

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of May 1, 2019

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on May 1, 2019 at Mary's Center. Commissioner Guthrie called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. About 35 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Bridget Pooley (1C02), Ted Guthrie (1C03), Douglas Ely (1C04), Damiana Dendy (1C05), Michaela Wright (1C06), and Japer Bowles (1C07).

II. Officers' Reports

a. Chair's Report

Commissioner Guthrie noted that the meeting would have to end by 9 pm due to security guard hours for Mary's Center. He also announced that the 3rd District of the MPD would be holding a joint meeting with the DC Department of For-Hire Vehicles on June 22 at 7pm at the 3rd District Station to discuss how for-hire vehicles interface with free ride programs.

b. Secretary's Report

Minutes for April 3, 2019 Meeting

Commissioner Wright moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2019 monthly ANC 1C meeting. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion which then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

c. Treasurer's Report

i. Q2 Financial Report

Commissioner Pooley announced that she will be giving a brief financial report at the start each monthly meeting. She presented the ANC 1C Q2 financial report and noted that it included past payments for meeting space. Commissioner Pooley moved for adoption of the Q2 report. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion which was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

ii. ANC 1C grant application form

Commissioner Pooley also announced that the ANC 1C grant application form is now a Google form that can be accessed at the ANC 1C website and completed online.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Commissioner Ely announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee voted at their April meeting to recommend that the full Commission pass a resolution in support of funding DC's Public Restroom law. Commissioner Ely also reported on a separate meeting with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation on renovations for Walter Pierce Park. He said residents can review the presentation that was made at the meeting at dgs.dc.gov and that an online survey for input on the park would be made soon. Commissioner Ely also announced that the agenda for the May PSE Committee meeting would include consideration of a resolution in support of the Adams Morgan Partnership BID's application for a Public Art Building Communities project grant, and discussion of an update for ANC 1C's grant guidelines.
- Commissioner Ely also announced that Washington Gas has offered to do community walking tours of their active projects and potential projects in the neighborhood. He provided

a sign-up sheet on the back table for those interested in doing a walking tour in the next month or two.

- Commissioner Bowles reported on a recent meeting he attended of the Rainbow Caucus of LGBTQIA ANC Commissioners which included discussion of a bill which may be introduced in the DC Council for the decriminalization of sex work.
- Commissioner Bowles also announced that he would be holding office hours in May 23 at 6:30 pm at Songbyrd.
- Commissioner Bowles also announced that elections for officers of the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association would be held on May 30 at 7pm the King Emmanuel Baptist Church. He added that those interested in running for a position with RCNA could contact him or Commissioner Wright and they would pass the information along to RCNA.
- Commissioner Dendy announced that installation of 5G small cell technology would begin soon in a few blocks in her Single Member District including the 1600 block of Lanier Place; the 1600 block of Harvard Street; and, the 2900 block of Adams Mill Road.
- Commissioner Irani announced that some alcohol license renewals would be considered at this meeting and some would be considered at the ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting on May 8.
- Commissioner Irani also announced that the agenda for the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee meeting on May 22 would include items listed on the back of this meeting's agenda, plus another item not listed involving a request for a variance of lot occupancy at 1831 Ontario Place.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that there would possibly be a community meeting on Wednesday, May 15 to discuss concerns regarding plans for a Jubilee Housing project. He said details would be made available when the meeting time and place are set.
- Commissioner Guthrie also announced that WMATA left brochures with details about renovations to the bus turn around on Calvert Street.
- Commissioner Pooley announced that a representative from the National Academy of Science would be available to speak with residents about their concerns with drinking water. She said those interested should contact her and she will put them in touch. Commissioner Pooley also said that DC Water and the EPA have released a draft plan for drinking water improvements and it is open for public comment until May 11.
- Commissioner Pooley also announced that 5G small cell devices will be installed in her Single Member District (1C02) on the 2300 block of 20th Street.
- Commissioner Pooley announced that Bike to Work Day is on May 17. She also suggested that ANC 1C send a letter to the Mayor and DC Council stating ANC 1C's recommitment to Vision Zero goals for safe streets, especially given the number of fatalities since Vision Zero began.
- Commissioner Pooley also announced that there would be a clean-up day at Kalorama Park on Saturday, May 11 from 10 AM to 12 PM.
- Commissioner Wright echoed Commissioner Bowles' announcement about the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association elections adding that members can vote only if they pay annual dues which can be submitted to Peter Leyden at 1726 Euclid Street. Commissioner Wright also announced that she has started sending a newsletter to residents in SMD (1C06).

