



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

April 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 13 Apr 2021

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Michael Shankle, Gigi Nelson, Ellie Miske

PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Gigi Nelson, Commissioner Ellie Miske, Ella Hanson, Vikram Swaruup, Howard Marks, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Christian Metoza, Thomas Lee, Jabbar Burke, Joel Riethmiller, Suzanne Sofge, Joseph Florio, Allister Chang, Andrew DeFrank, Sherry Gillespie, Sidon Yohannes, Christopher Bystryk, Sr., Al Sofge

ABSENT: Lieutenant Michael Hamelin

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS / QUOROM

Shankle called the meeting to order, introduced all three Commissioners and noted 3 of 3 Commissioners were present for a quorum.

2. OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Shankle reviewed the agenda. (Available at www.anc2c.us.)

Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Shankle). (Vote 3-0-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Nelson made a motion to approve the March 2021 Minutes, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Nelson provided the March Treasurer's Report. March beginning balance: \$57,217.09. There were no allotments, and three disbursements: \$176 for post office box, \$175 for the minutes, and \$72.77 for new checks. Ending balance \$56,793.32.

5. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Nelson reported for Q2 2021 there were no allotments, total funds available \$57,419.09. Several disbursements for total of \$623.77, ending balance \$56,793.32. Miske made motion to approve, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)
- Shankle thanked Miske and Nelson for aligning issues with checking account, post office box, and checks. Checks for some number of years had a former commissioner's

mailing address on them, several things had to be done with the bank and there were challenges with the PO box as well.

- Miske made motion to approve new checks for ANC, seconded by Nelson.
(Vote 3-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. DC Department of Transportation, Everett Lott, Interim Director, Everett.Lott@dc.gov, Andrew DeFrank, Andrew.DeFrank@dc.gov

- 7th St. Bus Priority: Lott stated it was put off for several reasons, he wants to revisit and reinvigorate conversations, find out what is working and what's not as things start to open and get busy. Information should be sent out soon, meetings will be set up. They have had conversations with BID regarding concerns about H ST and 7th ST bus stations concerns.

Shankle noted the community felt blindsided by the 7th ST Bus Priority proposal. This stretch of roadway has been the site of many DDOT pilot projects that the community has not received adequate feedback about evaluation and metrics of. The redesign that occurred 2-3 years ago with extended crosswalks and flowerpots in the turn areas to protect pedestrians – the flowerpots have been moved to the sidewalks. Not sure if pilot is over, why they were moved, etc. Lott stated he was not aware of things being moved to sidewalk. Could potentially have been done by people in the neighborhood. He recognizes that consensus of the group is required before starting these types of projects. He realized when brought on that wasn't happening. His plan is to re-engage with community and ANC to get community input. Ultimately, they want a product that meets the needs of the residents and community as a whole.

- Miske highlighted bike lane issues both on Mass Ave and 2nd, and at L ST and 11th NW where it merges to Mass Ave, a bike lane abruptly ends and puts you into the left side of traffic merging onto Mass Ave. Lott stated they haven't gotten final investigation information about the fatal accident on Mass Ave and 2nd, and that the #1 concern is safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. He will look at both locations.

- Marks stated he founded Take Back Our Sidewalks about 2 ½ years ago about micro mobility devices being operated on city sidewalks and the threat they pose to pedestrians. Marks has tripped on one himself. Nothing has happened in last 1 ½ year

to lead them to believe that DDOT is concerned about the safety of pedestrians regarding the use of micro mobility devices. Marks requested a meeting with Lott to discuss. Lott stated he is happy to meet with them. Bike lanes allow scooters, as opposed to sidewalks. It's an ongoing discussion, and requires education so users know they can use bike lanes. Requested Marks reach out to DeFrank to set up a time to meet.

- Shankle noted challenge in Penn Quarter area for about 2 years with pilot regarding variable rate parking. Hundreds of posts are marking parking spots but 80% are missing the space number that is required to pay parking. Shankle has mapped this out and sent in to DDOT previously and requested an update on when numbers will be replaced. Lott requested specific locations, Shankle stated from 10th – 7th, all the lettered streets from I to D have the posts and 80% have no numbers on them. He sees them everywhere and people ask him how to pay for parking. Lott noted that parking division needs to work with contractor, and that right now there is still no ticketing. Shankle noted they are ticketing now, as there were tickets on vehicles in front of his building today. Lott requested that residents use 311 to follow up as it's the mode they use to track a lot of this. Shankle stated he finds it challenging to put some DDOT requests into 311 app. Not appropriate fields to enter in some of these requests. Lott noted that feedback helpful and they will look at that. DeFrank noted he is happy to assist in 311 entries if it's not clear.

