

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

October 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 7, 2024

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Rebecca Strauss, Commissioner Thomas Lee

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm over Zoom ([2024 October 7 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](#)).

2. ROLL CALL:

Three out of the three commissioners were present.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:

The commissioners introduced themselves.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Strauss motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 2-0-0)

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

September 2024 meeting minutes not available. Tabled.

7. TREASURER REPORT:

Commissioners Shankle and Lee addressed the Q2, QFR. A transaction of \$1230 was noted. The new ending balance is \$67,599.58. Lee talked about the budget and a final piece of information that is needed. Lee produced a preliminary budget later in the meeting, at which time Shankle said to include \$5000 for personnel. Also, \$230 is needed for ANC-2C's PO box.

Lee provided the ending balances in Q3 and Q4.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to approve the revised FY2024 Q2 QFR financial reports. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the FY2024 Q3 and Q4 financial reports. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the FY2025 proposed budget, of disbursements totaling \$16,555. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Sharde Harris, shared.harris@dc.gov, 202.821.8414, Sargent Philip Robinson, or Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov, 202.774.6866

Not available.

2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Paul Hrebenak, Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov, 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov, 202.839.1357.

Captain Hrebenak reported that no violent crimes were reported over the past month. Auto thefts are higher, especially around the Capital One Arena. Foot and bike patrols in this area will continue into the fall as the weather remains warm.

Shankle spoke of noise complaints occurring after 10:00 p.m. Police are informing their fellow officers of these complaints and will work with private security in cases where noise issues might arise. A resident complained about late night car and motorcycle racing that is ongoing, especially on Fridays. Captain Hrebenak stated that he will pass on this information to his Second District counterpart, as the racing appears to be widespread. The resident will send a brief video of this racing to Commissioner Lee. The resident also addressed homelessness along Pennsylvania Avenue, including mention of a gentleman who has been living outside for at least three years.

3. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, Christopher.powell2@dc.gov, 202.805.7122 and Grace Reeder, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCR), grace.reeder@dc.gov, Ty Abilla, Ward 2 Manager, Tadai.Abilla@dc.gov, 202-297-6566.

A representative from the Office of the Mayor, Ward 2 Manager, Ty Abilla provided updates on Ward 2. She encouraged individuals to visit the HUB and to download the 311 app that has undergone a rebranding. An electronics recycling day is upcoming on the 12th. Leaf collection begins October 28. Ms. Abilla referenced a few other upcoming events. Commissioner Lee suggested that a link to Ms. Abilla's presentation be distributed on a mailing list as it contains a great deal of information.

Ms. Abilla talked about the mayor's budget. She noted that overall crime has increased 12 percent since this time last year.

A resident complained about the Green Court Shelter issue being addressed online rather than in person. Commissioner Shankle said this will be taken into consideration, though it is shown that online meetings generate greater attendance.

A resident asked Ms. Abilla about the lack of affordable housing downtown.

4. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Maddy White, mwhite@dccouncil.gov, Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.

Maddy White spoke of the councilmember conducting unannounced visits to 911 operations centers. These visits will continue over the coming months. Ms. White talked about a childcare bill for first responders. Two other bills were discussed, one centered around a municipal bond that should be untaxed, and a bill to allow great shower/hygiene access for homeless and displaced individuals. This would allow for grants to church organizations, etc., and those helping to address homeless issues. Another Pinto sponsored bill addresses eviction proceedings, while another seeks to make cannabis packaging safer for households with children.

Commissioner Strauss requested a meeting with the councilmember to discuss the Green Court Shelter.

5. DowntownDC BID, Lukas Umana, Director of Public Space Operations, lukas@downtowndc.org, 202.270.0366.

Lukas Umana provided updates on issues such as trash collection, graffiti removal, and Safety Team efforts with local businesses. He talked about efforts undertaken by the BID to make a safe, appealing atmosphere for visitors and stakeholders. Technology is important in these measures. Commissioner Shankle applauded the BID for its trash collection efforts.

Mr. Umana talked about a moped bike rack that will be installed. This will also help with e-bikes and scooters, and help alleviate their being left on sidewalks.

A light installation is ongoing around the Portrait Gallery, featuring the work of Cuban-born American visual artist Felix Gonzales-Torres (1957-1996).

6. Green Court Shelter Update, David J. Ross, Chief of Staff, DC Department of Human Services, David.ross@dc.gov, 202-299-5549.

