



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## **Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024; 6:30 p.m.

In-Person: Georgetown Visitation School, 35th Street and Volta Place NW, Second Floor

Heritage Room

Online via Zoom

### **Call to Order- 6:35 pm**

Chair Lohse called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Topher Mathews (2E02), Paul Maysak (2E03), Joe Massaua (2E04), Mimsy Lindner (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Daniel Chao (2E07) and John DiPierri (2E08) were present.

### **Approval of the Agenda - 6:35 pm**

#### **Approval of the ANC's May 1st, 2024 Meeting Agenda - 6:35 pm**

Chair Lohse moved to approve the ANC's May 1st, 2024 meeting agenda. Commissioner Massaua seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1).

#### **Approval of the ANC's April 1st, 2024 Meeting Minutes - 6:36 pm**

Chair Lohse moved to approve the ANC's April 1st, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1).

### **Community Comment - 6:39 pm**

#### **Update from the Mayor's Office - 6:39 pm**

Grace Reeder, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave an update from the Mayor's Office. Grace Reeder answered questions from Commissioners after presenting.

#### **Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto- 6:42 pm**

Brian Romanowski, Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Director of Community Relations, gave an update on the SecureDC bill and her FY2025 budget priorities. Brian Romanowski answered questions from Commissioners and the community after presenting.

Public Safety and Police Report- 7:06 pm

Lieutenant Merzig provided an update from the Metropolitan Police Department. Lieutenant Merzig answered questions from Commissioners.

Update from Georgetown BID on Spring Events- 7:14 pm

Nancy Mihrya gave an update on behalf of the Georgetown BID on Fete De La Musique- World Music Day on Friday, June 21st.

Update on ABCA Cannabis Enforcement- 7:23 pm

Chair Lohse gave an update on ABCA Cannabis Enforcement. Chair Lohse answered questions from community members.

Update on Jelleff Community Meeting with DPR- 7:33 pm

Chair Lohse and Commissioner Putta provided an update on the Jelleff Community Center Community Meeting on May 2nd at 6 pm. Commissioner Putta answered questions from community members.

Update on Georgetown Access and Circulation Study Draft Recommendations- 7:37 pm

Chair Lohse gave an update on the Georgetown Access and Circulation draft recommendations.

Update regarding MacArthur High School- 7:38 pm

Commissioner Putta provided an update regarding the want for a new auditorium at MacArthur High School.

Update from Georgetown University Students- 7:46 pm

Commissioners DiPierri and Massaua provided an update regarding Georgetown University.

**New Business - 7:50 pm**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Mayor's Proposed FY 25 Budget- 7:50 pm

Chair Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Massaua seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E is pleased to see that the proposed FY25 budget prioritizes many items critical to our community and the city as a whole. However, some essential areas are not properly funded.

ANC 2E urges the Council and the Mayor to ensure funding for the four key items below. Per [ANC 2E's initial budget request](#), these items are critical to our city's goals to improve education, promote green transportation, and make our roads safe.

### **Education**

1. *There should be no cuts to School staffing.* Based on very recent statistics, DC student achievement must be improved – it is at unacceptable levels. School staffing is critical to our goal of much stronger student achievement.
2. *Funding for MacArthur High School auditorium is essential.* This new school – the first new high school in this area in decades - must have the proper rooms required to operate a high school, thus the lack of an auditorium is a massive gap. Funding is also needed for college counseling (like at other high schools) and school field trips.

### **WMATA**

3. *Although Georgetown has over 12 million visitors per year, plus a significant number of the city's employees and residents, Georgetown's only two public transit options are Metrobus and Circulator.* While we understand that the economics of the entire Circulator system are not sustainable, it makes sense to consider retaining the original route between Union Station and Georgetown – operated by WMATA – which stops at multiple commercial corridors. This route does not duplicate other east-west bus services.

Alternatively, should this one route or the Circulator system be ended, Georgetown's bus service must be replaced and improved before the Circulator is no longer available. A clear transition period is needed. Our tax revenue – sales and employee – depends on it. We urge the Council to ensure WMATA commits to replacing the routes to/from Georgetown with new WMATA routes, or keeping the route. Again, the replacement of these specific routes is even more essential given that Georgetown, unlike other areas, does not have a metro station.

