

# Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

## November 2022 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** November 15, 2022

**ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Michael Shankle and Commissioner Gigi Nelson

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Shankle introduced Commissioner Nelson.
- 3. QUORUM:** A quorum of two commissioners was present.
- 4. OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at [www.anc2c.us](http://www.anc2c.us)). Nelson motioned to accept the November 2022 agenda as posted, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0)
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2022 MINUTES:** September 2022 and October 2022 minutes will be approved at the next meeting in December

### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Nelson reviewed the October 2022 Treasurer's Report. He reported that the opening balance was \$66,263.71, with one quarterly transaction for \$1,821.05. The closing balance was \$68,084.76.

Nelson wished to discuss the FY23 budget.

Shankle shared their previous minute taker resigned, and Minutes Services, LLC spent 5 hours for a total of \$625 and ANC-2C pay by check direct. Shankle moved to use Minutes Services, LLC as minute takers for the rest of the year, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0)

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, [bpinto@dccouncil.us](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.us), 202.724.8058, Ella Hanson.**

Hansen provided updates from Councilmember Pinto's Office. She shared that Council member Pinto recently met with the Mayor and addressed issues such as public safety and shelter resources. They are hosting one-on-one sessions at the Council building. She discussed the community bike ride and appreciated everyone who attended. She updated that the recent legislative sessions and virtual meetings can be held through Feb. 2023. She shared the @Best Act" licensing bill has been passed that reduces fees moving forward, in addition to the period

products bill. The Recovery bill vote will be held on November 22. She added that the council voted on the revised DC Criminal Code act. The review has taken a decade of collaboration and research. Finally, she shared the link of Pintos condemning Anti-Semitism.

Commissioner Shankle asked about amendments demanding action relating to the crime events. The Mayor made no commitments in the meeting, but more information will be available soon as it is a top priority for council members. Shankle shared this creates issues for members to be safe in their community and hopes for a timeline of action. He requested Councilmember Pinto to attend the following December meeting. Hansen shared that she would take these issues to the council members and follow up with more information.

Suzanne Sofge added that she felt the safety issues were not being addressed.

Thomas Lee shared Shankle had addressed the main safety issues and asked for a vote on the Criminal Reduction Act. Hansen shared there was support from the Mayor and council members. Mary Chay voted to support Pinto's amendment, but the rest did not.

**2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Justin Roth, [Philip.McHugh@dc.gov](mailto:Philip.McHugh@dc.gov), 202.763.9936**

Captain Roth reported that there had been two robberies and ADW in Chinatown. One robbery has been closed with an arrest, and another is oncoming. Violent crime is down 21%, and property is minus 1%. He recommended everyone download the 311 apps, as the MPD prioritizes these calls. He shared they are making sure to ensure lights are lit and graffiti removal, and noted there is still a concern for stolen autos (mainly for delivery drivers). Pat Handy is being renovated into a women's shelter sometime next year. He shared that most of the crimes are regular auto thefts. He shared not to leave anything valuable in their cars.

Howard Marks asked about the 7<sup>th</sup> and H intersection robbery. Captain Roth shared one man was giving 20 \$ to homeless people and gave disparaging remarks, and was assaulted. Another took a hat and was assaulted by the metro area. He shared the Chinatown officers are on the lookout. Howard Marks shared that the community is appreciative of the police presence. Thomas Lee asked if it is possible to have more permanent patrol cars at the intersection if they need more cameras and what they think of the new bill. Captain Roth shared he tries to put a patrol car there as often as possible and noted that they have had to rethink how they deploy concerning robberies over time to cover changing shifts. He shared that if there could be a camera behind the bus stop by the metro, that would be great. However, Captain Roth felt the bill wouldn't change the officer's situation.

**3. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Michael Hamelin, [michael.hamelin@dc.gov](mailto:michael.hamelin@dc.gov), (202) 715-7340, and/or Sergeant John Sprague, [john.sprague@dc.gov](mailto:john.sprague@dc.gov)**

No representative today.