- Lee stated he lives in Penn Quarter and says there is a homeless gentleman who has taken over a segment of sidewalk. He is making a mess of the area. Spits on sidewalk, other bodily fluids, etc., asks if there is anything DDOT can do to help with this. Lott said they can alert Department of Health, Department of Behavioral Health, make them aware. From a transportation perspective there isn't much they can do other than involve sister agencies.

- Gillespie stated the two-way bike lane on 15th ST is increasingly problematic as it's being used by pedestrians. Even in non-cherry blossom season it's a big problem. Concerned about impending issues with so many pedestrians walking in that area. She wanted to make sure there an awareness of that, asked if markings can be redone as they've worn away, and it needs to be clearer that it's an exclusive bike lane. Lott stated there is not a lot in terms of enforcement they can do but they can do more

education. He believes this is the oldest bike lane in the District. They are in the middle of paving/pothole season, they can put it on the list for repainting to make more visible. For education, they post promotional videos on social media, etc.

2. Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Joe Florio, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, Joseph.Florio@dc.gov, 202.805.7122

- Florio reported April 19 all DC residents over 16 are eligible to receive the vaccine. Beginning April 12, all essential workers in Phase 1 Tier 3 are eligible including those in higher education, construction, IT, government, commercial & residential property management. He recommended everyone preregister at vaccinate.dc.gov if they haven't already. Noted halt in Johnson & Johnson vaccine – DC has paused use of it. Department of Health stated residents who have an appointment for that vaccine will be contacted to reschedule. Please reach out to him if you or anyone you know is registered and hasn't been contacted.

- Rent and Utility Assistance available through STAY DC, a \$350m financial assistance program for renters and housing providers. Funds cover housing (past and current rent) and utility (gas, water, and electricity) expenses as well as loss of income, available for up to 18 months. For more information and to find out eligibility, go to Stay.DC.gov.

- Currently doing walks with ANC Commissioners, let him know if you have any questions.

- Sofge thanked for getting graffiti and tagging taken care of at end of Indiana Ave. New problem in front of DC Public Defender's Office at 633 Indiana. Skateboarders have taken over the area, making a lot of noise. Suggested it might help with enforcement if DC Public Defender's Office posted "No Skateboarding" signs. Florio stated he can reach out to them and see if they will be amenable to put up a sign. Sofge is concerned about pedestrian safety as the skateboarders are landing in the sidewalk.

3. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update - Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202.724.8058, or Ella Hanson, Legislative and Community Coordinator, ehanson@dccouncil.us

- Hanson stated Pinto is meeting with Lott next week to review how to make the intersection where the cyclist was killed safer. Pinto will take additional feedback from residents if there are additional areas of concern.

Legislative Updates:

- Pinto introduced Great Streets Amendment act of 2021 to expand DMPED Great Streets Program - which provided grant funding to restaurants and retail businesses across the city. The program has been expanded over the years to every ward except Ward 2 which was recently brought to their attention. There are 4 corridors included in the expansion, including the Georgia Ave. corridor which will be expanded down to Chinatown.

- Pinto introduced the Student Period Product Acts of 2021, an expanded version of the bill last period. This included a lot of student activism, ideas from DCPS students and GW students, and was co-introduced by all the women on the Council. Requires all public, private, and charter schools, and all post-secondary institutions to provide free period products in all women's and gender-neutral bathrooms. If they don't have a gender-neutral bathroom they must provide products in men's bathrooms. This bill has a hearing later this month.

- Two bills had a hearing March 29. The Minor Consent to Healthcare for HIV/AIDS Clarification Amendment Act affords minors in District increased access to HIV and AIDs testing and prevention. The Medical Necessity Restrooms Access Act of 2021 provides emergency medical access to employee restrooms for persons with Inflammatory Bowel Disease or those who are pregnant. Those persons would need to show a medical card to receive access. Both bills received a lot of positive community feedback.