IV. Public Announcements / Comments

- Kristin Barden of the Adams Morgan BID announced that movie nights would again be held at the Marie Reed soccer field on Tuesday nights in May and June. She said the films have a space theme this year and that the Air and Space Museum will participate by bringing telescopes to the field and holding a panel about what is real and not in science fiction movies. She also

announced that the BID is partnering with City Bikes and WABA to host the pit stop at Unity Plaza for Bike to Work on Friday, May 17.

- Davon Fuller from Councilmember Nadeau's office announced that a Brianne on Your Block community office hours on Wednesday, May 15 from 6:30 to 8 pm.
- Reuben Forman from Mayor Bowser's office provided a budget update highlighting the Mayor's initiatives to decrease homelessness; funding for Adams School; and Summer crime prevention initiatives, including the private security camera program. He said that some of the Mayor's budget initiatives and funding levels may be changed by the DC Council.
- Mary Belcher announced that a ceremony to read the names of those buried in the cemeteries at Walter Pierce Park would take place on Saturday, May 11 at 11am at the park.
- Barry Weise from Anita Bonds staff said that the Councilmember is trying to redirect some of the money in the Mayor's budget, for example to preserve rent control levels.
- Mark Sussman provided background on the How's My Driving app (HMDapp.io) that allows residents to report dangerous driving. He said violations can be recorded with phones and reported to appropriate agencies for enforcement. He said over 3,000 submissions have been filed since January. Commissioner Irani said Mr. Sussman would be welcome to bring this up again at an ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting.
- Carol Miller announced that Adams Morgan Day would be held on September 8 from noon to 6 and that those interested in volunteering can sign up on the website at ADMODay.com.

V. Scheduled Business

a. ABC and Public Safety Committee

i. Consideration of alcoholic beverage license renewals

Commissioner Irani reported that a long list of alcoholic beverage licenses in Adams Morgan were up for renewal and that the ABC and Public Safety Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C not protest any of the establishments on the following list: Jyoti Foods; Red, White, and Basil; The Game Sports Pub; Duplex Diner; Bom; Pitango Gelato and Café; Mama Ayesha's; Himalayan Heritage Restaurant; Johnny Pistolas; Tryst; The Diner; Grand Central; Soussi; Perry's Restaurant; Mintwood Place; the Washington Hilton; and Bucca Di Beppo. Commissioner Irani asked residents to let him know if they have any negative experiences with any of the listed establishments. Commissioner Guthrie said he was encouraged that there so few concerns with establishments now and noted that the bar scene in Adams Morgan has improved. Commissioners then voted 7 to 0 to not protest any of the above listed establishments.

Commissioner Irani noted that additional license renewal notices came in after the April ABC Committee meeting, so there was no consideration at the committee level. Commissioner Guthrie moved that ANC 1C not protest the license renewals of the following establishments: Bul; Southern Hospitality; Columbia Station; Jack Rose; Los Cuates; Meze; Wasi; Pitchers; Alfresco Tap and Grill; Bossa; Federalist Pig; VILLA TUSCANA; Lapis; The Grill From Ipanema; Zenebech; El Rincon; Habana Village; Spacy Cloud; The Blaguard; The Line DC; My Canton Restaurant; Osteria Al Volo; Wok and Roll Restaurant; Johnny's Halfshell; and Asmara Lounge and Restaurant. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

b. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

i. Consideration of plans for the addition and alteration at 2332 19th Street

Commissioner Irani reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted at their April meeting to recommend that ANC 1C send letters to the Board of Zoning Adjustment and to the Historic Preservation Office in support of plans for an addition and alteration at 2332

19th Street, NW. Commissioners thanked the owners of the property for their outreach to neighbors about the renovation. Commissioners then voted 7 to 0 to approve sending letters of support for the project.