**5. Community Update. Chairman Phil Mendelson. [pmendelson@dccouncil.gov](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.gov) and Declan Falls Community Outreach Specialist, [dfalls@dccouncil.gov](mailto:dfalls@dccouncil.gov), 202.724.8158.**

Declan Falls reported that the budget for stabilizing the school budget had been pushed to December. In addition, he will be holding a hearing on truancy and absentees. The Chairman recently held a town hall meeting, discussed various topics, and is available on the Facebook page. There will be another town hall in December.

#### **LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY**

- 1. Rock N Roll Half Marathon. March 18, 2023. Diane Romo Thomas, dianeromothomas@hotmail.com, 202.439.5104.**

Diane Romo Thomas shared it will be a half marathon, and 2C traditionally holds the starting line. This year, they are looking to bring the finish line to Pennsylvania Ave and 4<sup>th</sup>. She felt it would be the least impactful route. The timeframe is approximately 7 am – 1:15 pm, with about 13,000 runners. The 5K is new and will start at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pennsylvania with about 2K runners.

Shanked moved to send a letter of support for the half marathon and 5 K, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0).

- 2. 21st Annual Thanksgiving America's Trot for Hunger 5K, November 24, 2022. Brett Curtis, Manager, Special Events, SOME (So Others Might Eat), bcurtis@some.org, 202-599-4626.**

The Trot for hunger is a yearly event all around the country. They utilize the traditional 5k course starting at Freedom Plaza. All conditional approvals have been completed. He will send a discount code to the constituents.

Shankle moved to send a letter of support for the Trot for Hunger 5K, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0).

#### **ABRA LICENSING**

- 1. Nando's Peri Peri, 836 F ST NW, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-122856), Manalle Mahmoud, 202.625.7700, [mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com](mailto:mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com).**

This will be a standard Nandos; the hours are 11 am- 10 pm on weekdays and 11 Am-11 pm Fridays and Saturdays. It will replace the Nandos on 7<sup>th</sup> street. In addition, there will be a small sidewalk café, and the total space will be 3000 square feet.

Commissioner Nelson noted the sidewalk was not comprehensive. Manal said it would likely only have 12 chairs and not take up all the sidewalks and is unsure how long the overlap will be.

Nelson moved to write a letter of support, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0).

The opening date is planned for March 2023.

- 2. District E, Aramark Sports, and Entertainment Services, 701 7th ST N, New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern (ABRA-122857), Manalle Mahmoud, 202.625.7700, [mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com](mailto:mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com).**

Manalle shared this is taking over the Bar Louis space, open when events are happening at the Capital One center and for private firms to use for parties. There will be no street presence.

Shankle moved to send a letter of support, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0).

#### **TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE**

- 1. National Children's Museum, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Meredith Hamme, Director of External Affairs, [mhamme@nationalchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:mhamme@nationalchildrensmuseum.org), 202 844 6329**

Meredith Hamme noted this would be for a bus drop-off location by the Ronald Reagan building, serving thousands of students through field trips and workshops throughout the year. Currently, there is no safe bus drop-off location, and buses are unloading illegally on Pennsylvania Ave. The museum is open from 9:30 am-4:30 with the heaviest groups June-August. She shared that on October 18, DDOT submitted a Notice of Intent to ANC-2C01 to install a motorcoach loading zone at the southbound curb at the 300 Block of 12st Street NW, removing three hourly metered parking spaces (66 feet) and a loading zone that can be used for groups visiting the Reagan Building ITIC, or Federal Triangle Metro.

Thomas Lee asked if they were anticipating objections. Meredith shared they weren't expecting objections and wanted to follow due diligence.

Shankle moved to submit a letter of support, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0).

#### **PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

- 1. Combined Lot Development Extension, Monument, 600 Block of I Street NW, Jessica Bloomfield and Lewis Kelly,**

Jessica Bloomfield and Lewis Kelley asked for a three-year time extension for the property. She shared the residential building and historic preservation. She shared the ANC has consistently been supportive of the extensions. The CLD Covenant from 2-15 required residential use from lot 59 (Hotel Site Modus) to Lots 815 and 816 to "Residential Site" and requires residential COO first or escrow to permit non-residential COO first. The escrow releases if architects certify 50% completion of residential use within five years, and noted it was previously extended in 2019 with the current requirement of 50% completion by

February 19, 2023. They request another 3-year extension for a due date of February 19, 2026. She noted that COVID hit at the beginning of their first extension. Lewis Kelly discussed their hardships with COVID in accordance with legal standard Subtitle I 805.14. He also discussed inflation and interest rates, sharing that lenders are hesitant to lend money, which is expected to continue. He noted their progress on residential development raze permit applications, filed, processed, and recorded subdivisions, finalized constrictions, and converted H street from office to residential. He shared construction financing should be finalized by Summer 2023, with construction expected to finish by June 2025.