### **DPW**

4. *Parking Enforcement* is desperately needed throughout the city, and in Georgetown's commercial area and the residential areas. The current budget proposes only two more FTEs across the city. Two new staff members are insufficient to address the significant amount of illegal loading/unloading and illegal parking occurring on the city's roads. This illegal activity is causing congestion and safety issues for all who use the roads, especially pedestrians and bikers.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Outgoing Citizens Association of Georgetown Leadership- 8:05 pm

Chair Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Maysak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E commends Tara Sakraida Parker for her four years of service as Georgetown Citizens Association (CAG) President and seven years on the CAG Board. The work of the CAG President requires significant collaboration and commitment to a wide range of issues. Tara was always at the ready and well prepared to serve our community and the city – and to ensure that experts from CAG were active in all things Georgetown. The heart of CAG is collaboration. Over the past several years, membership has grown, and Tara’s leadership has resulted in many benefits to our community and CAG’s sustainability, including:

- An evolved set of CAG community programs and events, including a top-rated historical tour led by well-regarded architects.
- An active Urban Landscape program whose role was critical to numerous public space efforts in the last few years.
- An updated electronic presence – including a new CAG website and social media outreach.
- Creating several new relationships with embassies in and around Georgetown, including CAG involvement in raising funds for war-torn Ukraine.
- An expanded Block Captain effort and active MPD relationship.
- A solid working relationship with the City Council and the Mayor’s Office.
- Finalizing a move to a permanent CAG-owned home – a legacy gift from Mrs. and Mr. Michael Sullivan.

Beyond Tara, ANC 2E also would like to publicly commend several other outgoing CAG Board members for their years of invaluable service to CAG. Without their individual efforts, such as organizing the events (even during a pandemic), drafting the policy papers, and creating the historic preservation positions – CAG’s community collaboration would not be so impactful! ANC 2E commends and extends our many thanks to:

- Christi Cline
- Ellen Eisenberg
- Tom Ryan

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Volta Park Playground Sinkhole- 8:08 pm

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

follows:

ANC 2E requests urgently for the Department of General Services (“DGS”) to immediately repair the surface of the children’s playground at Volta Park Recreation Center. A sinkhole has developed underneath the rubber surface. It has created a void underneath the surface that makes the ground unacceptably unsteady and dangerous. At least one child has already been seriously hurt, including a broken femur, by this sinkhole. It has persisted since at least 2022. Repeated requests to repair the sinkhole from the ANC, the Friends of Volta Park, and Councilmember Pinto’s office have gone unanswered.

The ANC urgently reiterates and echoes these requests and demands DGS take immediate steps to eliminate this hazardous condition.

### **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board – 8:18 pm**

Application by Potomac Wine and Spirits for the Renewal of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 3100 M Street NW (ABRA- 001926)

Application by Dixie Liquor for the Renewal of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 3429 M Street NW (ABRA-112906)

Application by The Bourbon Concierge for the Renewal of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 2816 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (ABRA- 119607)

Application by Georgetown Wine and Spirits for the Renewal of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 2150 27th Street NW (ABRA- 121349)

Application by Baachus Wine Cellar for the renewal of the Establishments Class “A” Retail-Liquor Store License at 1635 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-060414)

Chair Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Maysak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E fully supports the following ABCA renewal applications for Class A Retail – Liquor licenses:

- Potomac Wine and Spirits at 3100 M Street NW (ABRA- 001926)
- Dixie Liquor at 3429 M Street NW (ABRA-112906)
- Bourbon Concierge at 2816 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (ABRA- 119607)
- Georgetown Wine and Spirits at 2150 27th Street NW (ABRA- 121349)
- Baachus Wine Cellar at 1635 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-060414)

## **Public Space Committee- 8:23 pm**

### **Public Space Application by Keshet Israel Congregation for the Installation of Temporary Planter Boxes On Sidewalk at 2801 N Street NW (DDOT #443931)- 8:23 pm**

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

ANC 2E fully supports the Public Space Application by Keshet Israel Congregation for the Installation of Temporary Planter Boxes on Sidewalk at 2801 N Street NW (DDOT #443931). Keshet Israel has been in Georgetown for 100 years. Local residents, residents in other neighborhoods, and national and international visitors come to Keshet to worship.

Recent events have unfortunately demonstrated to our community that the safety of both Keshet congregants, and thus the surrounding neighbors, will benefit from securing the public space around Keshet's perimeter, especially given its very unique proximity to the road. The proposed temporary planters provide a level of physical security Keshet and our community were seeking, plus are viewed by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) as temporarily acceptable in the public view.

The application is temporary as Keshet intends to renovate its buildings based on a recently approved set of OGB and Zoning plans. The renovation will be extensive and has not yet begun. In coordination with this renovation, Keshet will be considering more permanent options than the temporary planters, perhaps similar to Public Space and OGB-approved black bollards that sit in the public space immediately in front of the Keshet N Street.

