

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 27th, 2023; 6:30 p.m. Online via Zoom

Call to Order - 6:32 pm

Commissioner Elizabeth Miller called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Topher Mathews (2E02), Paul Maysak (2E03), Joe Massaua (2E04), Mimsy Lindner (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), Elizabeth Miller (2E07), and John DiPierri (2E08) were present.

Approval of the ANC's February 27th, 2023 Meeting Agenda - 6:32 pm

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's February 27th, 2023 meeting agenda. Commissioner Massaua seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's January 30th, 2023 Meeting Minutes - 6:32 pm

Commissioner Massaua moved to approve the ANC's January 30th, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Administrative - 6:33 pm

Public Safety and Police Report - 6:33 pm

Sergeant Philip Robinson, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Announcement Regarding the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia's Ward 2 Listening Session on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 6:30 pm - 6:48 pm

Commissioner Lohse made an announcement regarding the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia's Ward 2 Listening Session on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Community Comment - 6:49 pm

Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto - 6:49 pm

Councilmember Brooke Pinto gave an update regarding her work on the DC Council.

Update from the Mayor's Office - 7:10 pm

Grace Reeder and Christopher Powell, the Ward 2 representatives for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave an update from the Mayor's Office.

<u>Update from the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection Regarding Short Term Rentals -</u> <u>7:24 pm</u>

Paul Caswell, an Account Manager for the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DCLP), and Steve Thompson, a Program Analyst for DLCP, gave an update regarding short term rentals.

Update from the Manager of the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study - 7:42 pm

Ted Van Houten, a Transportation Planner for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave an update regarding the Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study.

Update from Gallery Article 15 Regarding the Company's Vision for Georgetown - 8:00 pm

Elizabeth Jaffee, the owner of Gallery Article 15, gave an update regarding the company's vision for Georgetown.

Update from Georgetown University Students - 8:20 pm

Commissioner Massaua gave an update regarding Georgetown University students.

New Business - 8:22 pm

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding ANC 2E's FY 2024 Budget Priorities - 8:22 pm

Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E urges you to include the below priorities in your FY 2024 proposed budget. The top three projects listed will provide real-world educational benefits to our young residents and the community at-large. Moreover, one of the projects can further align our community's efforts to educate visitors about Georgetown's and our city's African American history, a goal you and your staff consistently have stated you want to support. Councilmember Pinto's February 13, 2023 letter to you regarding her Ward 2 budget priorities included many of those presented below.

Hardy Middle School:

- Expand Common Spaces: Hardy Middle School will be at full capacity next year with an anticipated 600 students. A complete upgrade to the auditorium and cafeteria is needed. New lockers also are needed.
- Teacher and Administrative Positions: Hardy Middle School will grow by almost 10% next year, but is sorely lacking vital teachers in visual arts, drama, and STEM, as well as key administrative roles, including an additional Assistant Principal, an additional office staff position, and one behavioral specialist.

<u>Mt. Zion Church:</u> Reinforce and improve the physical structure of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Mt. Zion is the oldest African American congregation in Washington, DC, formed

by free and enslaved African Americans. The church buildings played a role in the Underground Railroad. The structures represent a microcosm of the African American journey in America. Renovations are needed for the structural integrity of the buildings so that they can continue on as a key part of our city's African American education landmarks, and so that this historic landmark can be accessible to all no matter their physical abilities. (\$1,500,000)

<u>Book Hill and Triangle Park:</u> Green spaces are integral to the well-being of our city and residents, providing respite, gathering spaces, and biodiversity. At the triangle park, funding is needed to transform the parklet into a visually appealing programmable community asset for visitors, residents, and businesses. It will function as a gateway and demarcation of the Book Hill neighborhood. At Book Hill Park, funding is needed for irrigation, mending and painting the fence, building out the garden, and providing tables and benches. (\$200,000)

Beyond these ANC-specific projects, ANC 2E echoes support for the following requests from our Ward 2 Councilmember:

- The need to bolster public safety, including adequate staffing, recruitment, and training for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).
- Transportation related priorities, especially the need for expanded bus service and work on the C&O Canal; plus, Councilmember Frumin's request to purchase the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle, understanding that analysis is needed on how this space would best complement our city's green network options.
- A more comprehensive approach to rodent management for businesses and residences; rodent management has become a public health issue for our city.