Shankle's concern is that there is a vacant block with boards on windows, graffiti, and posters all over the place. He wasn't sure if three years of non-development made sense. He wants to make sure this project happens. Jessica Bloomfield shared they are considering approval of the covenant to transfer residential use before the covenant expires and the escrow account expires, making the project more challenging to construct. Lewis Kelley shared it is in the company's best interest to construct the project. The escrow funds would be released to the DC Housing Fund.

Nelson asked which date they would need a lender in place. Lewis Kelley shared that if they have a lender by December 2023, a 50% completion date is two years later and ideally sooner. Next, Nelson asked if they have a lender process. Lewis Kelley shared that this is an ongoing process, and there will be more rapid progression after the lenders work through the projects they wish to close this year. Nelson clarified that this has nothing to do with the lender search. Lewis Kelley shared that this approval process makes financing easier with the money in the Escrow account.

Shankle has reservations because this site has been dormant for three years without development. Nelson added that perhaps they could support this project if they have a lender in place, but then they would be unable to extend. Jessica Bloomfield shared they will be applying shortly after this conversation. She noted that if they do not vote for this tonight, she asked they take this vote to their December meeting. Jessica Bloomfield shared that this process will not stop the continuation of their project. Shankle repeated these buildings should not be sitting in downtown DC boarded up. Nelson understood the legal implications and noted that their focus is on the living community rather than the legal and procedural processes.

Thomas Lee asked if there are any interim uses the buildings could provide, such as short-term leases. Lewis Kelley shared this would be of high cost and would not make financial sense but noted they are listening to concerns on the building's appearance. Jessica Bloomfield shared that the buildings will be razed before the lender is in place.

Shankle asked to review this package after their application was sent and wishes to understand the whole situation. Jessica Bloomfield will send the materials by email.

Shankle moved to table this matter until the December 15 meeting, seconded by Nelson. Vote (2-0-0).

Nelson asked for revisions for No. 6 on the October minutes (to change her pronouns from her/hers) and will make the changes herself. Then, she can get the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report.

Nelson moved to approve the Sept and Oct minutes with the modifications requested, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0)

#### **OTHER**

Theresa DuBois announced that the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Safeway Feast of Sharing will be on November 23 from 10 am- 1 pm. The Feast of Sharing will be Grab and Go for 5,000 attendees with a box lunch, winter apparel, and toiletries, with COVID-19 and Flu shots available. She also announced that the Convention center would host the US African Leaders Summit Dec 13-15 as a National Security event by invitation only with intensive security measures, please. There will be a briefing on this event on November 29.

Howard Marks thanked the commissioners for presenting their issues and noted that he would testify on November 22 on the economic development of Chinatown. He shared that he went on the first Silver Line train to Ashburn for \$6, compared to the Uber/Lyft cost of \$50+. He shared there would be a workshop on pedestrian safety the following day. Finally, he discussed his issues with E-scooters in the city area and urged the commissioners to intervene.

Thomas Lee shared that a neighbor mentioned those large plastic planters on the intersection have been pushed to the curb and no longer seem to have a purpose and should be returned to their previous location, not blocked sidewalks. Shankle shared they had submitted to DDOT with locations on scooter corralling and noted he had been opposed to the plastic planters as they were initially to be in pedestrian areas and make turns wider for cars. They can send another letter to return the planters to their original positions or as scooter corrals.

Nelson will follow up in the coming days about the FY23 budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Shankle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm, seconded by Nelson. Commissioners were in favor of adjourning the meeting (Vote 2-0-0)

**Minutes Submitted by:** Minutes Services

**Minutes Approved by:** 1/10/2023

**Next Meeting:** December 15, 2022, 6:00 pm

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.