

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of June 5, 2019

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on June 5, 2019 at Mary's Center. Commissioner Guthrie called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. About 50 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 moved that the July ANC 1C meetings be moved back one week, with the full Commission meeting on July 10, and the Committees meeting on the following Wednesdays in their usual order. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0

b. Secretary's Report

Minutes for May 1, 2019 Meeting

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

c. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Pooley provided an overview of ANC 1C's amounts spent in May.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Commissioner Pooley announced that a public comment period is open until July 2 on a proposed medical marijuana dispensary at 1115 U Street, NW.
- Commissioner Pooley announced that a Kalorama Park clean-up would be held Saturday, June 8 from 9 am till noon with volunteers meeting on the 19th Street side of the park.
- Commissioner Pooley also announced that the period for public comment on DC's Comprehensive Plan closes on June 30.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the ABC and Public Safety Committee would meet on June 12 and that it would include the monthly police report.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that a public meeting on Jubilee Housing's plans for affordable housing in Adams Morgan would take place on Tuesday, July 11 at 1631 Euclid Street, NW.
- Commissioner Wright announced that those interested receiving her newsletter with ANC updates and community events should email her to sign up.
- Commissioner Wright also announced that the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association held an election for officers and announced that the new president is Nick Roland.
- Commissioner Bowles announced that June is Pride Month and he listed some of the events that would be taking place including marches, parades, and the Mayor's event on June 22 at the Lincoln Theater.
- Commissioner Bowles commented that he has been receiving emails about 5G installation. He said he is researching it and can direct those interested to sources for more information.
- Commissioner Bowles also announced that he will be posting a Google map to solicit public input on locations for additional bike racks in the Reed Cooke neighborhood.

- Commissioner Ely announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee would be meeting on June 26 and will consider grant applications; field usage at Marie Reed; and, updates on Walter Pierce Park from the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. He also announced that DPR will host an additional meeting on renovations at Walter Pierce Park in mid-July.
- Commissioner Pooley added that representatives from DPR and the Department of General Services have both confirmed that they would attend the June PSE Committee meeting to discuss repairs in Kalorama Park.
- Commissioner Dendy suggested that the ANC 1C consider sending a letter to the DC Council in support of keeping the United Medical Center open until there is another viable option.

IV. Office of Campaign Finance – explanation of the Public Finance Program for candidates

Representatives from the DC Office of Campaign Finance provided information and pamphlets on the Fair Elections Program, a voluntary public financing program for local political campaigns by DC residents. Two other representatives with DC Fair Elections explained how public financing helps make it possible for candidates to rely more on support from small donors thus balancing out the influence of big donors in campaigns.

V. Public Announcements / Comments

- Nick Roland, the new President of the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association, introduced himself and the other newly elected officers of RCNA. He said the next meeting would be on June 27 at 7 pm at the King Emmanuel Baptist Church.
- A neighbor representing people who play pick-up soccer games spoke about limited access to the Marie Reed field due to use by for-profit soccer clubs. He asked that ANC 1C help reserve time for community use and also consider sending a letter to DGS regarding lighting on the field. Commissioner Pooley commented that she had shared a letter on this issue with the Commissioners and that it is on agenda for the June 26 PSE Committee meeting. She added that representatives from DPR and DGS will be at that PSE meeting to discuss Kalorama Park, so they can also hear about usage at the Marie Reed field. A representative from DC Fray said they are trying to negotiate a solution for sharing the field and would come to the PSE meeting as well.
- Kristin Barden of the Adams Morgan BID announced that they are mid-way through the movie night season which this year is featuring movies to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. She also provided DC bike maps.
- Barry Weise from DC Councilmember Anita Bonds' office reviewed some of the increases for affordable housing in the recently passed budget including the housing production trust fund, public housing, housing vouchers, workforce housing units, and rent control.
- A neighbor shared that the Women's National Democratic Club would be holding a panel discussion about the Green New Deal on June 18 at 6 pm.
- Cynthia Turcios from Mayor Bowser's office provided her contact information and urged residents to contact her with concerns. She invited those interested to walk with the Mayor in the Pride Parade. She also announced a bulk trash pick-up day on June 15 at Elm Street by Le Droit Park.
- Davon Fuller from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided fact sheets with highlights from the budget recently passed by the DC Council. He reported that the Public Restrooms Act had been fully funded and that Ward 1 funding included homelessness outreach programs; street repaving; 16th Street bus priority lanes; and specific funding for Adams Elementary renovations. He added that the next Brianne on Your Block gathering would be at Nellie's Sports Bar on June 13.
- A representative from DC Fray reported that they are in discussion with the relevant parties about use of the Marie Reed field and look forward to being part of the dialogue.

