

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of May 5, 2021

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on May 5, 2021. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. 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). Members of the public joined electronically.

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani reported that the Adams Morgan farmers market will re-start on Saturday, June 5 at Unity Park; and that the public health emergency is set to expire on May 20 and 15 days later, on June 4, the moratorium on utility disconnection ends. He said residents can contact Kris Randolph at the DC Public Service Commission (krandoph@psc.dc.gov) with questions about this. He added that parking enforcement, car registration, inspections and street sweeping restart in June. Commissioner Irani also announced that vaccinations with no appointments are now available at [walk-up sites](#) which can be found at: coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine, and that vaccines at clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies can be found at: vaccinefinder.org. He also reported that DC has received \$350 million for rental and utility assistance and information on this can be found at stay.dc.gov or by calling 833-4-STAYDC.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Clem had no updates.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Faulkner gave a brief overview of the ANC 1C's quarterly financial report ([FY21 Q2](#)).

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Carano announced that there would be a vaccine registration table at the northwest corner of Ontario Road and Columbia Road on May 6 and at Unity Park on May 7.
- Commissioner Carano also announced that the May 26 Public Services and the Environment Committee meeting would include a panel on domestic violence. She also asked those who wish to receive her newsletter for single member district 1C 02 to contact her.
- Commissioner Wood reported that there is a new US flag at Kalorama Park and a DC flag is on the way. He added that he is working on the domestic violence panel that will be held during the PSE Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Faulkner echoed the announcement about vaccine registration and said she would be at the Unity Park table to help book appointments for people.
- Commissioner Gold announced that May is Bike Month and there will once again be a pit stop on May 21, [Bike to Work Day](#) in Unity Park.

- Commissioner Gold echoed the announcement that parking enforcement resumes on June 1 with an [amnesty period](#) to pay outstanding tickets without penalties.
- Commissioner Gold announced that the May 19 meeting of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee would include consideration of a response to the MoveDC plan.
- Commissioner Butz urged everyone to get vaccinated to help the return to some level of normalcy.
- Commissioner Bowles announced that the May 12 ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting would include the police report, and potentially an ABRA-related matter if it is tabled at this meeting.
- Commissioner Bowles also announced that he is working on a resolution regarding the DC budget and urged people to let him know if they have input on funding issues.
- Commissioner Bowles also reminded everyone that June is Pride Month and to watch for events.
- Commissioner Clem announced that [ANC1B](#) is holding meetings on the Reeves Center redevelopment.
- Commissioner Clem announced that the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo would be re-opening in May. She also provided a link to an app for following the Cicada invasion: cicadasafari.org.

IV. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton provided the ANC with various updates including WMATA funding; postal issues and her meeting with the Postmaster General; her [Pay Equity for All Act](#), which prohibits employers from asking job applicants about their salary history; and growing support by the American people for DC statehood. She noted that DC's share of stimulus packages has now been corrected and that she has been given senatorial courtesy to offer advice on judges for DC District Courts. The Congresswoman reviewed some of her legislative successes including increased transportation funds and the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) program to assist DC residents attending college in other states. Commissioners asked about National Park Service hearings; Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park; Rabaut Park; what the ANC can do to support the Congresswoman's efforts; and Vision Zero efforts. She urged Commissioners and the public to be in touch with her office regarding questions about the National Park Service by calling: 202-408-9041 or emailing: norton.casework@mail.house.gov or her staffer: Kaitlin.brown5@mail.house.gov.

V. Public Announcements/Comments

- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID reported that the cherry blossom sculpture would stay until the first week of June, then be sold at auction; May is small business month and there will be special deals and a city-wide scavenger hunt including items in Adams Morgan; the Admo Art Walk and outdoor fitness classes will continue in May; they could use more volunteers for the Bike to Work Day pit stop at Unity Park on May 21; there will be a book festival in front of Truist Bank on May 23; drag queen story hour will take place in Unity Park on Sundays in June; movie nights will hopefully resume in July and August; and Porchfest is scheduled for the fall.
- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office announced locations and times for vaccination registration and encouraged volunteers to help sign people up for vaccines. She referred people to the DC Council website for the budget hearings schedule. She also noted post-COVID re-openings starting on June 1 adding that schools will likely be fully in person in the fall. She provided her

contact information: abobak@dccouncil.us, 202-531-5186 and a link for their newsletter: www.brianneknadeau.com.

