

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

**Meeting Minutes - Monday, March 9, 2015; 6:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Jr. Library
901 G Street N.W., Lower Level Room A-3, Washington, DC 20001**

Call to Order:

1. The monthly public meeting for Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2C was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner John Tinpe, ANC-2C01. Also present were Commissioner Harold Closter, ANC-2C02 and Commissioner Jeffrey J. Higgins, ANC-2C03.

Quorum:

1. Commissioner Tinpe noted that all three 2C commissioners were present and a quorum was achieved.

Approval of Agenda:

1. Commissioner Closter moved to approve the agenda for the March 2015 ANC-2C meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Higgins and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Approval of December Minutes:

1. Commissioner Higgins moved to approve minutes from the ANC-2C monthly meeting held on February 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Closter and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Treasurer's Report and Business Items:

1. The ANC-2C Treasurer's Report was read by Commissioner Closter. The ANC-2C account balance was balance was \$32,130.22, as of February 28, 2015. The only activity in account was a \$25.00 check written to cover the expense for participation in the ANC Security Fund. There was no other activity in the account. Commissioner Closter moved to approve the monthly Treasury Report for ANC 2C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Higgins and passed by a vote of 3-0.
1. Commissioner Closter noted that a letter was received from the Office of the District Auditor. The letter stated that ANC-2C's account was in good standing.

1. Commissioner Closter reported that over the next 12 months, ANC-2C would be expending \$35.00 per month to advertise ANC meetings in the Downtowner. The \$35.00 charge would begin on April 1, 2015 and continue through March 31, 2016. The total yearly cost to inform the public about ANC meetings will be \$420.00.

Brief Community Announcements and Presentations

1. MPD Lt. Duncan Bedlin, of PSA102 (202-299-3381) gave a presentation on crime trends to the Commission and residents in attendance. Lt. Bedlin said crime in PSA102's jurisdiction was down by four percent. Of note, violent crime was down by 12 percent, with a large decrease from January to February 2015. Of the nine robberies reported, six were closed by police. Seven of the nine robberies were mobile telephone snatches.

Lt. Bedlin also provided answers to questions about controlling noise made by musicians during the day, saying noise in daytime can't be controlled by the noise at night law, which is only enforceable after 10:00 p.m. After that time, arrests can be made when musicians didn't leave when so ordered by police. The enforcement of noise disturbances during daytime requires the DCRA to measure the decibel levels of the noise. Lt. Bedlin relayed that the District Attorney General's Office suggested that one alternative was for those residents disturbed by the noise to file for a civil protection order. Lt. Bedlin reminded residents that they may call 911 and ask to be interviewed by police after 10:00 p.m. about the noise issue. Commissioner Tinpe announced that on March 18th, there will be second public meeting with MPD to discuss noise issues.

1. Stephanie Dock, from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, gave a presentation on camera placement for parking research program. The pilot program being conducted in Penn Quarter will evaluate value pricing for parking as a method for increasing parking availability. The program also seeks to improve communication about parking availability, reduce congestion, and improve safety. If implemented, parking pricing will change quarterly, based on demand. Six mobile cameras were installed in the neighborhood to observe and record parking behavior, but the cameras will not be monitored in real time. The goal is to understand occupancy and parking. Each block will be observed for one week, and after 12 weeks, the cameras will be removed.

Planning, Zoning and Environment

1. There was a presentation by Kirk Salpini (202-777-2003), from Monument Realty, about the Chinatown Residential project. Commissioner Tinpe noted that a public hearing will be held on Wednesday March 18th at Office of Zoning 44

4th Street, at 10:00 a.m. The Historic Preservation Review Board previously made suggestions to reduce levels in the proposed bridge, increase setback, and eliminate murals. In response, Monument Reality made the following design changes: New building entrances were proposed by transposing the retail and lobby entrances; community space was relocated; and the external brick color shifted to grayish hue.

There are currently 138 units for residential use, but that number is fluid. The separation between the project and the Wah Luck House was reduced from thirty to 24 feet and the wall facing the Wah Luck House now has fewer windows. A resident expressed concern about the taller structure blocking the view. Residents discussed the possibility of cars blocking the alley and concerns that the culture of Chinatown would be diminished because there are few permanent Chinese architectural features. Also discussed were lights in the alley and the inclusion of traffic calming measures for safety.