- Budget season approaching. They were expecting to receive Mayor's proposed budget April 22 but has been pushed to May 27. Council has 60 days from receipt to review, make changes and pass the budget. Budget priorities were included in the communication from Pinto to the Mayor. Includes a lot of capital funding for things like Thomson Elementary School Playground lead contamination removal, Francis Stevens School renovation, a new Shaw Middle School, restoring teacher staffing levels at DCPS schools, and The Way Home Campaign with a \$100m ask to address homelessness.

4. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov, 202.729.2179:

- Dorrough noted three violent crimes in the last month that included a knife attack with no motivation, seems unprovoked, hopefully isolated; an attempted carjacking by a

known suspect who was turning himself in downtown and changed his mind; and a domestic incident with a knife, no injury.

- Property crimes decreased 27%. Starting to see numbers creep up as things are reopening. Overall numbers still looking very good.
- A new initiative started in Chinatown about 3 weeks ago, a daywork unit focused on narcotics, good arrests, have cleaned up a lot. Keeping an eye on whether the activity moves elsewhere. The challenge remains with prosecution. Marks stated he is excited about the narcotics unit with 6 Officers and a Sergeant, and requested number of arrests made, Dorrough believes about a dozen.
- Marks asked Shankle if there had been any follow up with US Attorney's Office to discuss narcotics enforcement in Chinatown. He wants to see Captain Dorrough and his team backed up in the courts.
- Dorrough was on the scene of the fatal accident. The car was speeding, ran a red light, several vehicles were hit, and the bicycle was in the middle of it. Unfortunate. There will likely be criminal investigation. Preliminarily believes the bike was struck before the intersection and dragged into the intersection where it was hit by more vehicles.
- Christian Metoza from St. Mary Mother of God Parish asked about women's shelter up the block that has temporarily become a men's shelter, regarding loud music and loitering on sidewalk and in alleyway. Asked if MPD has gotten any complaints or info to quell some of the effects. Dorrough stated they are specifically working on narcotics, that there is legislation working on noise, but noise and loitering won't be followed up on unless they are blocking the sidewalk. Shankle stated Patricia Handy facility did become a men's shelter temporarily during COVID-19. He has a meeting with DHS the 15th and will bring it to their attention for monitoring. Dorrough asks them to call if they see crimes happening. Shankle stated he would follow up with Metoza post meeting with DHS.

5. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, michael.hamelin@dc.gov, 202.715.7340: Not present.

6. Office of the Attorney General, Vikram Swaruup, Senior Counsel to the Attorney General Karl Racine, vikram.swaruup@dc.gov, 202.727.3400:

- Swaruup discussed hate and hate against Asian Americans. In the District hate

crimes have tripled between 2015-2019, and that's only known incidents. There were 3800 incidents over the last year alone for Asian Americans. Attorney General Racine is president of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). He is the first non-state representative to serve in that capacity. Racine chose combatting hate as his initiative, and as such, they are doing a series of events about combatting hate, as well as advancing policy measures around data collection, survivor support, dealing with misinformation and online issues. They have put out a letter to 35 Attorney Generals regarding the need for additional federal funding to approve data collection around hate.

- US Attorney's Office is the main prosecutor for violent crime committed by adults. They saw a large drop in numbers of hate crime prosecutions by the US Attorney's Office in the last administration. They drafted legislation that gives the Office of the Attorney General the ability to bring civil claims against people who perpetrate bias motivated violence, so District residents have a voice when these things do occur. Now they are looking for different opportunities to enforce that law, which went into effect in February.

- Tomorrow at noon is one of the events Racine is hosting as part of the NAAG presidential initiative, a panel about survivors of hate. <https://www.naag.org/event/the-rise-of-hate-and-its-deadly-consequences/>. Jeff Binkley, Susan Bro, Pardeep Kaleka and Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Meyers will participate in panel discussion about their experiences countering hate and how to heal.

- Shankle asked if US Attorney's Office has been more responsive since change in administration and Swaruup stated that was indeed the case.

- Swaruup stated they pay for an attorney to work in the US Attorney's Office to give residents a voice. This worked with prosecution with elder financial crimes. They are exploring doing the same for hate crime related issues. They have had positive conversations with the US Attorney's Office along those lines.