ANC 2E welcomes the opportunity to speak about our support for these needed projects.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Leaf Collection - 8:27 pm

Chair Miller moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E is reaching out to express concern about the timing, communication, and execution of the DC's leaf collection program.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) exist to bring "government closer to the people and to bring the people closer to government." To that end, ANC 2E works hard to communicate DC Government policy and programs to our neighbors via community listservs, newsletters, and media.

Last fall, ANC 2E used all outlets available to make our constituents aware of DC's leaf collection program. The ANC posted to our local listservs, newsletters, and media requesting that residents rake leaves into tree boxes in late November. As you are likely aware, the Department of Public Works (DPW) was scheduled to remove the accumulated leaves here in Georgetown and Burleith between November 28th and December 3rd. However, DPW staff did not begin collecting our piles of leaves until late December, weeks behind schedule. This delay is a repeat of 2020 and 2021.

It was extremely frustrating for our residents to rush to have leaves neatly raked into tree boxes only to wait for weeks for them to be collected with no updates from your agency. Furthermore, the deteriorating situation became dangerous at a certain point when leaves became wet and froze in clumps, causing dangerous conditions for pedestrians. As you may or may not be aware, Georgetown has very old infrastructure and older and narrower pipes can become clogged from uncollected leaves.

Further, many of our neighbors bagged their leaves into paper bags, as required by DC, and called 3-1-1 for pick up only to have the paper bags sit for weeks and ultimately break down with leaves scattering the sidewalks, roads, and alleys.

ANC 2E requests the following of DPW:

- A final 2023 leaf collection in Georgetown and Burleith; leaves are everywhere as you will see in the attached photos (Attachment A) and the city has a responsibility to its residents to execute on this basic city service,
- An entirely new communications and collection plan for fall 2023 based on experience to date; recommendations include:
 - Announce the order of zones to be collected and then tweet, email, and post as each zone is finished and collection in another zone is about to begin versus announcing specific dates and zones at the start of the season only to have them missed and confusion to arise,
 - Ensure the leaf collection tracker system is fully functional and accurate or remove it from the DPW site entirely, and
 - Perform regular community pick ups of leaves in brown paper bags rather than relying on residents to call 3-1-1.

ANC 2E has confidence that progress can be made next fall. DC's leaf collection program is certainly broken, but the ANC sees this problem as an opportunity to innovate and implement a new system that works for all residents of the District of Columbia.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Saving the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle - 8:32 pm

Commissioner Massaua moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports Councilmember Matt Frumin's FY 2024 budget ask to include \$3 million to purchase and stabilize the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle.

The 1896 Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle is a vital part of history, carrying trolleys from the Georgetown Car Barn to Glen Echo. As the only trestle remaining in the district, ANC 2E supports the efforts of the DC Preservation League (DCPL) to preserve the trestle and remove ownership from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which is actively seeking to raze this trestle.

ANC 2E strongly urges WMATA to sell for \$1 the trestle to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), who will accept and undergo land negotiations for a potential swap with neighboring parcels.

History

Built in 1896 for the Washington and Great Falls Electric Railway Company, the bridge was part of the streetcar line that connected Georgetown in the District of Columbia with Glen Echo, Maryland. Streetcar service continued through the first half of the twentieth century and eventually ended in 1960. That same year, DC Transit took over ownership of the bridge, but since the streetcar line was no longer in service, its condition languished in subsequent years.

The elevated railway bridge has been owned by WMATA since 1997 and located, in part, within the boundary of the National Park Service's (NPS) designated Glover Archbold Park (U.S. Reservation 450). In 2007, the trestle was included as a contributing resource in the Glover Archbold Park National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) designation.

