.

Chair Warren moves to approve the HRPB Application for 2525 Belmont Road NW. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Platinum Club DC

Mahesh Patel, the new owner and landlord of Platinum DC, formerly known as Assets, introduces himself and encourages neighbors to reach out to them should they have issues with the establishment.

Neighbor Marie Drissel thanks Patel for changing the name and asks if he will paint the whole place purple. Patel says he thought about it but he would talk to neighbors before doing so and for now he will keep the façade neutral with perhaps a purple stripe. He does not want to the building to stick out too much.

Old Business

Update on Efforts Regarding Noise at 2301 S Street NW

A group of neighbors are pursuing several avenues with the city and State Department at this stage but are encountering resistance. Neighbors report that the DOB is refusing to get involved, claiming there is no enforcement possible and that they will not send anyone to measure the noise level. Another issue is that the sound engineer they typically send does not work during the main hours of the noise, so neighbors cannot get official help to measure the noise level.

Commissioner Feld reiterates that this is untenable and that ANC has tried to engage many city agencies, OFM, MPD, etc. to no avail.



Neighbor Pierre De Lucy mentions the potential impact this could have on property values as some people are already wanting to move because they cannot live their daily lives with the unhealthy noise.

Chair Warren asks White from Councilmember Pinto's office how the two proposed sound bills will help this situation. White says the Amplified Sound Mitigation Act will lower the decibel level allowed. Neighbors repeat that this will not help, because they have been told that a decibel reading isn't enforceable anyways and if the DOB won't come to read it decibels the first place, lower decibel limits will not matter.

Commissioner Feld motioned to pass a resolution asking the Council to develop clear and enforceable remedies for this noise issue. Chair Warren seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

One neighbor shared that he has been assaulted by the protesters making the noise two separate times and that he has video of the assaults and threats of violence. He was encouraged to report these to the Attorney General's Office.

Announcements and Open Comments

Chair Warren asked Neighbor Robyn Lipton to say a few words about running for the 2D01 ANC seat. Lipton introduced herself and spoke about how she is looking forward to running for the position.

Neighbor Maliha Luqman announced that the local Fazl Mosque would be featured in an exhibit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. There is one photo in the video reel on display of the Fazl Mosque and neighbors are invited to view it. The exhibit showcases Chinatown and the martial arts scene in DC and is called Sightlines Chinatown and Beyond and will be open until November 2025. She also announced that there will be a Quran Exhibition at the Fazl Mosque that has over 50 translations of the holy Quran on October 5th – 10th from 2PM to 7 PM – walk ins are welcome.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, October 7th, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.