- Nelson asked if the Attorney General's Office tracks hate crimes by type. Swaruup stated that MPD collects the data and tracks by protected class (sex, gender identity, etc.). There is a detailed breakdown <https://mpdc.dc.gov/node/208722>, and it is easy to see the uptick. With that, they believe hate crimes are underreported. Some things that should be reported as hate crimes are not. They are trying to improve systems in place.

7. DC Board of Education, Allister Chang, Ward 2 State Board of Education Member, Allister.Chang1@dc.gov, 202.735.7062

- Chang noted Ward 2 makes up less than 2% of the total student population, and recognizes that it's easy to lose track of what's going on in public education if you aren't involved in it. \$2b was spent on public education last year, a good investment for everyone's future. He noted that the Board of Education is not a school board. They advise and review approval of statewide educational issues like high school graduation requirements, residency verification, and standards for home schooling. Chang personally is interested in advancing literacy in DC, as in 2019, 70% of DC 4th graders tested below proficiency. He would love resident support with that.
- Just got federal government approval to skip standardized testing this year.
- Since February they have posted about 100 notices about Covid in schools.
- Last week the Mayor's office put out a budget that would increase spending by 3.6% per student.
- Newsletter available at <https://allister4ward2.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9fed1df48ea236fd3e0c9537d&id=4d3063b625>
- Lee asked if school will be full time in September, Chang said that is the plan as of now.
- Councilmember Pinto and Chang will be doing a reading in the park (Rose Park) tomorrow at 1030a if able to attend.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. 37th Army Ten-Miler, October 10, 2021, George Banker, Operations Manager, Army Ten-Miler, George.R.Banker2.naf@mail.mil, 202.685.3408

- Banker stated event is on a Sunday, and current plans call for it to be virtual. Normally 26,000 people. If virtual, attendance will be drastically reduced. Banker explained the route geographically. Runners are required to keep a 15-minute mile pace. If not maintaining at 5-mile mark are turned around. They have a medic and spotter every half mile along the route, and each medic has a portable AED. No physical structures. In ANC there will be 1 water stop and a high school band at 14th ST and C ST. This year the focus is on health protection not only for spectators, volunteers, community, and staff. Medical provided by Walter Reed, will use Fort Belvoir, DC Fire and EMS,

and Arlington County EMS. They hold joint meetings to make sure all protocols are followed in addition to what the Army is placing on them. Registration will not open until June. May only be 5-10,000 runners. Will likely be releasing 1000 runners every 15 minutes. Coordination of meetings with law enforcement and medical will keep them on the same page so everyone gets same messaging. Trash truck follows the entire route to make sure route is cleaner than how they found it. Banker stated he has always enjoyed the support of the ANCs, has been working it for 17 years. His primary concern is following the guidelines that the ANCs place on the event, so they abide by what the community wants, as it's a community event. They have a good working relationship. Runners are usually out of the district by 1045a.

- Miske presented the map for visual reference.
- Banker stated that in September first or second week, all jurisdictions will be brought in with staff to do a 'tabletop exercise.' They engage all with potential situations. What each player will do if something happens, and contingency programs are set up. Timing stations set up to break runners off. They can track from command tent where those runners are so if they need to be diverted, they will know how many were held back and how many were diverted.
- Shankle noted event is always well thought out and hopes they can do an in-person event without pandemic impact.
- Shankle moved to send a letter of support ensuring they follow Covid-19 protocols, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

1. Taste, LLC, t/a Urban Roast, 916 G ST NW. Expansion and Substantial Change to Retailer's Class "C" Tavern – (ABRA – 115513). Sidon Yohannes, Esq., Associate, The Veritas Law Firm, syohannes@theveritaslawfirm.com, 202.686.7600.

- Shankle noted that Taste was just placarded. The residents of Mather Studios have been working with the establishment to form a community agreement, which is in place at this point. The stipulated license was approved at the last meeting, so he will submit it now that they are placarded. Protest date for the license is in June.
- Yohannes stated they met with Mather Studios residents yesterday to review a

settlement agreement, plan to move forward, and are now just looking over language. Azzouz (owner) has been responsive. They hope to come to agreement soon and submit it to ABRA.

