



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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, February 3rd, 2020; 6:30 p.m.  
Georgetown Visitation School, Heritage Room – 1524 35th Street NW

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Joe Gibbons (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 February 3rd, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's February 3rd, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's January 7th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve the ANC's January 7th, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0).

**Administrative**

Public Safety and Police Report

Commander Duncan Bedlion and Lieutenant Ashley Mancuso, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

**Community Commendation**

Community Commendation for Amr Kotb, a Ward 2 Representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Chair Murphy presented a Community Commendation to Amr Kotb, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS).

**Community Comment**

Update from the Mayor's Office

Mr. Kotb gave an update from the Mayor's Office.

### Presentation by Verizon Regarding the Recent Service Outage in the Neighborhood

Mario Acosta-Velez, the Director of State Government Affairs for Verizon's Mid-Atlantic Region; David Capozzi, an Associate General Counsel for Verizon; and Candice Austin, a Director of State Government Affairs for Verizon, gave a presentation regarding the company's recent service outage in the neighborhood.

### Presentation by Jamestown Regarding the Proposed Artists & Fleas Establishment for the Former Dean & DeLuca Space at 3276 M Street NW

Kristen Morris, the Director of Retail Leasing for Jamestown, gave a presentation regarding the proposed Artists & Fleas establishment for the former Dean & DeLuca space at 3276 M Street NW.

### Presentation by Trees for Georgetown Regarding a Ginkgo Clean Up Pilot Program

Betsy Emes, the Chair of Trees for Georgetown, gave a presentation regarding the organization's Ginkgo clean up pilot program.

### Presentation of the ANC's Monthly Small Business Recognition

Chair Murphy recognized Jaco Juice and Taco Bar at 1614 Wisconsin Avenue NW for the ANC's Monthly Small Business Recognition.

Albert DeVescovo, the Co-Founder of Jaco Juice and Taco Bar, accepted the recognition and provided an overview of the establishment.

### Update from Georgetown Main Street

Rachel Shank, the Executive Director of Georgetown Main Street, gave an update from the organization.

### Announcement Regarding the Georgetown Main Street's 2020 Small Business Assistance Grants

Commissioner Gibbons gave an announcement regarding Georgetown Main Street's 2020 small business assistance grants.

### Announcement Regarding the Proposed Metrobus Route Changes in the Neighborhood

Chair Murphy and Commissioner Putta gave an announcement regarding the proposed Metrobus route changes in the neighborhood.

### Other Public Announcements

Commissioner Gibbons gave an update regarding MPD's recent enforcement actions against the Mr. Nice Guys DC establishment at 1660 33rd Street NW.

### **New Business**

## Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed Transfer of Ellington Field to the Department of Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Putta moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Chair Murphy moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution in the nature of a substitute. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-2-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E believes that Ellington Field is an important resource for ANC 2E and nearby communities.

ANC 2E understands that neighbors and parents of students at nearby public schools have expressed opposition to the transfer of administrative responsibility for Ellington Field from the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

ANC 2E believes that regardless of which agency of the DC Government is charged with responsibility for management of Ellington Field, the following principles should be applied:

1. Public school students and, in particular, students of (in no particular order) Hardy Middle School, School Without Walls, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and Hyde-Addison Elementary School should have first priority access to the field at no cost to the respective schools. Specifically, no agreements should be entered into with any non-public organization that would deny or reduce access to the field to DCPS students for school-related activities,
2. The DC Government should make adequate funds available to renovate and improve the field and its associated facilities to make Ellington Field a first-class recreational asset; and
3. Going forward, before any significant decisions concerning management or future use of Ellington Field are made, a proposed usage plan that includes analysis of potential traffic, environmental, and lighting issues should be made available for public review and comment and the responsible agency should engage in active outreach to, and discussions with, residents and/or schools who may be impacted by the proposed usage plan, and the views of the potentially impacted residents and/or schools should be given great weight.

## Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed Changes to DC's Comprehensive Plan

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

ANC 2E has been asked to comment upon roughly 1,500 pages of proposed amendments to the District Elements of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. The Office of Planning, the author of the proposed amendments, tells us "the changes are substantive and constitute a major revision" to the Comprehensive Plan. ANC 2E believes the Office of Planning has understated the scope of the proposed amendments. What ANC 2E has been

asked to review is much more than a “major revision”; it can fairly be described as a completely new plan that has been prepared without the robust process of community engagement that led to the adoption of the 2006 plan.

ANC 2E will comment in detail upon the proposed amendments after receiving and considering comments from residents at a public meeting to be held on February 12, 2020, but as a preliminary matter, we comment now on a theme running through the proposed amendments that ANC 2E finds concerning. Many of the language changes proposed by the Office of Planning appear to be designed to give the Office of Planning more discretion in making decisions or in giving advice to other District agencies on issues that affect neighborhoods throughout the city. An example of this grant of expanded power is the simple change of a few words. Where the 2006 plan used words like “protect” and “preserve” when referring to neighborhoods, neighborhood character, and historic resources, the proposed amendments would delete those words and replace them with “respect.” The change may be subtle but it is very important. If the proposed amendments are adopted, the Office of Planning and other District agencies would no longer be directed to protect neighborhoods throughout the city. Instead, the agencies would be given the discretion to approve actions that could negatively affect a neighborhood as long as the neighborhood is “respected.”

That is but one example but it illustrates the point. ANC 2E is concerned that the document that is now before us is in reality a new Comprehensive Plan that has been produced by the Office of Planning without the active community and engagement that preceded adoption of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. To quote from that plan, isn’t it time for residents of Washington to participate in “an in-depth analysis of existing conditions and trends, and a fresh look at the City’s future”? ANC 2E urges the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia to defer action on the proposed amendments and to instead initiate a robust campaign of public engagement, including the formation of a Plan Revision Task Force, or a similar body made up of members who represent a broad cross-section of the residents of our city with the goal of preparing an entirely new Comprehensive Plan.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Metrorail Accessibility for Disabled Users

Commissioner Landre 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, 13% of residents in the District of Columbia have one or more disabilities that significantly impact their daily life, necessitating the presence of accessible public infrastructure,

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed 30 years ago and has yet to be fully implemented and complied with in the District, preventing the full inclusion and equality of disabled residents,

WHEREAS, the city’s Metrorail system is one of the main modes of transportation for residents and visitors, but suffers from numerous accessibility issues that make it unusable or uncomfortable for riders with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E has received complaints from disabled residents about a lack of Metrorail accessibility, thereby affecting their access to transportation and quality of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) investigates and resolves Metrorail access problems for users with disabilities, including:

1. Poorly scheduled elevator maintenance: WMATA should strategically schedule elevator maintenance so as to reduce impact on riders. In the past, users have reported regularly scheduled maintenance at Rosslyn station which unnecessarily puts all three elevators out of service at the same time, instead of leaving at least one for continued use while the others are being repaired.
2. A lack of real-time online announcements about elevator and escalator outages, both online and via audio on platforms/trains: Often notices about elevator and escalator outages are delayed or absent, preventing users from reaching their destinations. When present and reliable, these announcements can allow riders to adjust their trip in advance and avoid unnecessary inconveniences. Audio announcements on trains and platforms are especially helpful to users who have already boarded and may not be checking the WMATA website.
3. Broken emergency buttons on elevators: When an elevator is broken and users are stuck on the platform, they are encouraged to press the emergency button on the nearest elevator. However, when the elevators are broken, sometimes the emergency buttons break as well. There should be another method to call for help.
4. A lack of emergency-preparedness plans which include provisions for disabled riders: Users report a lack of publicly available information on whether Metrorail has prepared for the prospect of riders with mobility disabilities in emergency situations.
5. Inaccessible fare machines: Even the lowest-height fare vending machines have buttons that are unreachable to wheelchair users or people with other disabilities.
6. Unavailable station managers: Oftentimes the accessible gates to enter and exit Metrorail are out of service and station managers are nowhere to be found or contacted. Accessible gates should have a call button or another accessible way to contact station managers when they are not within sight.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity & Reliability Study

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

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has proposed six concepts through the Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity & Reliability Study (BOS Study) that identify the best forms of addressing future ridership, service, and reliability needs on these lines,