According to NPS in its June 2022 Determination of Effect, "The Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge is the last remaining streetcar bridge in the District of Columbia. The NPS has previously voiced its support for stabilizing and preserving the trestle and continues to maintain this position. While the NPS is opposed to the demolition of the trestle, the structure is owned by WMATA, so we have no authority over its ultimate disposition. While we support the retention and preservation of the trestle, a viable solution has not yet been presented for this to happen. For this reason, we are moving forward with Section 106 (NHPA) review of the demolition."

December 2019 Adaptive Reuse Feasibility (\$2,751,000 estimated cost)

"The dimensions of the bridge are 252 feet long by 19 feet wide. The primary framing consists of a pair of underslung steel trusses spanning 100 feet (Figure 3) and a series of steel braced frame approach trestles and concrete abutments on the far east and west sides. The approach trestles are supported on rectangular concrete footings. The top of the bridge has zero grade from end to end. The approach trestles and truss span consist of a combination of I-shapes, channels, angles, WT's, and rods, with riveted connections."

Local Importance

The Glover-Archbold Trail section beneath the trestle has been closed since 2016 and the bridge right of way has been closed since 2003. Residents and students alike indicate that the trail was popular and a strong connection with Foxhall and the Capital Crescent Trail.

Georgetown University and Foxhall communities benefit the most from the proposed transfer and restoration of the trestle, as potential restoration could ensure a pedestrian and multiuse connection between Georgetown and Foxhall.

Next Steps

Undergoing a cost-benefit analysis, ANC 2E expresses support for the preservation, estimated at \$350,000, and further restoration, estimated between \$2 million and \$4 million.

Thus, ANC 2E urges DDOT to purchase the trestle from WMATA and to undergo a landswap process for neighboring parcels. The ANC supports Councilmember Frumin's budget proposal for funds to be disbursed to DDOT to restore the trestle.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Fixing the Foundry Branch Tunnel - 8:37 pm

Commissioner Mathews recused himself from voting on this matter.

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

ANC 2E notes that the Foundry Branch Tunnel connecting Canal Road NW and the Capital Crescent Trail is in a state of disrepair. This tunnel connects students, residents, and commuters alike to Georgetown University and the Foxhall neighborhood. This tunnel is dirty and not sufficiently lit for pedestrian safety.

Thus, ANC 2E requests that the National Park Service (NPS) develops a plan to clean the tunnel of graffiti and implement sufficient lighting. Furthermore, the ANC requests regular maintenance to ensure that this tunnel never again falls into such a predicament.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioner Joe Massaua to negotiate with NPS to develop a solution for students, residents, and commuters alike.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Community Transportation Improvements that Can Help Students, Families, and Staff Travel To and From the New MacArthur High School - 8:39 pm

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, this August, in just six months, the new DC Public Schools (DCPS) high school on MacArthur Boulevard NW (commonly called "MacArthur High School" until another name is chosen) will begin educating our community's young scholars, and

WHEREAS, this school will have fewer public transit options than any DCPS high school in our city – far fewer – with namely just one bus route.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that Mayor Bowser, the DC Council, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and DCPS works together this spring and summer and beyond to explore and fund transportation options for the community and for the students and staff of the new MacArthur High School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2E joins ANC 3D and Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin's budget request (Attachment A, relevant section is on page 6) in asking for

funding more public Metrobus or DC Circulator service in our community with new routes that include the new MacArthur High School, as well as increasing existing service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2E also joins ANC 3D and Councilmember Frumin in asking for consideration of safer pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to connect our communities and our constituents to their new in-boundary high school. The ANC requests that relevant agencies solicit robust community input on any proposals.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Rose Park Farmers Market - 8:51 pm

Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Maysak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the Friends of Rose Park's application to stage the 2023 Rose Park Farmers Market in Rose Park, located at 2609 Dumbarton Street NW.