- Crawford Sherman, the Manager from the Line Hotel, announced that the winner of a high school banner competition will be announced on June 7. He provided the upcoming schedule for the Community Center at the hotel. Mr. Sherman also raised the real estate tax abatement issue emphasizing that the abatement is just on the Hotel's real estate tax, not on all their taxes. He said they are working with DC's Department of Employment Services to determine whether the Hotel has met the stipulated hiring requirements; and are in discussion with two Councilmembers who have questioned the settlement with DOES. Commissioner Guthrie suggested this matter be added to the PZT Committee's agenda for June 19 and urged anyone with relevant information to share it with the Commission.
- A representative from DC Health Link reminded everyone that having health insurance is still the law in DC and provided handouts with more information. She added that a public hearing would be held on June 10 in the Old Council Chambers to review health insurance rates and that a second meeting would be held in August. Members of the public asked questions about signing up for insurance.

VI. Scheduled Business

a. ABC and Public Safety Committee

i. Settlement agreement with Friendship Macaron (2434 18th St)

Commissioner Irani provided background on a request from the owner of Friendship Macaron to change their hours to allow earlier morning coffee and pastry business. He presented a settlement agreement that accommodates those hours that had also been agreed to by the Kalorama Citizens Association. Commissioner Guthrie moved that ANC 1C approve the negotiated settlement agreement with Friendship Macaron. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Guthrie also moved that ANC 1C approve a stipulated license allowing Friendship Macaron to operate according to the terms of the new settlement agreement. He explained that this would allow them to start with the earlier hours as soon as they put in their application for new hours. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

ii. Liquor license renewals of Adams Morgan Restaurant & Coffee (2204 18th St); Pop's Seabar (1817 Columbia Rd); and Tail Up Goat (1827 Adams Mill Rd)

Commissioner Irani reported that the ABC and Public Safety Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C not protest the liquor license renewals for Adams Morgan Restaurant & Coffee; Pop's Seabar; and Tail Up Goat. He noted that the public has had opportunity to raise any issues concerning these establishments. Commissioners then voted 7 to 0 to not protest these license renewals.

iii. Settlement agreement with The Green Zone (2226 18th Street)

Commissioner Irani reported that ANC 1C, the Kalorama Citizens Association, and the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association had reached a settlement agreement with The Green Zone, a relatively new establishment. Denis James, on behalf of KCA, thanked the owners for keeping their space clean and picking up the trash. Commissioner Guthrie moved to approve the settlement agreement with The Green Zone. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

iv. Settlement agreement for new license for Bourbon (2321 18th Street)

Commissioner Irani reported that a new settlement agreement was necessary with Bourbon, since its license had been transferred to the Imperial. He said the Bourbon restaurant and bar will

continue to operate as it has been, just with new ownership. Commissioner Guthrie moved to adopt a settlement agreement negotiated with Bourbon. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Guthrie then moved to approve a stipulated license allowing Bourbon to operate according to the terms of the new settlement agreement during the protest period. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

v. Settlement agreement with Retrobottega (2435 18th Street)

Commissioner Guthrie moved to add to the agenda consideration of a settlement agreement with Retrobottega without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that not doing so would be adverse to the community because the protest due date would otherwise be missed. Commissioner Pooley seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