WHEREAS, three of these concepts propose options that include a Metrorail stop in Georgetown and three do not,

WHEREAS, Georgetown is one of the most visited and densely populated neighborhoods in the District of Columbia and the surrounding suburbs, and is notoriously underserved by public transportation, having no Metrorail stop, streetcar line, or other quick and effective means of public transit,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E has received multiple comments from constituents who complain of the lack of effective public transportation in the neighborhood, including comments from residents and university students,

WHEREAS, the decision to invest in the blue, orange, and silver lines provides a unique opportunity to address some of the region's long-standing transportation problems, and

WHEREAS, investing in a line connecting Georgetown to the Metrorail system would potentially serve millions of annual riders for decades to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E requests that WMATA incorporate a Georgetown Metrorail stop into any future expansion of the blue, orange, and silver lines, which within the BOS Study is limited to Concept 3 Option A, Concept 4, or Concept 5 Options A and B.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Aligning the District Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Division's Policies and Resources Regarding Ginkgo Trees

Commissioner Lohse 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 observed that the city's application of resources to Ginkgo trees is confusing. The Urban Forestry Division (UFD) of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) currently does the following:

Specific to Ginkgo trees only (versus other trees):

- Spray female Ginkgos to reduce the fruiting given such fruiting has been reported as a safety hazard. The ANC notes that this safety hazard is so significant that UFD independently decided to create a female Ginkgo replacement policy that allows homeowners living in front of female Ginkgos to petition to replace female Ginkgos. The spraying requires significant coordination with residents and city services.
- Maintain and manage a female Ginkgo replacement policy. Under this policy, UFD staff visit the trees, spend time with homeowners who petition for Ginkgo replacement, and spend time with ANCs as UFD decided that ANCs should be involved in Ginkgo tree replacement decisions.
- Remove and replace female Ginkgos, some of which UFD purchased as certified male Ginkgos.

- Purchase and plant certified male Ginkgos. At times these males are planted in locations where female Ginkgos were removed; males Ginkgos can, over time, reveal themselves as female.

Not unique to Ginkgos:

- Trim Ginkgos as needed

There are multiple residential streets in Georgetown that are lined with Ginkgos. As a result, Georgetown has become very familiar with UFD's Ginkgo replacement policy. Some homeowners have sought to use the UFD replacement policy, while other residents have significant concerns about the policy, whether they live in front of a Ginkgo or not.

ANC 2E greatly respects and appreciates the work done by UFD to maintain Georgetown's beautiful tree canopy. The value of having a tree canopy in an urban area continues to grow. ANC 2E, however, has observed that UFD activities related to Ginkgos can be contradictory and thus applied resources in this area are not well aligned. UFD has a petition process that allows female Ginkgos to be replaced due to safety and/or quality of life challenges, yet UFD then allows the removed female Ginkgo to be replaced with a male Ginkgo that can, over time, be revealed to be a female Ginkgo. Moreover, UFD has delegated Ginkgo decisions to ANCs, who neither have urban forestry expertise nor access to budgets to support their decision making.

ANC 2E asks UFD to:

- Provide its long-term vision for the role of Ginkgo trees in Georgetown streetscapes. ANC 2E would welcome UFD to present its vision at an ANC meeting.
- Make changes to its Ginkgo policies so that Ginkgo removal and replacement actions are not following one another.

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting that Trees for Georgetown be Added as a Recipient for Female Ginkgo Tree Replacement Petition Notifications from the District Department of Transportation's Urban Forestry Division

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

Trees for Georgetown (TFG) is a nonprofit whose sole mission is to plant and care for trees in Georgetown. To date, TFG has primarily been focused on planting new trees but TFG also has an interest in helping to preserve Georgetown's existing trees. ANC 2E requests that when the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) sends ANC 2E a copy of a validated UFD petition to replace a female Ginkgo tree, UFD also sends TFG a copy of the same petition. ANC 2E makes this request to add TFG as a recipient of these UFD petitions given TFG's role in the Georgetown community.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2020 Rose Park Farmers Market

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

ANC 2E supports the Friends of Rose Park's application to stage the 2020 Rose Park Farmers Market in Rose Park, located at 2609 Dumbarton Street NW.

