



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024; 7:00 p.m.

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

Call to Order

Chair 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 with the addition of JR Russ from the DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities. Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's February 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Chair Warren thanked former Executive Director of the ANC, Peter Sacco, for continuing to assist the ANC in a volunteer capacity.

Chair Warren alerted neighbors that an exhibition of the Holy Quran would be on display at Woodbridge Neighborhood Library (March 30th 11-2) and West End Library (April 3 3:30-6:30) during Ramadan which she had heard from the American Fazl Mosque located in 2D02.

Commissioner Feld seconded thanks for Peter Sacco's assistance as a volunteer to the ANC.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Feld said that the current balance for the ANC's checking account is \$17,806.25.



With the exiting of Peter Sacco, Chair Warren moved to approve the ANC's purchase of up to \$3,000 of tech and electrical equipment such as a projector, a webcam, a tripod, a dongle, and speaker, and in case we need to purchase a laptop in order to continue to offer hybrid meetings. Equipment had previously been shared with other ANCs and ferried around by Peter. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Government Reports

Metropolitan Police Department

Sergeant Robinson gave an update of recent crime in the last 30 days including trends in the broader area around ANC 2D.

Commissioner Feld asked about the crime drop and Sergeant Robinson clarified it was from month to month. He emphasized the importance of extra officers who are working on the midnight shift in the club zone.

A resident, Lucy Conboy, asked about an update regarding an attempted robbery on California St. NW (between 24th and Mass.) within the last month. Supposedly, it was the 4th time the robber had been picked up. Sergeant Robinson said he saw no burglaries or record of an unlawful arrest. He would follow up on this and get back.

Chair Warren mentioned that there has been package theft in the area in condos and apartment buildings and that the MPD has advised management of these buildings that the only people who can report stolen property are those whose packages were stolen. Management of multi-family buildings cannot report the theft. Chair Warren encouraged residents who live in a multi-family building and have had packages stolen to report them.

Sergeant Robinson reminded residents that there are Amazon Lock Boxes outside of the police station in the 2nd district where you can have packages from Amazon delivered.

Mayor's Office

Talib Shakir, Dep. Director of Community Relations Services from the Mayor's Office, attended the meeting and gave updates regarding crime and public safety. He talked about the latest crime bill that the Mayor just signed a crime bill into law sending a message to address crime in the District and discussed other crime prevention actions. He reported that budget season is upon us and the Mayor welcomes ANC comments about crime in their respective communities. And the Mayor's current focus is the budget, a good time to push what ANCs would like to see in the budget.

Chair Warren asked if the Mayor's Office had a comment regarding the future of TOPA provisions. TOPA is the "Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act," allows tenants to have a say on who is buying their building as long as the building has 5 more units or more. It's important to retain long term tenants and keep the spirit of the community. Mr. Shakir said he would follow up on this as he hasn't heard the mayor make any remarks re: TOPA, and he will look to see if there is anything in the budget regarding this. He or Christopher Powell will follow up with an email.



Commissioner Feld asked about the status of the sports teams and the implications for downtown. Talib Shakir responded that the mayor created the Gallery Place Chinatown Taskforce to work on rejuvenating downtown. She also created the “hub” location, where additional MPD are stationed, and there’s been a decline of loitering, and drug abuse in the area. He also responded that the Mayor has not made any public statements regarding whether or not Monumental Sports will move to VA.

Councilmember Pinto’s Office

Brian Romanowski, a representative from Councilmember Pinto’s office attended the meeting. He mentioned that Secure DC, Councilmember Pinto’s public safety bill passed with a 12-0 vote. He thanked the mayor for her collaboration in this.

He reported that Councilmember Pinto is also working on a Dram Shop Reform Bill passed last week and Councilmember Pinto made budget suggestions to the Mayor. Bill deals with liquor licenses and liability insurance for businesses, with the intention that the requirements and costs are more in line with other state’s laws because the current laws are too expensive. Overarching goals is that businesses don’t leave or not come to DC because of overwhelming costs. He also discussed the upcoming budget and Councilmember Pinto’s priorities for the budget. He said that Chair Mendelsohn is ready to implement the deal on the table with Monumental Sports, unlike VA, DC has a unified government, and the Council is prepared to move forward with that deal. He also talked about a bill to regulate and enforce loud vehicular noise.

Chair Warren asked about noise legislation and if it would move forward and Brian Romanowski said that legislation is forthcoming to make it easier to file a noise complaint, referencing the noise outside of the Chinese ambassador’s house.

Commissioner Feld asked about legislation that would allow for the management of multi-family buildings to act on behalf of residents in terms of reporting package theft, in order to have MPD apprehend the suspect immediately instead of having to let them go if the owner of the package didn’t report the theft.

Resident Marie Drissel spoke about a woman who had her stolen car towed to an impound lot by city agencies, without being informed and how the high bill to release her car from the impound lot was not fair to the victim of the crime, and she didn’t have enough money to get her stolen car out of the impound lot. It took a news story to fix it.

New Business

Historic Preservation Review Board Concept Application for Comprehensive Interior Renovations with a Stairwell Addition, Parking Area Improvements, and Garage Demo at 2300 Kalorama Road NW

The Thai Embassy presented plans to renovate this building into a “Thai House” to showcase culture and host events. Chair Warren moved to pass a resolution to HPRB saying the ANC approves of this plan. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).



Discussion of Client's Intentions and Presentation of Renderings for the Proposed Project at 2201 R Street NW (site of the former Pakistani embassy building)

A representative for the new owner of 2201 R Street NW, Josh Akers who flew in from Texas, shared a preliminary plan for the building's development. He spoke of plans to complete the project by March 2025 and said the owner is considering different options including several rentals units per floor and exploring garage parking as well. Also working to unify the exterior. Commissioners and residents asked questions about the plans for the building and Josh Akers reiterated all plans are preliminary, hope to solidify what they're going to do in the next few weeks. Will be presenting finalized plans shortly. Want to take zoning from a R3 to RA1. Commissioner Feld stated that the building is currently wrongly classified as an embassy and that is supposed to change as well as the "blight" designation.

Update from the Commission of the Arts and Humanities

JR Russ, Public Affairs Specialist from the DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities shared information about ongoing grants and financial support for the arts and humanities in the District. Commissioner Feld asked about rumored cuts to the Commission, and JR Russ said, that there aren't cuts per se, but they are talking to Council about being able to continue. To grow the budget like they have done over the past few years. Interested citizens should lobby their Councilmember to continue to support the growth of the Commission in the upcoming budget.

Spanish Steps Event on March 16th, 2024, at 10:00 am

Chair Warren moved to approve this application for an event on the Spanish Steps. Commissioner Feld seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Combined Annual Meeting of Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Organizations – Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, 6:00 pm, Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S Street NW

Chair Warren reminded residents of this annual meeting and come early to get a seat.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Warren said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday, April 8 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.