VI. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the consent agenda which consisted of [minutes](#) from the April 2021 ANC meeting; the FY21 Q2 [financial report](#); and a [resolution](#) authorizing bank fees up to \$100 a year including monthly charges. Commissioners passed the consent agenda by a vote of 8 to 0.

VII. Regular Agenda

A. ABC and Public Safety Committee

1. Settlement agreement with Air restaurant located at 2473 18th Street

Commissioner Irani moved to add to the agenda consideration of a [settlement agreement](#) with Air restaurant without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that doing so has no adverse impact on the community. Commissioner Clem seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Commissioner Bowles reviewed the settlement agreement including hours and entertainment restrictions and noted that the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) was also involved in the negotiations. He said the owners have plans for a second-floor rear deck with shorter hours, but otherwise the agreement was mostly standard with a few modifications. Lyle Blanchard, counsel to the applicant, said he hoped the agreement can be filed soon to avoid a protest hearing. Commissioners then voted 8 to 0 to adopt the [settlement agreement](#).

2. Amendment to existing settlement agreement with The Game/Tiki located at 2411 18th Street

Commissioner Irani moved to add to the agenda consideration of an [amendment](#) to an existing settlement agreement with The Game/Tiki without the usual 10 days' advance notice on the basis that doing so would not have an adverse impact on the community. Commissioners passed the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Commissioner Irani explained that the applicant filed for a substantial change to their license to add an entertainment endorsement and have agreed that this would be for a DJ only. He noted that KCA was also a party to the agreement. Commissioners discussed how settlement agreements are negotiated in general, and about the hours for this establishment then voted 8 to 0 to adopt the [amendment](#) to the settlement agreement.

3. Letter to ABRA Authorizing Madam's Organ to Host A Live Band on Balcony Space

Commissioner Bowles moved to add to the agenda consideration of a [letter](#) in support of Madam's Organ proposal for live music on its balcony, without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that doing so would not have an adverse impact on the community. Commissioner Clem seconded the procedural motion.

Commissioners discussed the lack of notice and potential adverse impact on the community due to noise. A roll call vote on adding the matter to the agenda failed 3 to 5 with Commissioners Wood, Butz,

and Bowles voting aye; and Commissioners Irani, Carano, Faulkner, Gold, and Clem voting no. The issue was moved to the ABC Committee agenda.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. Resolution for Pedestrian Safety Infrastructure on the 1900-2000 blocks of Columbia Road NW

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of a [resolution](#) requesting the addition of Pedestrian Safety Infrastructure on the 1900-2000 blocks of Columbia Road NW, which came out of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee with an affirmative vote. He described this stretch of Columbia Road from the Y fork at Connecticut Avenue up to 19th Street which includes crosswalks but no signals. The resolution was amended to add a reference to DDOT plans to replace older crosswalks with high-visibility ladder crosswalks. Commissioners passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 8 to 0.

2. Resolution regarding contra-flow bicycle lanes on Argonne Pl and the 1700 block of Lanier Pl NW

Commissioner Gold moved for adoption of a [resolution](#) regarding contra-flow bicycle lanes on Argonne Place NW and the 1700 block of Lanier Place NW. He reported that the PZT Committee voted to place this resolution on the ANC agenda and explained that people travelling by bike or scooter take Argonne and Lanier to avoid certain blocks of Columbia Road. The resolution requests an eastbound contra-flow bicycle lane on the 1700 block of Lanier Place NW (from Adams Mill Road NW to Ontario Road NW) and for DDOT to determine whether a westbound contra-flow bicycle lane is appropriate on Argonne Place NW. Commissioners passed the resolution by a vote of 8 to 0.

3. Resolution in support of painting the Reed Cooke Neighborhood scooter corrals

Commissioner Clem moved for adoption of a [resolution](#) in support of painting three bike/scooter corrals in the Reed Cooke neighborhood, which was passed unanimously out of the PZT Committee. She reported that the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association approved funds for this project and approved the designs by neighborhood artist Josue Martinez of the Corinto Gallery. The resolution expresses ANC 1C support for the designs and painting of the three bike corrals. She noted that WABA and DDOT support this effort. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 8 to 0.

C. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. Resolution requesting DPR open the field at Walter Pierce for some periods of neighborhood use

Commissioner Carano moved for adoption of a [resolution](#) which requests the DC Department of Parks and Recreation to open the athletic field at Walter Pierce for periods of neighborhood use. She noted that the resolution came out of the PSE Committee with an affirmative vote and explained that it has been difficult for neighbors to use this field on evenings and weekends. The resolution asks the DPR to allow permit-free use by the general public for a minimum of 10-15 hours total per week during weekday afternoons and evenings and weekends; and states ANC 1C support for the on-going exclusion of dogs and other pets on the athletic field.

Commissioner Carano noted that a [petition](#) making this same request had 111 signatures at last check. Amendments to wording were accepted, including clarification of the current pet policy. Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 8 to 0.

2. Resolution in support of an audit of the DOES Office of Unemployment Insurance

Commissioner Bowles moved for adoption of a [resolution](#) in support of an audit of the Department of Employment Services (DOES) noting that the resolution came out of the PSE Committee with affirmative vote. He said that some residents have waited seven weeks to receive benefits during the health emergency and that other ANCs are considering similar resolutions. Commissioner Bowles added a reference to Councilmember Silverman's announcement that the Office of the Inspector General will undertake an audit of DOES. Commissioners clarified wording regarding the status of the OIG audit and the ANC committee action. Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 8 to 0.

3. Grant application submitted by Marie Reed Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Commissioner Carano moved to place on the agenda a [grant application](#) submitted by the [Marie Reed Parent Teacher Organization](#) (PTO) without the usual ten days' notice on the basis that doing so is in the community interest. She explained that the application had originally come out of the PSE Committee, but was tabled at the full ANC meeting in April. The procedural motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Commissioner Carano explained that the \$4000 request for the FoodPrints nutrition education program that would benefit 450 children and that it has been approved by the Office of ANCs under current health emergency guidelines. Bridget Hunnicutt provided more information about the program which includes growing vegetables in the Marie Reed garden and preparing them in the dedicated FoodPrints kitchen. Commissioners approved the grant by a vote of 8 to 0.

4. Grant application submitted by Marie Reed Community Support Fund

Commissioner Carano moved to place on the agenda a [grant application](#) submitted by Marie Reed Community Support Fund without the usual ten days' notice on the basis that doing so would have no adverse impact on the community. She explained that the application had originally come out of the PSE Committee, but was tabled at the full ANC meeting in April. Commissioners passed the procedural motion by a vote of 8 to 0.

Commissioner Carano reported that the \$4000 request for the Marie Reed Community Support Fund had been approved by the OANC under health emergency guidelines. Commissioners discussed whether this would be considered a second grant to an entity during the same grant period and therefore require a waiver of ANC guidelines. Dari Pogach, a parent volunteer, noted that the Marie Reed PTO is their fiscal agent and sponsoring organization since it has 501c3, but the Support Fund is a separate entity.

Commissioners discussed what funds ANC 1C has left for grants this year and whether more grant applications are pending; the guidelines during the public health emergency; how the Marie Reed PTO and the Community Support Fund keep separate funds; and how disbursements are tracked. Commissioners voted 8 to 0 to waive ANC grant guidelines, and then approved the grant itself by a vote of 8 to 0.

5. Resolution requesting a walk-up COVID vaccine site in Ward 1

Commissioner Irani moved to add to the agenda a [resolution](#) requesting a walk-up COVID vaccine site in Ward 1 without the usual ten days' notice on the basis that it has no adverse impact on the community.

He noted that this was not considered at the PSE Committee meeting because it was thought at that time that Ward 1 was going to have a walk-up site. Commissioner Wood seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Commissioner Irani explained that Ward 1 is the only Ward without a walk-up site; that pre-registration is a barrier to vaccination, especially among vulnerable populations and populations of color; and there are a high number of COVID cases in Columbia Heights. The resolution asks DC Health and the Executive Office of the Mayor to add a site in Ward 1 and lists 8 sites in Ward 1 that could be walk-up sites. Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the resolution. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

6. Resolution authorizing funds for language interpretation services

Commissioner Irani move to add to agenda a [resolution](#) authorizing funds for language interpretation services at the PSE committee meeting panel on domestic violence on basis that it would not have an adverse impact on the community. Commissioner Wood seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Commissioner Wood explained the purpose of the panel and said that they would need translation services for one of the speakers who speaks Spanish. Commissioners discussed the types of translation services; whether the expense would be reimbursed by the DC Office of Human Rights; and how the translation services would coordinate with livestreaming services. The resolution was amended to allow flexibility on the date of the panel. The resolution as amended then passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.