

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of April 15, 2020

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on April 15, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. About 15 members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Ted Guthrie (1C03), John Zottoli (1C04), Damiana Dendy (1C05), Michaela Wright (1C06), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Chris Jackson (1C08).

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report – New Commissioner Sworn In

Commissioner Irani announced that a new commissioner-elect would be sworn in at this meeting. Councilmember Brianna Nadeau then swore in new Commissioner Chris Jackson to represent Single Member District 1C08.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Commissioner Irani provided contact points for help related to the corona virus: homebound residents who need help can go to: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/gethelp>; residents who need mental health support can call 888-793-4357; and victims of domestic violence can call 844-443-5732 or text 911.
- Commissioner Irani also announced that Historic Preservation Review Board would be considering the 1918 Belmont Road application at a virtual meeting on April 30 and that participation information is on the ANC 1C website.
- Commissioner Guthrie urged everyone to be gentle with each other and remember to be kind including on listservs.
- Commissioner Dendy noted that ANC 1D is offering assistance for coronavirus and to contact her for information about that.
- Commissioner Zottoli noted that fewer polling places will be open for the June 2, but they will be open for 10 days prior to that date for early voting. He also encouraged taking advantage of absentee voting and said that information is now available on the DC Board of Elections website.
- Commissioner Bowles reported that the Public Services and the Environment Committee would be holding a virtual meeting to consider a grant application for Joseph's House. He also urged everyone to tell nonprofits in the area that ANC grants are available if they fit the criteria and that commissioners can help explain the application process.
- Commissioner Bowles also said that he would be looking into follow-up on pedestrian safety projects initiated by the ANC that seem to have been stalled.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the ANC meeting as well as committee meetings in May will be held virtually.
- Commissioner Irani said that absentee ballot information and instructions can be found at vote4dc.com. He also urged everyone to send in their census information. Commissioner Guthrie added that census participation rate for Adams Morgan was only about 50% at last check.

IV. Public Announcements / Comments

- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided her cell phone 202-531-5186 and email abobak@dccouncil.gov. She also provided updates related to the corona virus as well as a hotline for those who have the virus and need help getting services: 888-349-8323; and a testing triage number for those with symptoms: 855-363-0333, but noted that testing in DC is still being

focused on high risk populations and symptomatic people. Ms. Bobak also gave an overview of emergency legislation passed to address corona virus pandemic and said that Councilmember Nadeau held will be holding town hall meetings by telephone.

- Anthony Moore from Mayor Bowser's office reported on grocery distribution locations for students and provided direct phone numbers for public testing sites. He provided his email address Anthony.moore@dc.gov and encouraged the public to contact him with problems regarding unemployment services. Mr. Moore also announced that per a new order from the Mayor masks and gloves will be required for employees in certain service and transportation industries and people who use those services.
- Ms. Valentine from the Office of People's Council announced that there would be a moratorium on shut-offs of utilities during the coronavirus pandemic. She said if people need help with service, they can call OPC at 202-727-3071. She also noted that OPC representatives can give presentations on available discounts.
- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID said that all small businesses in Adams Morgan are struggling, even the restaurants that are still open for take-out. She said that residents can help by purchasing gift cards to businesses which are listed on their website at admodc.org. She noted that some have designated pick-up parking spots for now. Ms. Barden also announced that the May Porchfest has been cancelled, but that they still hope to do Movie Nights later in summer depending on when the city is re-opened. She also reminded Commissioners that she can post ANC 1C announcements their newsletter which now goes out daily.

V. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the consent agenda which consisted of the [minutes](#) from the March 2020 ANC meeting. (The Q2 FY20 financial report had been moved to May meeting.) The minutes were adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. Grant request from [LightHouse](#)

Commissioner Irani announced that he would recuse himself from consideration of the Lighthouse grant request because of his work as a board member of Lighthouse.

Brian Hart, co-founder of LightHouse, and former ANC 1C Commissioner, provided background on the mission of their organization. Jingwen Sun, the other co-founder, presented a grant request for \$4000 to deliver furniture to formerly homeless and low-income residents in Adams Morgan through nonprofit partners Jubilee Housing and Joseph's House.

Commissioner Bowles commended the work that LightHouse does, but said there are questions about how the money would be spent specifically and whether the grant fits ANC grant guidelines that distinguish public and private benefit. The applicants suggested they could provide the furniture to Jubilee Housing and Joseph's House for common areas so that it would not belong to one individual; or those nonprofits could lend furniture to individuals, but the nonprofit would remain the owner. They also argued that it could be seen as a public benefit to provide furniture to someone who might otherwise be homeless and in need of other public services.

Commissioners discussed whether additional nonprofits in ANC 1C could be added as potential partners; whether the furniture could be seen as owned by the nonprofit entity and therefore public rather than private; whether specific expense items could be identified; and, whether the application needs approval by the ANC auditor. The applicants forwarded the itemized expense list which was then shown on the screen.

Gottlieb Simon, Executive Director of the DC Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, who was participating in the meeting, said there is no question that Lighthouse is doing good work. He said the question is whether the grant application fits specific requirements with respect to the public/private benefit question and whether the grant would benefit the community as a whole. He suggested postponing the vote until those questions could be answered.

Commissioner Guthrie moved to table the grant request for further clarification on whether it meets the guidelines. Commissioners tabled the matter by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 to 1 with Commissioners Guthrie, Zottoli, Dendy, Wright, Bowles, and Jackson voting aye; and Commissioner Irani abstaining.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 8:15 pm.