ii. Consideration of a request for an after-hours construction permit for 1963 Biltmore

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee recommended not supporting a request for an after-hours construction permit at 1963 Biltmore Street. Commissioner Guthrie explained that the developer wanted the permit to do work on Sunday in order to expedite his schedule. Commissioners discussed the request and the developer's record in the neighborhood. Commissioner Irani then moved that ANC 1C not support the after-hour request. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

iii. Consideration of a request for an after-hours construction permit for 1795 Lanier Place

Commissioner Irani reported that a request for an after-hours construction permit at 1795 Lanier Place came in too late to be considered by the PZT Committee. He explained that this request was from the same developer who made the request for after-hours construction at 1963 Biltmore. Commissioners discussed the request, then Commissioner Guthrie moved that ANC 1C not support this request. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

c. Public Services and the Environment Committee

i. Public Restrooms Facilities Installation & Promotion Act of 2018

Commissioner Ely reported that the PSE Committee recommended a resolution in support of fully funding the Public Restrooms Facilities Installation & Promotion Act of 2018 and a pilot study for public restrooms, specifically within the boundaries of ANC 1C.

Commissioner Bowles provided background on the resolution and the request for funding. Commissioners and members of the public discussed the resolution and whether the restrooms in Kalorama Park could be unlocked 24/7. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 7 to 0.

ii. Resolution in support of sending a letter to DC Chief Financial Officer re: Sexual Harassment and Assault.

Commissioner Ely moved that ANC 1C send a letter to DC Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey DeWitt regarding sexual harassment and assault by DC government employees. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Commissioner Pooley explained that Commissioner Krepp of ANC 6B began this initiative that has already resulted in a commitment from the DC Government that it will now start auditing amounts spent in sexual harassment and assault cases. Commissioners discussed sending a letter to reinforce this decision. Commissioner Ely moved that ANC 1C send a letter asking the DC Chief Financial Officer to account for and report on any payments made by the DC government to settle sexual harassment and assault settlements, judgements, and other related agreements. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

iii. Resolution in support of LGBTQAI+ Senior Housing

Commissioner Ely moved a resolution expressing ANC 1C support to Mayor Bowser and the DC Council for setting aside 24 vouchers for rental housing LGBTQAI+ seniors. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion. Commissioner Bowles provided background on the resolution. Members of

the public and Commissioners discussed how housing vouchers are allotted for public and subsidized rental housing. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 7 to 0.

iv. Walter Pierce Park water delivery issues

Commissioner Guthrie reported that ANC 1C had been informed by WMATA, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, and the DC Department of General Services that emergency repairs were needed to replace a leaking temporary water line with a permanent line to the Walter Pierce dog park. He noted that this matter was not brought up at a recent public meeting on renovations to Walter Pierce Park.

Some members of the public spoke in favor of bringing water into the dog park including access to a fountain year-round. Katie Davis of Friends of Walter Pierce Park spoke about the park being a crossroads with many stakeholders and asked that they be asked for input on any changes to the park, adding that they have not been successful getting WMATA to coordinate with them.

Commissioner Wright said the ANC 1C draft resolution on this issue was intended as an attempt to slow this process down and bring the matter to full discussion by the community. Various members of the public expressed the following views: the water pipe proposal seems to simply be moving a phase of the project up; many aspects of the park need to be balanced, including honoring the cemetery; repairs should not be done twice; the community should make use of available money to improve the park; and, concerns that if the project is postponed it will never get done.

Commissioners asked Peter Nohrden from DPR about water delivery from the temporary above-ground line to the dog park versus permanent buried lines. Mr. Nohrden said the plan is to install a waterline that will last many years, but problems will arise at connections or spigots where frost occurs. He said the original plan was to put in permanent line in August, but that it is happening sooner than planned.

Commissioners asked about the timeline for this project and urged DPR to get it done expeditiously. Mr. Nohrden added that they want to be respectful of all concerns and they are picking a spot for the pipe that is least likely to involve cemetery remains.

Commissioner Bowles moved to table the resolution. Commissioner Ely seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Guthrie moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion which passed unanimously.