

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of November 4, 2020**

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on November 4, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Ted Guthrie (1C03), John Zottoli (1C04), Damiana Dendi (1C05), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Chris Jackson (1C08).

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani reported that a new Capital Bikeshare station would be installed at Columbia Road and 20th Street and that two parking spots there would be re-designated as resident-only. He also announced that leaf collection rules were revised and that residents are not required to bag their leaves; crews will vacuum them up as in past years.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Jackson reported that the October minutes would be voted on with the consent agenda, and he reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Bowles thanked everyone for voting and everyone who ran for Commissioner. He then reviewed the ANC 1C [Quarterly \(Q4\) Financial Report](#) and [transactions](#). Commissioners discussed an accountant error that was corrected. Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the Q4 report. Commissioner Zottoli seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Bowles announced that there would likely be no Public Services and the Environment Committee meeting this month, since it would fall on the day before Thanksgiving. He said if any issues arise, the meeting could be held another time.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the agenda for the November 18 Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee would include a resolution to decriminalize street vending and proposed renovations at the Festival Center, and that details would be posted on the website.
- Commissioner Guthrie said that there were no agenda items for the ABC and Public Safety Committee, so there would be no meeting on November 11.
- Commissioner Zottoli welcomed Megan Faulkner, the newly elected Commissioner for ANC 1C04, and said she will make a great commissioner.
- Commissioner Dendi announced that there will also be a new commissioner for 1C05.

IV. Public Announcements/Comments

- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID reported that the Apple Festival raised \$1100 for the RCNA COVID relief fund; and that the ADMobile – live music from the back of a pick-up truck – will continue on Saturday afternoons for two more weeks if the weather permits. She also reported holiday decorations will include garland on the streetlights and giant gift boxes at BB&T plaza that will be lit at a lighting ceremony on Friday, November 20 from 5 to 7 pm.
- Nick Roland from the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association thanked the BID for the \$1100 contribution to the RCNA COVID relief fund. He also announced that RCNA held Board elections in October and he placed the results in the call chat: President: Nick Roland, Vice President: Romaine Johnson, Second VP: JI Swiderski, Secretary: Steve McKevitt, Second Secretary:

Yonah Bromberg Gaber, Treasurer: Fiona Clem, Member at Large: Ernest Springs, and Member Emeritus: Peter Lyden.

- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided updates and her contact information (abobak@dcouncil.us; 202-531-5186). She said the Councilmember's newsletter contains information about school re-openings and hearings on human services agencies and their COVID response. Ms. Bobak also announced that the Councilmember would be holding a Ward 1 Comprehensive Plan Open House on November 16 to get feedback on how Ward 1 can benefit through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

V. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the October meeting [minutes](#) and the [ANC 1C 2020 Annual Report](#). Commissioners passed the consent agenda by a vote of 6 to 0.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. ABC and Public Safety Committee

1. Settlement agreement with Taqueria al Lado

Commissioner Guthrie reported that a [settlement agreement](#) had been reached with Taqueria al Lado, and that a separate issue concerning a public space application for their patio would be addressed later in the PZT portion of the meeting. He moved to approve the settlement agreement and a stipulated license that will allow them to start serving alcohol before the protest period ends. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

2. Notification of off-premises liquor license renewals

Commissioner Guthrie notified the public that several off-premise liquor licenses are up for renewal and if anyone has concerns about the practices of Harris Teeter on Kalorama Road, Argonne Market at 1629 Columbia Road, or Streets Market on Columbia Road with respect to alcohol sales, they should contact their Commissioners or Commissioner Guthrie. He said if there are no complaints the ANC will not protest these licenses, and thus far, he has heard no complaints.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. Zoning relief request for 1630 Columbia Road NW

Hope Richardson, a representative for the project, briefed the ANC on a [special exception relief request](#) that had been submitted to the Board of Zoning Adjustment for a ground floor dining/café space in The Silva at 1630 Columbia Road that would be open to the public.

Commissioners discussed whether the café would be a benefit to the community, how the request fits with zoning regulations; whether re-zoning to mixed-use versus residential would be required; and, whether it is likely to be approved by the Office of Planning and the BZA. Meridith Moldenhauer, attorney for the project, said the use itself is permitted and what they are asking for is distance relief due to proximity to a mixed-use zone. In response to a question, representatives for the project affirmed they have plans to request a liquor license for the location at a later date.