The owner of Retrobottega introduced himself and spoke about renovations to the property and described their menu. Commissioner Guthrie moved to adopt a settlement agreement with Retrobottega and KCA. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0. Commissioner Guthrie then moved to approve a stipulated license allowing operation according to the terms of the new settlement agreement during the remaining protest period. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

vi. Protest license renewal of Lucky Buns (2000 18th Street)

Commissioner Guthrie moved to add to the agenda consideration of a protest of a renewal of license for Lucky Buns without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that not doing so would be adverse to the community. Commissioner Irani seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0 to 1 (one abstention).

Commissioner Irani explained that there have been many complaints from neighbors about a serious rat problem and trash containers adjacent to sidewalk café. He said that since an agreement has not yet been reached with the owners, ANC 1C should file a protest of the license renewal to be able to continue negotiating. Commissioners discussed trash handling by adjacent establishments; the procedural steps and strategy in filing a protest; and getting the Department of Health to enforce relevant regulations.

Neighbors asked how they can participate in the protest process. One neighbor offered to share a video of the rats around the restaurant. Other neighbors cited concerns about sanitation, a dilapidated fence, grease stains, liquids dumped in the street, and ladders propped up against a neighboring fence. Davon Fuller from Councilmember Nadeau's office said they are working on getting DOH and DDOT to enforce the relevant regulations since the time for correction of some problems has expired.

Commissioner Guthrie moved to protest the liquor license renewal of Lucky Buns on the basis that it would have an adverse impact on public health and safety and on the peace, order, and quiet the of neighborhood. He further moved that ANC 1C authorize any Commissioner to act on behalf of the Commission in proceedings on this protest. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion which then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

b. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

i. Public space permit for 1630 Columbia Road

A representative from EastBanc developers presented modifications to plans for the property at 1630 Columbia Road for which they will need a Public Space permit. The modifications involved tree boxes, a green area, the entrance to the building, and a Pepco vault size and location. She added that they have met with DDOT's Forestry Division to discuss which trees to save or replace.

Commissioners, members of the public, and the developers discussed the modifications, different types of permeable pavement, and the number of trees that would be in boxes along the property.

This matter was considered at the May PZT Committee meeting, so did not need a second. Commissioners voted 7 to 0 to support the Public Space permit request for 1630 Columbia Road.

ii. Resolution opposing WMATA's Late Night Plan to supplement its transit service by subsidizing for-hire ride services

Commissioner Pooley moved to consider a resolution to oppose WMATA's Late Night Plan to supplement its transit service by subsidizing for-hire ride services; to oppose early rail closing times; and, to encourage viable late-night bus operations.

The resolution was recommended by the PZT Committee so did not need a second. After discussion Commissioners passed the resolution by a vote of 7 to 0.

iii. Resolution in favor of Circulator Extension

Commissioner Bowles provided background on a resolution in support of the District Department of Transportation's proposal to extend the DC Circulator's current Dupont Circle – Georgetown – Rosslyn route to Howard University by way of 18th Street and U Street NW. The resolution also encourages DDOT to utilize bus priority techniques to improve service and reduce delays for Circulators and buses at intersections. It also encourages Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to approve funding in DC's FY 2020 budget that supports expansion of the DC Circulator fleet to permit reliable operation of the Dupont Circle – Georgetown – Rosslyn route.

The resolution was recommended by the PZT Committee. Commissioner Pooley added a reference to enforcement of bus priority policies, which was accepted without objection.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed when these changes to the Circulator routes might happen. Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 7 to 0.

iv. Resolution in favor of new Bikeshare stations

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C pass a resolution requesting DDOT to install new Capital Bikeshare stations at two locations within ANC 1C boundaries (Kalorama Park, and on the 2400 block of 28th Street) and one location bordering ANC 1C (northwest corner of Kalorama Road and Connecticut Avenue, NW).