David Ross was introduced to provide information on the Green Court Shelter. Commissioner Shankle noted this is the ANC-2C's third discussion on the shelter. Mr. Ross then introduced Ms. Pierre of the DC Department of Human Services, who began the presentation by outlining the responsibilities of the Department as well as giving an overview of the shelter project. She noted that the shelter is being built from the ground up and is low barrier in nature. The anticipated opening of the shelter is in spring of 2028.

Mr. Ross offered to visit the ANC-2C meetings at any time to discuss the project.

Commissioner Strauss asked about building specifications, noting that his project came to the ANC 2C's attention only recently.

Commissioner Shankle asked why this location was selected, for a low barrier facility given the presence of an alleyway, residences, a school? Ms. Pierre stated that many among the homeless population *want* to be in the downtown area and this facility will offer people a place to shelter while downtown. Shankle spoke of the Pat Handy Shelter, also a low barrier facility, and its shift from women to men, and the issues this created. Shankle spoke of a senior center or an LGBTQ shelter, stating that in previous meetings this was not presented as being a permanent homeless shelter. Ms. Pierre spoke of the various forms that a homeless shelter can take, such as offering transitional housing.

Commissioner Shankle said that in his opinion DHS is not "hearing the community" in its feedback as it concerns this low barrier shelter. Mr. Ross noted that these are the plans as they exist today, citing the challenges that were encountered with the Pat Handy Shelter. The language this is used, said Mr. Ross, must be very specific. "This is the best plan we can offer" in addressing the issue of homelessness. "As of yet there is no design, no building," said Ross.

Commissioner Shankle said the placement of a shelter of this sort needs to be carefully considered as to its impact on residents living in the area. Some residents are aging and have physical challenges, the facility would literally abut one such building. The Pat Handy Shelter matter, said Shankle, did not go well and he is afraid the same problems will surface. "It is a disaster waiting to happen," stated Shankle.

Mr. Ross talked about design/accessibility options that can help alleviate some of these issues and said DHS is "no stranger to facilities being built in neighborhoods."

A resident spoke of having visited area businesses regarding the shelter. They also talked about the current structure, saying it was built in 1929 and cited asbestos concerns, and possible issues with the alleyway. This block has vulnerable populations, and there is an elementary school one block away. The resident raised many questions about the possible operations of the facility. Commissioner Shankle said these questions should be forwarded to DHS.

Mr. Ross said most of these questions cannot be answered at this time. The only thing that has been finalized is the purchase of the building.

A resident who referenced having undergone a period of homelessness in their own life concurred with the previous resident about this being a poor location for shelter. The resident noted poor communication/transparency on the part of DHS.

A resident who identified themselves as a real estate broker and site selection professional noted that the presence of this alleyway means that a poor job was done in terms of site selection. The alleyway matter creates public health and safety issues as the facility will be

difficult to locate. It will also offer a construction nightmare in addition to being problematic for local hotels and businesses.

Ms. Pierre reiterated the importance of the facility in addressing the homeless population in the downtown area. She noted outreach workers who will help with matters such as transportation. The resident replied that individuals could then be transported anywhere in DC, hence this exact location is not “a must.”

A resident said that the argument being made about this needing to be downtown is incorrect.

A resident asked about the financial impact of this shelter. Mr. Ross said a response to this question will be forthcoming.

A resident said this should be an in-person meeting, as opposed to virtual, and asked about possible design changes as the project moves ahead. Mr. Ross said the design options will address many of the questions being raised this evening.

A resident requested to see a list of other low barrier shelters. Mr. Ross said these will be shown on the DHS on the website.

A resident complained of community engagement as being irrelevant as a decision has already been made.

Commissioner Shankle asked Mr. Ross about the next steps. Mr. Ross said that he should return in November and encouraged Shankle to collate the questions in advance. Questions should be sent to Commissioner Strauss, who will sort through them, and a November 12 meeting will be held in 401F of the MLK Library.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

1. MLK Library, The Green Book Exhibit

Limea Hegarty, director of Events, Exhibits and Development for DC Public Libraries spoke of The Negro Motorist Green Book in DC exhibit that is coming to the MLK Library. There is a request to close G Street on Sunday, November 3 for the opening celebration of the exhibit. There were more than 150 Green Book cites in DC, according to Hegarty, which is more than any other major city in the United States.

The exhibition will be on display from November 2 – March 2, 2025. On Saturday November 2 most of the activities will take place inside the library. On Sunday, November 3 there will be a vintage car show, necessitating the blocking off the street. Three food trucks will also be on site. The events conclude in conjunction with the library closure time.