TRANSPORTATION / PUBLIC SPACE

1. The Cheesecake Factory, 1426 H ST NW (DDOT – 10848221). New Valet Staging Zone. Christopher E. Bystryk, Sr., Guardian Management Services, LLC, gpms1@verizon.net, 804.503.0226:

- Bystryk said they have filed for application with DDOT for operating valet Monday-Saturday 5p-10/1030p, Sunday 11a-10p. Will utilize the garage on H ST. Site plan displayed. Valet station will be on 15th ST until October 1st when bus lane goes away.
- Shankle stated he believed the bus lane was going to become permanent. Bystryk stated they had checked into it and were told it was going away October 1st. If it were to stay, they would leave the valet station on 15th ST. Nelson stated Bus Priority goes from 14th to Capitol, and Miske confirmed same, so Bus Priority would not stop them from using the space on H ST once the bus lane is removed.

Nelson made a motion to send letter of support, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. The Best Sandwich Place, 1300 I ST NW (DDOT – 10837152). New Sidewalk Café Unenclosed. Claudia Estevez, cestevez@citypermit.us, 202.769.1958

- Estevez stated restaurant owner still struggling and being able to provide outdoor seating will increase customer usage. Sidewalk seating would include 4 tables and up to 10 seats. ADA friendly and covid compliant. Café is open 7a-4p Monday-Friday.
- Miske made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

OTHER

1. Office of the People's Counsel, Cheryl Morse, Consumer Outreach Specialist, cmorse@opc-dc.gov, 202.727.3071

- Morse provided background of OPC, the consumer advocate for DC utility ratepayers, gas, electric, local telecommunications, and water. Unique position because they represent the community through a litigation team. A team of lawyers represent DC

ratepayers for rate cases, pipeline replacement, etc. Individually they work with DC residents to work through their PEPCO, Verizon, Washington Gas, and 3rd party supplier complaints. OPC will be working with the agencies that will be able to fund the utility portion of STAY DC.

- Her team helps with disconnections, service complaints, 3rd party suppliers, utility bill disputes, payment arrangements, energy efficiency, consumer education and solar energy resources. Encourages residents to call if they have any questions about energy issues. More information available at www.opc-dc.gov.

- <https://conta.cc/3svWnE5> for newsletter OPC Connection

- <https://conta.cc/3bjRUhC> for OPC's response to the PSC's Pandemic Relief

- <https://conta.cc/3bkEC37> for #Here2HelpDC 311 Campaign. Partnership with 311 that includes OPC, Dept of Energy, Office of Public Service Commission and DC SCU. If 311 gets any calls, they can direct calls to agency to help the resident.

- <https://tinyurl.com/dfwmwnn2> to join email list for more updates

- Put out press releases. Always advocating for DC residents.

2. Gigi Nelson, ANC Commissioner 2C03, ANC Grant program, 2C03@anc.dc.gov:

- Nelson stated they haven't previously been involved much with the ANC Grant program, but Harold Closter took on and investigated the program. The Office of ANC is working on a legislatively mandated uniform template for all the ANC grant applications. That should be available soon. Once distributed, Harold will start working on that. If interested, email Nelson and she will put you in touch with him.

- Looking for volunteers to head up individual committees. Want to start having committees and getting residents involved. Formalize things residents may already be doing. Email Nelson if interested.

3. Suzanne Sofge brought up concern about packs of ATV riders on 7th ST, coming down both sides, presenting a public safety hazard. Not sure what the policy is for the police. Didn't notice police presence. Shankle noted the police are being very hesitant regarding pursuits. Shankle asked Florio if he had input, Florio noted that the MPD will sometimes block off parts of the street to ensure the riders avoid vehicular traffic. Stated he will check in with MPD to find out what to expect. Sofge stated they are also not following traffic controls. Nelson stated she saw it once last year. Al Sofge stated that several years ago there was a bounty on those illegal vehicles. Unaware of status

of that program, but said you just gave MPD the location and if they were able to get the vehicle, you could get the bounty. Florio stated he would investigate that as well.

ADJOURNMENT Nelson made motion to adjourn, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Gayle Gardner

Minutes Approved by: Approved by ANC 2C on May 11, 2021

Next Meeting: May 11, 2021, 6p