Commissioner Irani moved that ANC 1C support the zoning relief sought for 1630 Columbia Road. Commissioners approved the motion by a vote of 6 to 0.

2. AMPBID proposed holiday display and temporary seating at BB&T Plaza

Kristen Barden reported that he Adams Morgan BID has the necessary permits for a proposed holiday display at BB&T plaza and did not need a letter from ANC 1C. Commissioner Bowles moved to table this matter. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

3. Letter of support for a Traffic Safety Assessment Questionnaire for Ontario Road NW

Commissioner Bowles provided background on a [Traffic Safety Assessment Questionnaire for Ontario Road NW](#) submitted by Christopher Cole requesting DDOT to do a safety assessment of Ontario Road between Florida Avenue and Euclid Street. Commissioner Jackson, whose single member district is included in those blocks, voiced support for the study. Commissioner Irani moved that ANC 1C send a letter of support which Commissioners passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

A member of the public noted that the request also asks DDOT to consider making Ontario Road one-way with a bike lane.

4. Resolution to expand the Slow Streets initiative

Commissioner Irani explained the purpose of DC's Slow Streets initiative, which is to lower the speed limit and restrict traffic to local traffic to give residents more space to keep social distance while moving around outside. He reported that the PZT Committee approved a [Resolution on Slow Streets](#) requesting that DDOT expand this initiative to include 5 more streets listed in the resolution (2700 Quarry Road NW; 1600-1700 Lanier Place NW; 700-1800 Euclid Street NW; 2100-2500 Champlain Street NW; and, 2300-2900 Ontario Road NW); that there be more effective placement of barriers; and that speed-measuring strips, traffic volume counters and/or other devices be used to measure whether the initiative is working as intended.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the blocks covered in the resolution; collecting data on effectiveness; pairing of streets; the impact on cars exiting Harris Teeter; and including blocks beyond Adams Morgan. Commissioner Irani accepted an amendment on the blocks included for Ontario Road. Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 6 to 0.

5. Resolution requesting DDOT to respond to requests of Adams Morgan residents

Commissioner Irani summarized a [resolution](#) approved by the PZT Committee asking DDOT to respond to ANC 1C requests made over the past two years regarding pedestrian/cyclist/vehicular safety, requests for traffic studies, crosswalks, bike lanes, micromobility corrals and bikeshare stations. He noted that there were some encouraging developments in the past few weeks including a bikeshare station; plans for a crosswalk at 19th Street and Biltmore Road; a HAWK signal at Kalorama and 16th; protected and connected bike lanes; a traffic study of the intersection of U, Florida and 18th Streets; micromobility corrals; and traffic calming requests for Kalorama Road, Wyoming Avenue, and California Street. Commissioner Irani emphasized that the purpose of the resolution was to raise these issues again with DDOT and so it is still important to vote on it even though some recent progress had been made.

Commissioners discussed the benefit of having the requests consolidated in one resolution, and agreed that it should also be sent to Councilmember Mary Cheh, Chair of the DC Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment, and to Lucinda Babers, Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

6. RCNA Traffic Safety Assessment request

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee approved Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association's request for ANC 1C support for their [Traffic Safety Assessments](#) questionnaire. Nick Roland of RCNA gave an overview of the unsafe intersections and roads in the Reed Cooke neighborhood and said they are asking DDOT to study those areas.

Commissioner Zottoli suggested adding a request to study the intersection of Adams Mill Road and Ontario Place near the playground at Walter Pierce Park because cars do not observe the crosswalk there. Commissioner Irani said he would add this issue to the agenda for the PZT November meeting. Commissioners then voted 6 to 0 in favor of an ANC 1C letter of support for RCNA's traffic study request.

7. Possible ANC 1C comments regarding the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape project

Zack Gold informed the Commission that comments on DDOT's [Connecticut Avenue Streetscape project](#) are due on November 6. He said the plans extend north to California Street and suggested that ANC 1C submit comments in support of wider bike lanes and possibly extending them farther north. Members of the public and Commissioners discussed the width of bus, vehicle, and bike lanes; the buffers between vehicle and bike lanes; and DDOT plans for lanes farther north on Connecticut Avenue.

