



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday June 10th, 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 7:02 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda

Chair Warren noted that the approval of Films in the Field would be added to the agenda under New Business and moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda with this addition. 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 April and May meeting minutes. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$17,862.25.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Feld thanked volunteer Peter Sacco for bringing the equipment to the meeting and helping the ANC continue its operations. Chair Warren echoes these thanks.

Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Lt. Forrest provided an update on crime in the area, including nightclub crime south of Dupont Circle. She noted that theft from automobiles are continuously going down and that the mountain bike and foot police officers are continuing to patrol.



Lt. Forrest announced that Kicking it with 2D would be held on Saturday June 22nd at 9:00am at 1625 P Street NW at Stead Park. It is a kickball event for the whole community to have fun and talk about safety.

Homeless outreach will take place at the CVS at Dupont Circle by P Street NW on June 26. The purpose is to engage the homeless population to see where they can be assisted.

Commissioner Feld asked for details about a diplomatic car window that was smashed on Tracy Place. Lt. Forrest explained that Secret Service is handling that case and has not yet provided an update.

Commissioner Feld raised the parking issues at Belmont Road NW and Mass Ave NW and asked if MPD could assist in addressing the dangerous illegal parking. Lt. Forrest suggested the ANC and neighbors write to DPW about ticketing.

Neighbor Don Friedman also spoke about the dangerous illegal parking issue at Belmont Road NW and Mass Ave NW to reiterate it is an everyday event and that not only can you not turn right off Mass Ave onto Belmont RD due to dangerous, illegal parking but it is an issue at multiple intersections in the neighborhood and people are parking illegally close to driveways so that some cannot exit their driveway onto the street. He said it is not a recent event but has been an ongoing everyday event for quite a while. He stressed that 311 doesn't work because it asks about a particular car at a particular time and this issue is about multiple cars a lot of the time.

Friedman also asked about an alleged violent incident at the corner of 2301 S Street NW, he did not know details but had seen MPD onsite. Lt. Forrest said that she will look into information about this.

Mayor's Office

Christopher Powell, a representative of the Mayor's Office attended the meeting.

Powell shared updates including events happening during Pride Month. He announced that next year will be the 50th anniversary of the first pride parade in DC it will be a big celebration that is expected to bring \$2 million in revenue to DC.

He explained a new program aimed at getting high-dollar scofflaw vehicles off street. The program has already towed more than 75 vehicles worth more than \$654k in unpaid fines and booted more vehicles that represented \$1.68 million in unpaid fines, as part of the vision zero strategy. DPW is soon procuring a new impound lot which will be able to store approximately 300 vehicles.

Chair Warren asked if this effort was towing and booting cars with Maryland and Virginia plates or other out of state cars as well as DC cars. Powell said he will find out.

Powell said crime continues to trend downward compared to the same time last year and that violent crime is down 27% year-over-year.

He announced that every Sunday in June there will be a free go-go concert on top of MLK Jr. Library downtown.



Commissioner Feld asked about the plan for replacement of the call box, and expressed that the ANC would appreciate the Mayor's Office helping in ensure this is quickly resolved.

Commissioner Feld also mentioned that a meeting about the Spanish Steps occurred recently and a budget request was submitted, but it has stalled. She expressed that we need the Mayor's Office to help us push this along because the budget is stuck in General Services. Powell says he will inquire about this.

Councilmember's Office

Maddy White, a representative of Councilmember Pinto's Office attended the meeting.

White reported that budget votes are ongoing and that the Councilmember is working closely with colleagues to restore, find, and protect funding for public safety, downtown investments, small businesses, educational investments, affordable housing, and LGBTQ+ communities.

White said that Councilmember Pinto does not support the tax increases included in the current budget – one for employers (a tax of .26% of current wages would go up to .62% of current wages) reflecting what employers pay for each of their employees and one regarding property taxes (residential property taxes for homes valued over \$2.5 million are currently taxed at 85 cents for every \$100 of assessed value but under the new tax will be taxed that same rate for the first \$2.5 million and then \$1 for every \$100 of assessed value.)

Neighbor Don Friedman raised that he read in the Washington Post that this tax was not supporting any particular program benefiting residents but was going to the city's "general operating fund."

White said that while Councilmember Pinto does not support these, they are believed to be less drastic tax increases than other Councilmembers would like and they are in the current budget.

White said Councilmember Pinto supports the following budget items: more funding for sworn officers of MPD, access to justice and victims service grants, safe passage and violence interruption, the Best Act to streamline business licensing and funding office to residential and mixed-use conversion, Downtown Recovery Act to bring people and attractions downtown, investing in WMATA, and pay equity fund for early childcare educators.

White mentioned that DC Health is hosting a 2-day free to the public rodent control academy on July 10 and July 11.

Commissioner Feld asked about the proposed noise legislation, the missing call box, and if Councilmember Pinto would vote for the residential property tax increases.

White said that she will check in on the first two issues. She also said that Pinto doesn't support taxes but right now they are in the budget and the budget will likely be voted "yes" on by the Councilmember.



Commissioner Feld also asked about the funding for the arts, which she noted seems to be missing from all budget conversations. She noted how the arts lift all, and the arts including culinary arts should be prioritized in budget conversations.

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

Christophe Wassmer, a representative of DDOT, attended the meeting. He suggested that residents make TSIs regarding issues in the neighborhood.

He also shared an automated traffic enforcement update and said tickets are being issued now from the cameras at Florida Ave NW and Connecticut Ave NW. He shared data about the amount of tickets issued so far.

He provided a recap of a meeting at Waterside Drive NW and Mass Ave NW on May 30th where those present discussed how DDOT and NPS can improve safety at this intersection. DDOT will install use right lane only at all times signs at the intersection.

He said that the issue of dangerous illegal parking at Belmont Road and Mass Ave NW and the request for flexible pylons to prevent this have not been prioritized by DDOT as needing a traffic study. Commissioner Feld asked how we can expedite this issue at DDOT and Wassmer said DDOT received these requests all the time and in this case the dangerous illegal parking is not considered a drastic emergency.

He said that DDOT is having meetings with the contractor who is financially responsible for the replacement of the call box and that earlier that day Wassmer had visited the replacement call box at the warehouse. He said DDOT is still in communication with the vendor who will repair the call box.

Old Business

A representative from Films in the Field shared the following schedule of sunset films at Mitchell Park for Summer 2024: June 20 (Avengers), June 25 (Casino Royale), August 22 (Princess Bride), September 15 (Wonka).

Chair Warren moved to approve the permit for Films in the Field, Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

New Business

Social Housing Presentation

Rep John Qua from Metro DC DSA and DC for Democracy attended the meeting and gave a presentation on Social Housing in DC. The purpose of the presentation is to make people aware of and raise support for the Green New Deal for Social Housing.

Chair Warren asked is the plan for 1Br, 2 Br, or 3 Br apartments? Qua responded that they are oriented more towards families so 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms should be prioritized.



Chair Warren asked who would manage the properties – a government body like DCHD or DOB or something else? Qua said there would likely be a whole new department functioning through contractors.

Commissioner Feld asked about ownership – how would the project have money to start off? Qua said they are working on budgeting to show if the city put in this amount, this much housing could happen.

Neighbor Rodrigo Valderrama questioned relying solely on electricity when you see what has happened with Texas, and stated he hopes they would consider something more than just electricity. Qua says that getting buildings in DC off gas hookups is one of top ways for DC to reach its climate goals.

Announcements and Open Comments

Neighbor Deborah Shapley shared that she enjoyed the presentations.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, September 9th, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.