The market serves as a wonderful community-based gathering spot, while also providing residents with a place to shop for locally grown produce, buy pre-prepared food, purchase items from small local businesses, and enjoy special events like guest DJs. Moreover, the market may continue to offer residents the ability to receive COVID testing and flu vaccinations. The ANC fully supports this fantastic community building effort.

Consideration of a Resolution Congratulating Burleith on its Centennial - 8:54 pm

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

On the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of Burleith, ANC 2E offers congratulations and best wishes to all residents of the neighborhood.

Burleith is made up of wonderful people of all ages living in 535 residences bounded by Reservoir Road NW, 35th Street NW, 39th Street NW, and Whitehaven Parkway NW.

Burleith is truly a village in the city, with a hiking club, a dinner club, a garden club, and a wonderful picnic every summer open to the entire community and organized by the Burleith Citizens Association.

ANC 2E resolves to wish Burleith all the best in this centennial year and good luck for the century ahead!

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Technical Fund Grant Application for the ANC 2E Website - 8:57 pm

Commissioner Massaua moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E authorizes Treasurer Joe Massaua (Commissioner, 2E04) to apply for the technical assistance fund to secure funds for a website redesign.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board - 8:58 pm

Application by Sandlot Georgetown for a New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License at 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue NW - 8:58 pm

Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E protests Sandlot Georgetown's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license at 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. The ANC agrees to withdraw the protest when a satisfactory settlement agreement is executed by the ANC and the applicant and presented to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for approval.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse to negotiate and execute a settlement agreement with the applicant. The ANC further authorizes Commissioner Lohse and/or ANC 2E Executive Director Peter Sacco to represent the ANC at all hearings concerning the matter.

Public Space Committee - 9:12 pm

Public Space Application by Café Milano for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 7 Tables, 18 Seats, and 7 Umbrellas at 3251 Prospect Street NW #C3 - 9:12 pm

Commissioner Maysak moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the application for continued use of the public space per the submitted plans. The ANC notes that the sidewalk cafe is ADA-compliant with sufficient access on the sidewalk for public use. Café Milano has been an excellent neighbor in the community and the ANC welcomes their continued success.

Public Space Application by DIG for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 7 Tables and 16 Seats at 1301 Wisconsin Avenue NW - 9:23 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the application by DIG, located at 1301 Wisconsin Avenue NW, to use the outdoor space that is associated with their building footprint as well as the public space on the N Street NW side of the restaurant. The plan for eight seats under a retractable awning, one being ADA-compliant for a wheelchair, and eight alongside the building is a great

addition and use of space. It is understood that there will be seven tables and sixteen seats and that there will be no amplified music.

ANC 2E welcomes a dining establishment who partners with, and values, minority owned and small scale local area farms.

Old Georgetown Board - 9:34 pm

SMD 2E02 - OG 23-108 (HPA 23-182) 1689 35th Street, NW - 9:34 pm

Commissioner Mathews moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

With regards to the application for 1689 35th Street NW, ANC 2E does not take a position on the proposed changes to the rear of the house but encourages the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) to consider closely the impact that the proposed change would have on the historic sleeping porch on the rear of the house. The ANC also notes that the applicant has publicly promised not to construct the necessary curb cut without seeking the required approvals from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).

SMD 2E02 - OG 23-131 (HPA 23-205) 3419 R Street, NW - 9:39 pm

Commissioner Mathews moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

With regards to the application for the alley lots adjacent to 3419 R Street NW, ANC 2E supports the applicant's proposal to subdivide the alley lots and to construct an alley building on the merged lot. The ANC supports the general concept proposed by the applicant but encourages the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) to consider closely the impact to the adjacent neighbors' light and privacy caused by the height and massing of the building, and in particular to take a close look at the second story alley-facing windows proposed for the eastern facade. The ANC strongly encourages the applicant to use her property for construction staging and to minimize any impact to the alley during construction. The ANC would like to note that its support for this particular project was largely influenced by the quality of the proposed design and the unique features of this property, particularly the fact that the only residential lot directly abutting the proposed alley building is the applicant's own.