Commissioner Guthrie suggested tabling the resolution until a representative from DDOT could be present for the discussion. Commissioners and members of the public discussed the timing of the resolution and the process DDOT will use to make its determinations on station locations.

Commissioner Dendy seconded the motion to table. Commissioners discussed the value of passing the resolution and while continuing discussions with DDOT. The motion to table the resolution failed by a vote of 3 to 4.

Commissioner Irani amended the resolution to add another station at 1901 Columbia Road. The amendment was adopted without opposition.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the pros and cons of additional bike traffic; and alternative locations for bike stations. Kristen Barden submitted a petition signed by business owners in Adams Morgan in opposition to placing a new Bikeshare station at 2424 18th Street, NW, because of traffic and pedestrian congestion; the proximity of existing stations that could be expanded; the loss of metered parking spaces; and, a preference for placing a pick-up and drop-off zone along 18th Street instead.

Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a roll call vote of 6 to 1 with Commissioners Ely, Bowles, Wright, Irani, Pooley, and Dendy voting yes; and Commissioner Guthrie voting no.

v. Resolution in favor of Connected Bike Lane Infrastructure

Commissioner Pooley provided background on a resolution recommended by the PZT Committee in support of the installation of a protected bicycle lane connecting Adams Morgan to other bike corridors throughout the city.

Commissioners discussed the safety of various bike routes to and through Adams Morgan, and the potential for improving bike lanes around the proposed deck-over project at Dupont Circle. Members of the public asked about input and plans from DDOT.

Commissioner Pooley amended the resolution to add a request that DDOT specifically explore a protected bike lane along Columbia Road between 16th Street and Connecticut Avenue. The amendment was adopted without objection and Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 7 to 0.

vi. High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signal for the intersection of 16th and Kalorama Road

Commissioner Wright provided background on a recommendation from the PZT Committee that ANC 1C send a letter to DDOT to request that a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signal be installed across 16th Street at Kalorama Road. The letter also asks that DDOT come out to see the existing pair of crosswalks to determine what can be done to make this intersection safer. Commissioner Pooley amended the letter to encourage DDOT to enforce any related safety regulations and traffic calming measures. The amendment was accepted without objection then Commissioners approved sending the letter as amended by a vote of 7 to 0.

c. Public Services and the Environment Committee

i. Adams Morgan Partnership BID's application for the Public Art Building Communities project grant

Commissioner Ely reported that the Public Services and the Environment Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C send a letter in support of the Adams Morgan Partnership BID's application for a Public Art Building Communities project grant. Kristen Barden with the BID and architect Charles Bergen described the Adams Morgan Gateway proposal and explained that they would have to match the grant amount dollar for dollar.

Commissioners asked whether the architect and artists were local; whether the rose bushes in Llorente Park would remain; and about the design for the kiosk. Members of the public asked about approval from DDOT, and whether the bus stop bench would remain.

Commissioners then voted 7 to 0 to send a letter in support of the BID's grant application.

ii. ANC1C grant guidelines and policy statement

Commissioner Guthrie moved to table a proposal to update ANC1C grant guidelines and policy statement and to move consideration to the July meeting. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

iii. Grant application for Adams Morgan Day

Commissioner Pooley reported that the PSE Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C approve a grant request for Adams Morgan Day for \$2000. Commissioner Guthrie moved to waive the ANC 1C's current grant limit of \$1000 and approve and the \$2000 grant. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

iv. Kalorama Park maintenance

Commissioner Pooley moved to add to the agenda consideration of a letter regarding Kalorama Park without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that doing so would not be adverse to the community. Commissioner Ely seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Pooley then moved that ANC 1C send a letter to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation and to the DC Department of General Services requesting maintenance and repairs at Kalorama Park. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed maintenance of playground equipment and location of shade trees in the park. Commissioners then approved sending the letter by a vote of 7 to 0.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Bowles moved to adjourn at 10:18 pm. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion which passed unanimously.