

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of January 6, 2021

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on January 6, 2021. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. About 50 members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Celeste Carano (1C02), Peter Wood (1C03), Meghan Faulkner (1C04), Zack Gold (1C05), Benjamin Hart Butz (1C06), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Fiona Clem (1C08).

II. Elect Chair

Commissioner Bowles nominated Commissioner Irani to serve as Chair of ANC 1C. Commissioner Gold seconded the nomination that was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

III. Elect Slate of ANC 1C Officers and Committee Assignments for 2021

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the following slate of officers and committee assignments: Commissioner Gold as Vice Chair; Commissioner Clem as Secretary; Commissioner Faulkner as Treasurer; Commissioner Wood as AMPBID Representative; Commissioner Bowles as Chair of the ABC and Public Safety Committee with Commissioners Irani and Clem as members; Commissioner Gold as Chair of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee with Commissioners Irani and Faulkner as members; and Commissioner Carano as Chair of the Public Services and the Environment Committee with Commissioners Wood and Butz as members. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion that was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani urged everyone to sign up for public safety alerts on the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency ALERTDC page: <https://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>. He said terrorists attacking the Capitol Building that day shows the importance of these alerts. He also mentioned options for regular transportation updates and utility outage alerts.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Clem provided her email address (1c08@anc.dc.gov) and said she looks forward to serving both as a commissioner and secretary of ANC 1C.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Faulkner introduced herself as the new Treasurer. Outgoing Treasurer Bowles gave a status report on ANC 1C's finances.

V. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Bowles announced that the ABC and Public Safety Committee agenda for January 13 would include a discussion of the license application by Air; and the MPD report.
- Commissioner Bowles also announced that he along with Commissioners Wood and Faulkner, and the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association would be participating in a Community Clean-up on Sunday, January 10. He added that information on [Christmas tree disposal](#) is available on the Mayor's website and that improper disposals can be reported at 311.
- Commissioner Bowles said the RCNA COVID-19 Relief Fund is still operating and provided the link for donations and applications: <https://reedcooke-dc.org/rcna-covid-19-relief-fund>.
- Commissioner Bowles announced that he is now a member of the DC Democratic State Committee which would be holding a January 7 meeting along with an information session on rank choice voting, and provided a link for more information: <https://www.mobilize.us/dcdems/event/367455/>
- Commissioner Butz said he was excited to work with everyone and looking forward to meeting more people in the neighborhood.
- Commissioner Gold said he looked forward to working with his colleagues. He noted that having recently sworn to uphold the Constitution as a Commissioner, he was struck by the day's riots at the Capitol as a low point in Democracy. He noted that some of the violent extremists are staying in our neighborhood. He said they have come to DC looking for a fight and advised not giving them one.
- Commissioner Gold summarized actions taken at the December Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee and announced that the agenda for the January 20 meeting included consideration of a resolution on protected bike lanes and potential cuts to WMATA service.
- Commissioner Faulkner spoke about the insurrection at the Capitol earlier in the day and said she looks forward to working with the Commission on accountability for what is happening in the city. She urged everyone to stay safe and look out for their neighbors.
- Commissioner Wood echoed comments made about the insurrection at the Capitol and a comment made in the chat about white supremacists staying at local hotels. He also said he is looking forward to the Community Clean-up scheduled for Sunday and for similar events in the future.
- Commissioner Carano announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee agenda for the January 27 meeting included a review of the ANC 1C grant timeline. She also asked anyone in her single member district (ANC 1C02) to contact her at 1c02@anc.dc.gov or 202-854-8334 if they wish to be added to her email list for updates.

VI. Public Announcements/Comments

- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided updates and her contact information: abobak@dcouncil.us 202-531-5186. She welcomed the new and returning Commissioners and said she is looking forward to working with ANC 1C again. She invited everyone to sign up for their newsletter at: Brianneknadeau.com for updates, including information on the COVID vaccine.
- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID welcomed everyone back and thanked Commissioners for supporting the holiday decorations at BB&T plaza. She announced that the BID would again be holding a Valentine's Day decorating contest for businesses and a date night promotion in February and March. She said more information is on their website: admodc.org as well as a page to sign up for their newsletter.