## **Zoning – 8:33 pm**

### **Board of Zoning Adjustment Application To Expand the Existing Garage and Expand the Existing Workshop/Laundry Building at 3238 R Street, NW (BZA #21122) - 8:33 pm**

Chair Mathews moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. **Chair Lohse** seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-2). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the special exception sought by the owners of the Scott Grant House at 3232 R St. NW (BZA Case # 21122). The ANC authorizes Commissioner Topher Mathews to sign a construction management agreement with the applicants and forward it to the Board of Zoning Adjustment to be added to the case record. The agreement addresses topics including, but not limited to, contractor parking, work hours, trash

management, and monthly status updates for the neighbors. It is hoped that adherence to this agreement will limit the negative impact that such a significant construction project will have on the neighbors and general public.

**Old Georgetown Board- 8:51 pm**

**2E02-OG 24-180 (HPA 24-218) at 1048 29th Street NW- 8:51 pm**

Commissioner Linder moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Chao suggested an amendment taking out “it appears to this Commission that the design is reasonable in scope and mass and considers the neighbor’s concerns.” Commissioner DiPierri seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

Built around 1926, 1048 29<sup>th</sup> Street NW is one of the few remaining original commercial buildings in Georgetown, and as such is an important landmark. It sits on 29<sup>th</sup> Street next to the C & O canal with the James Place Condominium Building to its South, and across from the Four Seasons Power Plant Project. The James Place Condominiums were built in 1980 with a design that took advantage of being next to this low historic building. James Place Condominium has 77 units; some will be impacted by loss of light and air with this proposed addition to the historic building.

ANC 2E understands that the developer and residents of James Place have had some conversations. Still, the residents feel like the timing was such that they were unable to comment on this second set of plans that had already been completed and submitted to OGB. They wish to have an opportunity for dialogue around their concerns.

Out of the conversations that have occurred, it is clear that the James Place residents do NOT wish to have any additional mass added to this historic building. The Developer, however, would like to add a partial level and reconfigure the interior to create 9 residences. The proposal is for eight 2BR apartments and one 5BR apartment, with a gym and common room as well as a trash room and a potential restaurant on the ground floor. The residents of James Place Condominiums would like to understand better plans to address mechanical, trash, parking, loading/unloading, light study, and a sound study of the HVAC.

ANC 2E appreciates the rights of building owners to make changes to properties within this historic district. It appears the developer has attempted to address the massing concerns but we ask them to look to OGB for further guidance. ANC 2E asks OGB to give this developer guidance as to what will be acceptable changes for this historic

building. This knowledge will allow the developer to then better address neighbor concerns.

ANC 2E would like to support this project but, once again cannot until there are appropriate meetings with the neighbors in James Place Condominiums as well as those on 29<sup>th</sup> Street. These sit-downs, along with conversations with OGB, should give much needed information to the developer as to the possibilities this project has.

2E05-TBD (HPA TBD) at Lock 4 Between 31st Street, NW and Thomas Jefferson- 9:56 pm

Commissioner Lindner moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

The National Park Service (NPS) through a cooperative agreement with Georgetown Heritage has been conducting hour-long boat tours of the C & O Canal for school groups. In the fall of 2023, the Canal was dewatered. Without water in the canal there will obviously not be any boat tours, but the school groups will continue with walking tours. This opportunity for the children will include the chance to board the boat while it is drydocked at Lock 4. This is between 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Thomas Jefferson along the towpath. ANC 2E supports NPS as they seek approval from OGB to build a temporary dry dock and ramp. During this process NPS will work to permanently relocate the ramp for easier and safer access to the boat for now and in the future.

ANC 2E supports this project and the positive and creative usage of the boat.

2E05- OG 24-219 (HPA 24-269) at 3401 K (Water) Street, NW- 10:04 pm

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

ANC 2E is glad to see the corner of 34<sup>th</sup> and Water Streets come alive with the building of the CitizenM Hotel. It is particularly exciting to see the proposed Exterior Art Project. The artist, JD Deardourff, a native of Washington DC and a resident of Adams Morgan, sums it up by saying, “My goal for this mural was not only for it to look cool but also to reinforce DC’s connection to nature, specifically the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.” With the use of his bold colors, exceptional techniques, and landscape interpretations he did just that. The wall is fun and celebrates the Potomac River which is often filled with rowers and flows just feet away from this artwork. This mural brings life to this corner of Georgetown.

ANC 2E applauds this project.



## **Adjournment**

Chair Lohse adjourned the meeting at 10:11 pm.