1. Paul Millstein, from Douglas Development, discussed new usage for the historic Equitable Bank Building, located at 915 F Street NW. Douglas development is looking to fill the space with a high-end retail, such as with a clothing and fashion store. There will be minimal signage in windows and future increased signage requests will not be viewed as a matter of right.

Commissioner Higgins moved to support the temporary display window proposed under Scheme One. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Closter and passed by a vote of 3-0. Commissioner Tinpe announced that there will be a HPRB meeting on this matter on March 26, 2015.

1. There was a scheduled presentation on a Royal Jelly, a new business planned for 477 H Street NW. Paul Millstein (202-345-0935), from Douglas Development, stated that the presentation was withdrawn. Mr. Millstein said that based on the Royal Jelly's owner's presentation, Douglas Development decided they weren't interested in going forward with the project.

Local Events Impacting the Community

1. Cristina Bonner gave a presentation on the Race for Hope, which is scheduled to will take place on May 3, 2015. This race is the largest brain tumor event in the United States. Ms. Bonner proposed the same course and timeline, which was used last year. Set up for the race will begin on May 2, 2015, at Freedom Plaza, and will be completed by 5:00 p.m. On May 3, 2015, set up will begin at 4:00 a.m. and roads should be open by 10:30 a.m. There will be an estimated 11,000-12,000 runners. Last year, this race raised \$2.5 million raised last year by race. Commissioner Tinpe moved to support this event. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Closter and it passed by a vote of 3-0.

Transportation and Public Space

1. Dennis R. Hughes and Andrea Gourdine, from Douglas Development, gave a presentation on a public alley closing behind 11th and K Streets NW. The Office of Planning is still studying it and Douglas Development is getting feedback from neighbors. Parking at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue NW will not be affected. Commissioner Tinpe moved to provide a letter of support for the alley closing. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Closter and passed by a vote of 3-0.
1. Pleasant Pops cafe gave a presentation for outdoor seating in a sidewalk café, in front of the Woodward Building, at 733 15th Street N.W. They proposed setting up five tables outside. The outdoor hours are not set yet, but they will likely last no later than 9:00 p.m. in the winter and 10:00 p.m. in the summer. Commissioner Tinpe moved to support the proposal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Higgins and it passed by a vote of 3-0.
1. Robert Braunohler, gave a presentation on the Capital Crossing's Third Street Tunnel project (info@3rdsttunnel.com). Recently, contractors starting their work on the Third Street Tunnel at 7:00 a.m., instead of the scheduled 8:00 a.m. Saturday start. This mistake was caused by worker's confusion when starting a make-up shift and the problem should not happen again. Highway construction started on February 24, 2015. Traffic will be disrupted from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. only. Larger impacts on traffic flow will start in August when one lane in each direction will be regularly closed. Phase two of the project will end on April 11, 2015.

Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration Licensing

1. Mary Grace Fisher and Christina Tasho, representing the Think Food Group and Trump Hotel (202-638-1910, ext 165), gave a presentation on Jose. This new restaurant is seeking a Retailer's Class "CR" (ABRA 097742), at Trump Hotel, 100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. The Jose Andreas restaurant is scheduled to open in either late summer or fall of 2016. There will be two floors, with a kitchen and bar on lower floor. There will be 70 seats on lower floor, offering small plates and drinking, and 110 seats upstairs, with upscale full dining. Service will be cut off early for hotel guests. The restaurant is located in Atrium of hotel and will be fully contained inside the hotel. A letter asking for ANC-2C support for the liquor license application will be sent to commissioners.

Calendar of Events

1. Health and Fitness Expo, on Thursday, March 12, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Walter E. Washington Convention center.
1. Rock and Roll Half Marathon and 5K, on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at 7:30 a.m., at Constitution Avenue and 14th Street N.W.
1. St. Patrick's Day Parade, on Sunday, March 15, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. at Constitution Avenue and 7th Street NW.
1. Alum Race, on Sunday, March 29, at 2:00 p.m., at the U.S. Capitol.

Meeting Adjournment:

1. Commissioner Tinpe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8: p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Closter and passed by a vote of 3-0.
1. The next monthly public meeting for ANC 2C was set for Monday, April 9, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held in the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, in Auditorium 3, 901 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.