- Cynthia Turcios announced that she is the new DDOT community engagement specialist for Ward 1 and encouraged Commissioners and the public to email her with any DDOT concerns at cynthia.turcios1@dc.gov or through the website at: ddot.dc.gov/communityengagement.
- Anthony Moore from Mayor Bowser's office welcomed everyone and provided his contact information: 202-285-9238 anthony.moore@dc.gov. He reminded everyone that leaf collection ends January 30. He stressed the importance of getting COVID tests, and vaccinations when they are available. He advised checking vaccinate.dc.gov. Commissioners asked about the timeline for the vaccine eligibility and about leaf pick-up.

VII. Office of Paid Family Leave overview of DC Paid Family Leave Program

Michael Henderson, of the DC Office of Paid Family Leave, gave an overview of DC's paid family leave benefits for eligible workers in the District. He said more information and resources, including a handbook, can be found at dcpaidfamilyleave.dc.gov. Commissioners asked how the program interfaces with unemployment and about sharing the presentation slides.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani explained the purpose and process for the consent agenda. He then presented the following consent agenda items and moved for a vote: approve [minutes](#) from December 2020 ANC meeting; [authorize payment](#) of \$25 to participate in DC's ANC Security Fund for 2021; [authorize signatories](#) on the ANC 1C bank account; adopt full ANC and committee [meeting dates](#), times, and tentative locations for 2021; and [authorize](#) the safekeeping location of the financial books, records and checkbook. An amendment was adopted to add Commissioner Faulkner's apartment number to the address for the financial records. Commissioners approved the consent agenda by a vote of 8 to 0.

IX. Regular Agenda

A. ABC and Public Safety Committee

1. Restaurant (CR) ABC license for use at 2473 18th Street, 2nd floor

Commissioner Bowles reported that at its December meeting the ABC and Public Safety Committee discussed Air's application for a restaurant ABC license. He proposed protesting the license to allow more time to reach a settlement agreement, noting that the owners had been invited to the January meeting of the ABC and Public Safety Committee for further discussion. Commissioner Irani moved to add the matter to the agenda without the typical 10 days' notice on the basis that it is not adverse to the community interest. Commissioner Gold seconded the procedural motion that passed without opposition. Commissioner Bowles then moved to protest the license on the basis that it would have an adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. Commissioner Faulkner seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. SunTrust Plaza litigation

Commissioner Irani provided background on ongoing litigation over whether a public easement exists at the SunTrust Plaza. Commissioner Gold moved for consideration of a [resolution](#) requesting that Attorney General Racine make a formal determination whether to actively pursue litigation to establish

an easement for public use of a portion of the Plaza. He noted that it came out of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee with a recommendation to pass the resolution.

Members of the public commented on the importance of the space to the Adams Morgan public, and on the likelihood of the AG getting involved. Commissioners discussed the purpose of the resolution; the timeline for the lawsuit and possible appeals; community interest in the plaza; community awareness and input on the issue; and, working with the developer after the easement question is resolved.

Commissioner Irani moved for a vote on the resolution. Commissioners passed the resolution by a roll call vote of 6 to 2, with Commissioners Irani, Carano, Faulkner, Gold, Butz, and Clem voting yes; and Commissioners Wood and Bowles voting no.

2. Commissary kitchen at 2412 18th Street R NW

Project Manager Justin Mack presented [designs](#) for a commissary kitchen in the alley behind 2412 18th Street NW. Commissioner Gold reported that the PZT Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C send a letter to the Historic Preservation Review Board in support of the plans, noting that the Office of Historic Preservation had already issued its [staff report](#).

Commissioners asked about the time frame for the project; commented on the need for this type of business in Adams Morgan; asked that neighbors be notified when construction begins; and that care be taken to minimize trash, noise, signage, and lights. Commissioners then passed the motion to send a letter in support by a vote of 8 to 0.

C. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. ANC 1C Google Workspace Account

Commissioner Irani proposed a [resolution](#) authorizing the creation of an ANC 1C Google Workspace Account. He explained that Commissioners are currently sharing and collaborating on documents on commissioners' individual Google drives and this public record could be lost if not kept in one dedicated drive. He said that it would cost \$50 a year to create a dedicated ANC 1C Google workspace. Commissioners discussed the benefits of the workspace and alternatives. A member of public encouraged Commissioners to make more efforts to encourage public participation by reaching out to constituents.

Commissioner Irani moved to add this to the agenda without the usual 10 days' advance notice on the basis that it is not adverse to the community. Commissioner Wood seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 8 to 0. Commissioner Irani then moved for adoption of the resolution, which passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.