#### Special Event Application for the DC Bike Ride on Saturday, May 16th, 2020

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 remains very pleased that only the Whitehurst Freeway will be closed for the 2020 DC Bike Ride within the ANC and appreciates that no amplified music will be played as part of the event. However, the ANC remains concerned that for 2020, as it was for 2018 and 2019, the date of the event coincides with Georgetown University's graduation weekend. Graduation weekend typically includes a significant uptick in traffic and any road closures in the area complicate traffic mobility. As a result, the ANC supports the special event application provided that the event organizers develop solutions that maximize traffic flow, minimize traffic disruptions on neighborhood streets, and protect public safety.

ANC 2E understands and appreciates that the DC Bike Ride has verbally committed to, at minimum, the mitigation strategies implemented in 2018 and 2019. Furthermore, the ANC appreciates that these strategies will be paid for by the event organizers and not by the DC Government. The strategies to be implemented include:

- Dedicating ten District Department of Transportation (DDOT) traffic control officers (TCOs) to the Georgetown area for the duration of the road closures,
- Activating message boards at the intersection of Canal Road and Foxhall Road NW, inbound on the Key Bridge, and inbound on the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge to advise of heavy traffic and to urge alternative routes,
- Securing commitments that any roadway construction work on the Key Bridge or on Canal Road NW would either be suspended or avoid requiring any closures for the duration of the road closures for this event,
- Ensuring DDOT's signal tech engineers will actively monitor the area and modify signal timing if necessary,
- Engaging the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to notify Waze and Google Maps about the DC Bike Ride's resulting road closures and traffic issues, and
- Creating "day of" points of contact for direct communication between DDOT, MPD, and Georgetown University.

Finally, in preparation for the DC Bike Ride's 2021 event, ANC 2E once again strongly requests that the DC Bike Ride coordinate its schedule with Georgetown University and not hold its event on the same weekend as Georgetown University's 2021 graduation.

#### Special Event Application for the Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 25th, 2020

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 supports the Marine Corps Marathon's route through the ANC provided that:

1. There will be no amplified music or amplified voices prior to the first runners entering ANC 2E, which is expected to occur at approximately 7:40 am.
2. Emergency vehicles will have access to residents in ANC 2E at all times throughout the race.
3. A complete list of contact information, including key Marine Corps Marathon contacts and Metropolitan Police Department Special Operations Division officers, will be provided to Commissioner Lisa Palmer at least 30 days prior to the event.
4. The closed streets will reopen within 30 minutes of the last runner exiting ANC 2E.
5. Efforts will be made to ensure that the ability for automobiles to exit 31st Street NW and 30th Street NW is maintained throughout the duration of the race.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**

Application by Chaia for a Substantial Change to the Establishment's Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant License at 3207 Grace Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

Application by Sticx for a New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License at 1728 Wisconsin Avenue NW

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

ANC 2E supports the request for a stipulated license as part of Sticx's application for new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant license at 1728 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

### **Zoning**

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Special Exception from the Rear Addition Requirements to Construct a Two-Story Rear Addition to an Existing Attached Principal Dwelling Unit at 3518 S Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

### **Old Georgetown Board**

SMD 2E02 - OG 20-036 (HPA 20-071) 1622 34th Street, NW

and

SMD 2E02 - OG 20-075 (HPA 20-071) 1622 34th Street, NW

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

ANC 2E supports the proposed concept design for 1622 34th Street NW.

SMD 2E02 - OG 20-095 (HPA 20-162) 1641 35th Street, NW

Commissioner Gibbons 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 supports the proposed concept design for 1641 35th Street NW.

SMD 2E02 - OG 20-097 (HPA 20-164) 3317 Q Street, NW

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

ANC 2E supports the proposed concept design for 3317 Q Street NW.

SMD 2E03 - OG 20-026 (HPA 19-583) 1512 34th Street, NW

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

ANC 2E has reviewed the proposed concept design for 1512 34th Street NW and has no comments.

SMD 2E03 - OG 20-016 (HPA 20-024) 3255 O Street, NW

*This matter was removed from the ANC's meeting agenda.*

**Adjournment**

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:33 pm.