Commissioner Lee asked if the vehicles will be parked overnight. Ms. Hegarty said the cars will arrive in the morning, weather dependent (if rain the cars will not be on site).

MOTION: Shankle motioned to approve a letter of support for The Green Book Exhibit request at MLK Library. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. Throne Bathroom. Placement in Downtown DC, (Indiana AVE NW and 7 ST NW). Jessica Heinzelman, Throne Labs, Co-founder & COO, jess@thronelabs.co, 415.533.4630.

Jessica Heinzelman thanked the commission's past support for Throne Bathrooms. She discussed the locations of the Throne facilities and their SMS accessibility. There have only been four reported incidents of vandalism (graffiti). The Indiana Plaza location has been the most used facility, and an extension of the existing permit may be sought. A second downtown location is being explored.

Commissioner Shankle asked about neighborhood complaints. Ms. Heinzelman said early on a few comments were received, but there has been little of late. Shankle asked why should the Throne be moved if this location receives the highest use? This fact is being taken into consideration.

A resident noted a blind spot for drivers that is created by the facility. Ms. Heinzelman underscored that these are District funded facilities and the number of locations for them are somewhat limited. Ms. Heinzelman said they do not need anything from the commissioners this evening but are merely keeping them informed.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS LICENSING (ABCA)

1. Tip Thai, Inc., Trade Name: Tip Thai, (ABRA-129851). Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant, 641 Indiana Avenue, NW. Sunida Borasumphansuk, sunidaann9@gmail.com, 301.742.9145.

Commissioner Shankle outlined the operations and seating associated with the restaurant. Commissioner Lee said this would be a good location for a sidewalk café. Shankle says he has no issue with the request.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to approve a letter of support, with a stipulated license, for Tip Thai, Inc. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

1. **Resolution Discussion regarding New Guidelines for a Permanent Streatery Program and extension of the temporary program until July 31, 2025. (DDOT: 11099400). Rosadene E. Gill Program Analyst, Public Space Regulation Division (PSRD), District Department of Transportation, rosadene.gill@dc.gov.**

A representative from VDoT noted that draft guidelines exist. Commissioner Shankle asked the other commissioners to review these guidelines prior to the next meeting.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to table pending further review. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. **Update on the Capital One Arena renovations and potential impact on the community. Crispus Gordon III, Vice President, Government Relations and Strategic Affairs, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, cgordon@monumentalsports.com, 202.661.5165.**
2. **425 8 Street NW (Square 431 Lot 24), Historic Preservation, Application for Concept Review Gunwyn/Lansburgh LP and Gunwyn Lansburgh Development Corp. Olivia K. Torres, *Goulston & Storrs*, otorres@goulstonstorrs.com, 202.721.1107.**

Other

1. Support of a bottle deposit law (bottle bill) in the District. Hannah Elson, helson09@gmail.com, 216.970.2847.

Ms. Elson of 3R, representing a coalition of environmental groups, outlined the bottle bill, saying it would be a “great thing” for DC. She requests ANC- 2C pass a resolution asking the DC Council to introduce the bottle bill and conduct a hearing on the matter. A council member is onboard with this issue and will reintroduce the bill before the onset of the new year. Two other ANCs have already passed this resolution. Ms. Elson talked about recycling and the benefits of a bottle refund, saying these bills are highly effective in reducing litter.

Commissioner Shankle noted that ten cents are added to each can/bottle and this is a good idea. Commissioner Lee asked to confirm that cans are included, which they are. Shankle said it is important that the commissioners carefully review this matter.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for a resolution in support of the bottle reduction law to the council member who is sponsoring the measure, so that hearings can commence. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. No Left Turn, 11th Street NW

Commissioner Shankle noted that this matter was tabled at the last meeting. A representative of an owner at 1050 K Street NW was on hand, saying more time is requested. A law firm and engineering firm have been consulted about the possibility of coming up with a plan to add a turn lane. This would then be presented to VDoT.

Shankle said the feedback thus far has been that this is “not a thoughtful plan,” citing safety issues. The addition of more flex posts is not good. Shankle wants to find another way to improve safety and does not want to approve of this measure.

Shankle noted that by tabling, the commissioners lose the ability to comment owing to a deadline.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter opposing the center line hardening along 11th street and looking for alternative solutions to this area including a possible center turn lane. Seconded by Strauss. Approved. (Vote 2-1-0)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Shankle motioned to Adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-0-0)

Next Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 6 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: MDS

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month throughout 2024.

ANC Commissioners and Website

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