SMD 2E03 - OG 23-128 (HPA 23-202) 1524 33rd Street, NW - 9:56 pm

Commissioner Maysak moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E has no comment regarding this project, mainly because the visible aspect of the application from the street has minimal impact. However, the ANC does share and wants to note concerns from the property's neighbor to the south.

Taken as a whole, the redevelopment of this property, including extensive excavation under the historic building, construction of the new townhouses on Volta Place NW, and what appears to be clear-cutting of all the trees on the property, will impose a significant burden on the neighbors both in the short-term (construction-related traffic, noise, and potential damage) and longer-term (potential for traffic from the communal parking area that could impact the neighbor's easement, the loss of mature tree canopy, and possible storm water runoff).

The excavation of essentially an entire floor underneath a roughly 200-year old building which is next door to another historic property is concerning in terms of possible irreversible damage that could easily occur to the subject home or the neighbor.

The applicant is encouraged to sequence its construction activities in order to protect adjacent properties and to minimize impacts, including sequencing the work so as not to block the longstanding easement that the neighbor has across the property.

SMD 2E03 - OG 23-134 (HPA 23-208) 1431 33rd Street, NW - 10:14 pm

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

While ANC 2E does not typically support roof decks, the ANC has no objection to the application returning to the size of the roof deck shown in photos on page three and the floor plans on page ten of the submitted plans, reflecting what existed on the home for very many years prior to the developers' purchase and remodeling.

SMD 2E05 - OG 23-120 (HPA 23-194) 2900-2922 M Street, NW, 1132 29th Street, NW - 10:22 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E appreciates the huge undertaking of this project and notes that the applicant is currently working hard to respect the integrity of the buildings, particularly by keeping and restoring the facades on this block. The demolition cited in the plans appears to be cosmetic in nature with a goal to return the building facade to an original state. It is also clear that the goal is to create a space in the rear for future development. The ANC does not want this current development project to be financially dependent on future approvals and development of the interior site.

At this juncture ANC 2E supports the plans for the 2900-2922 M Street NW and 1132 29th Street NW site(s).

SMD 2E05 - OG 22-177 (HPA 22-308) 3299 K (Water) Street, NW - 10:31 pm

Commissioner Lindner 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 appreciates the efforts being made to add a bit of life to the K Street NW and Water Street NW corridor where additional amenities are needed. The ANC also appreciates that with amenities there is sometimes a disruption to the quality of life for those residing in these areas. ANC 2E requests that the building owners and developer truly evaluate the impact that these changes would have on the community as a whole, as well as those who live so closely to and would be most affected by any changes.

ANC 2E will be prepared to further discuss any concerns about peace, order, and quiet if, and when, there are additional applications for this project.

ANC 2E has no comment regarding the signage plan and new door opening. However, the ANC strongly encourages that there be meaningful conversations between all parties affected by this proposed change, including with regards to the restaurant and bar entrance that would be directly under residences.

SMD 2E06 - OG 23-087 (HPA 23-150) 1408 28th Street, NW - 10:44 pm

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

This home is one half of a set of 1850s twin attached Victorian homes. In comparison to the first proposal that ANC 2E reviewed last month from this applicant, this second proposal for the address is a significant improvement. That being said, as the ANC noted during the initial proposal, third floor additions in public view are very uncommon in historic Georgetown. The ANC requests that the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) carefully examines the impact that this proposed third floor mass would have on Georgetown's historic architectural character and streetscape, including the flow of light and similar second story homes.

ANC 2E also notes that the application removed the initially proposed new third floor outdoor deck. The ANC fully supports this removal given that the privacy and peace of neighboring properties can be compromised by higher decks whose associated garden is part of a larger green space.

Adjournment - 10:53 pm

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:53 pm.