Commissioner Guthrie moved that the Chair submit ANC 1C comments to DDOT in support of narrowing the vehicle lanes and widening bike lanes on Connecticut Avenue. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

8. 2000 18th Street NW Public Space application

Commissioner Guthrie moved to add to the agenda consideration of a resolution in opposition to a public space application for 2000 18th Street NW without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that it would be too late to consider it at the next ANC meeting, and it is in the community interest to weigh in on this issue. Commissioner Irani seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Irani explained that the application for an exception to District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) regarding fencing on public space fails to provide any layout or specifications for the proposed fence. He moved that ANC 1C authorize the Chair to write a letter to Public Space Management at DDOT opposing the application for 2000 18th Street NW. Commissioners noted past issues with applications at that property then passed the motion by a vote of 6 to 0.

9. Taqueria al Lado Public Space application

Commissioner Guthrie moved to add to the agenda consideration of a public space application by Taqueria al Lado without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that this issue will come up prior to the next ANC meeting, and it is in the interest of community to comment on the matter. Commissioner Irani seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Guthrie moved to send a letter to Public Space at DDOT objecting to Taqueria's application for a sidewalk café, based on the substantial amount of pedestrian traffic there, lack of other sidewalk cafes on that block, an adjacent tree box, and unlevel bricks, all of which contribute to danger and inconvenience for pedestrians. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion. Commissioner Guthrie said the proprietors indicated that the submitted plan was in error, and their actual plan is to have a shelf with seating along the exterior of the restaurant which would not interfere with pedestrian traffic. He noted ANC 1C would not object to this alternative plan, but the ANC should still weigh in to make sure that is what happens.

Commissioners voted 6 to 0 in support of the motion to send a letter to Public Space in opposition to Taqueria's application for a sidewalk café at 1792 Columbia Road on the that it would impinge on pedestrian flow.

C. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. Resolution in support of Rank Choice Voting

Commissioner Bowles reported that the Public Services and the Environment Committee approved a [Resolution in Support of Rank Choice Voting](#). He said this system which allows voters to rank their choices among several candidates has been shown to increase voter turnout and the number of people of color and women running for office and winning.

Brianna McGowan from [RanktheVoteDC.org](#) explained that when no one candidate receives 50% of the vote, rank choice voting allows a run-off in which votes get reallocated according to second and third choice as candidates are eliminated.

Commissioner Bowles said the resolution asks the DC Council to hold hearings on the Ranked Choice Voting Act and pass it into law in time for the 2022 primary. Commissioners discussed placing the emphasis on educating the public on this system. Commissioner Bowles accepted an amendment in that regard. Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 6 to 0.

2. Letter to DGS in support of Public Restroom Facility in Adams Morgan

Commissioner Bowles reported that the PSE Committee approved [preliminary recommendations](#) in answer to a survey from DC's Department of General Services asking BIDS and ANCs to recommend locations for two pilot public restrooms. Commissioners discussed various possible locations.

Commissioner Irani moved that ANC 1C submit the survey along with a letter stressing the need for more public restrooms in the city, and that the letter also be sent to Councilmember Nadeau and Council Chair Mendelson. Commissioners passed the motion by a vote of 6 to 0.

3. Jubilee JumpStart grant application

Commissioner Bowles reported that the PSE Committee approved a Jubilee JumpStart [grant application](#) for partitions to sub-divide classrooms to meet COVID safety precautions. He added that the grant meets the Office of ANCs' requirement that grants benefit groups of people, not individuals, because different groups of children will rotate through the classrooms over 3 semesters. He said this had been vetted through the Office of ANCs and the Attorney General. Commissioner Bowles also noted that ANC 1C guidelines would need to be waived to authorize a grant within the last 3 months of a term.

Commissioners discussed ANC 1C guidelines and the amount of the grant. Commissioner Guthrie moved to authorize a grant of \$2,000 outside of ANC 1C guidelines regarding timing, because the grant was submitted before the deadline. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0. Commissioner Guthrie then moved to authorize the grant subject to confirmation by the Office of ANCs. Commissioners passed the motion by a vote of 6 to 0.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 pm.