

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of December 2, 2020**

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on December 2, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. About 45 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 noted that this was the last meeting for this term and that there would be a turn-over in Commissioners. He thanked departing Commissioners Guthrie, Zottoli, Dendi, and Jackson for their service and friendship.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Jackson said it had been a pleasure to work with everyone on the Commission. He then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Bowles gave a status report on the commission's finances and answered a question from a member of the public about expenses for live streaming services.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Bowles reported that he would not chair the Public Services and the Environment Committee in the next term and thanked the members of that committee for their work. He reported that the Committee and the full Commission allocated over \$18,000 this year for COVID-related expenses including grants to the RCNA COVID relief fund, Lighthouse, the Adams Morgan BID for sanitizer stations, Platform of Hope, and Jubilee Jumpstart. He also reported that there would be no PSE Committee meeting in December unless a pressing agenda matter arises.
- Commissioner Dendi said she had enjoyed her time with ANC 1C and that she will continue to be involved with the community in the coming months and years.
- Commissioner Zottoli said he had a new appreciation for what a lame duck session is like and noted that 6 out of 8 Commissioners will be new in January. He said that rather than deciding any controversial issues at this meeting, he was inclined to defer to the new Commissioners.
- Commissioner Guthrie reported that the ABC and Public Safety Committee agenda for December 9 included the monthly police report, and an application for a restaurant license and a proposed settlement agreement. Commissioner Guthrie expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be a commissioner and to work with his fellow commissioners and other people active in this community. He asked the public to be gentle with the new commissioners as they start out and to remember in this challenging time that we're all in this together.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee would meet on December 16 and consider a proposal for a new commissary kitchen at 2412 18th Street in the alley.

IV. Councilmember Nadeau

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau commented on the tremendous work that ANC 1C has done this year. She thanked the departing Commissioners for their service and said she knows they will continue

contributing to the community in other ways. The Councilmember also expressed confidence in the new Commissioners and noted that this work is voluntary, tireless, and thankless.

V. Public Announcements/Comments

- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID thanked those who attended the launch of the holiday decorations at the BB&T plaza on November 20. She said carolers will return there on the weekends.
- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided updates and her contact information (abobak@dcouncil.us 202-531-5186). She said that votes are expected on December 15 on several bills sponsored by the Councilmember including the Department of Buildings Establishment Act; a bill to establish an Office of the Ombudsperson for children in the child welfare system; and, the ANC Participation and Planning Act. She also said that Councilmember Nadeau would hold a telephone town hall on December 10, and a zoom Community Safety town hall meeting on December 14. Finally, Ms. Bobak thanked the departing Commissioners for their service and said it has been a pleasure working with them.
- Nick Roland from the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association announced that they had authorized an additional \$10,000 for their COVID relief fund.

VI. DC Water on the Rock Creek Stem Sewers – Condition Assessment project

Emmanuel Briggs from DC Water and several other members of his team presented an update on the [Rock Creek Stem Sewers – Condition Assessment project](#). They explained that 27 miles of sewer infrastructure in and around Rock Creek Park has been inspected for condition and connectivity and that recommendations for repairs of pipes or manholes had been referred to DC Water's Capital Improvements Project.

VII. DDOT's 16th Street Bus Lane Project

Spring Worth, Kelly JeongOlson, and Othman Chebli from the District Department of Transportation presented an update on the [16th Street Bus Lane Project](#). They reported that construction is to begin early in 2021 to improve performance along one of the busiest bus corridors in DC. They provided an overview of the proposed bus lanes, stop consolidation, peak times, and new left turn restrictions.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about modifications at Columbia Road, Harvard Street, and Irving Street; the slip lane to turn onto Columbia Road; timing of traffic lights to avoid congestion at Columbia and Harvard; signal timing with Mount Pleasant Street; installation of the HAWK signal at Kalorama Road and 16th Street; and, automated enforcement.

VIII. Private Security Camera Rebate Program

Chris Dyer of the District Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants gave an overview of the District's [Private Security Camera Rebate Program](#) and provided contact information: security.cameras@dc.gov or 202-727-5124.

Members of the public asked about using footage for package theft; whether the camera needs to be connected to a running computer; how camera footage is saved; and, whether people who get the rebate are compelled to give footage to the MPD.

X. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the [November meeting minutes](#). Commissioners approved the minutes by a vote of 6 to 0.

XI. Regular Agenda

A. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. Resolution in support of the Decriminalization of Street Vending

Commissioner Irani reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C pass a [resolution](#) in support of removing criminal penalties for street vending violations. The resolution requests a hearing for DC Council Bill 23-0875, the Street Vending Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2020, and asks DC agencies to streamline the street vending license process. Commissioners passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

2. Resolution regarding pedestrian safety at the Ontario Place crosswalk on Adams Mill Road

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee passed a recommendation that ANC 1C pass a [resolution](#) in support of a DDOT [safety assessment request](#) for the intersection of Ontario Place and Adams Mill Road and requesting a HAWK signal at the crosswalk there. Commissioners passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

3. Resolution regarding pedestrian safety at the Cliffbourne Place crosswalk on Calvert Street

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee passed a recommendation that ANC 1C support a [traffic safety assessment request](#) and evaluation of timing of nearby traffic signals at the crosswalk at Cliffbourne Place and Calvert Street. Commissioners passed the [resolution](#) by a vote of 6 to 0.

4. Resolution on the SunTrust Plaza litigation

Commissioner Guthrie moved a [resolution](#) requesting that Attorney General Karl Racine and other DC government officials actively pursue the ongoing litigation to establish an easement for public use on a portion of the SunTrust Plaza. Commissioner Guthrie said he would accept a friendly amendment to remove the last clause referencing possible uses of the plaza. He urged the Commission to act before a January 12 DC Superior Court hearing on lifting the temporary restraining order on the developer. He added that if the plaintiffs are successful, the incoming ANC 1C could address possible uses of the plaza in the future. Commissioner Zottoli seconded the motion of the resolution as amended to remove the entire last paragraph.

Commissioner Guthrie explained that if the case is dismissed in January it could lead to construction of the Hoffman proposal on the plaza and that the purpose of the resolution is to show that there is public support for a determination on the easement. A representative for the plaintiffs emphasized that involvement of the Attorney General makes it more likely that the case would be decided quickly and on the merits rather than on who has standing to bring the case.

Members of the public discussed what action the Attorney General is likely to take; whether it is worth the time it takes to challenge the developer; past positions ANC 1C has taken regarding the plaza; and ANC 1C's support for establishing a public library on the site.

Commissioners discussed a request from incoming Commissioners that the issue be deferred for consideration by the new Commission. Commissioner Bowles moved to table the matter for further consideration at the December PZT Committee meeting and then by the new full Commission in January. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 3 to 3 roll call vote with Commissioners Jackson, Bowles, and Irani voting yes; and Commissioners Dendy, Zottoli, and Guthrie voting no.

Existing Commissioners, Commissioners-elect, and members of the public discussed the importance of this parcel of land and its location in the heart of Adams Morgan; the potential consequences if the

ANC does or does not weigh in before January; how long it will take to get a decision in the case and to see some improvement to the plaza; the size of the easement; the possibility of a public building there; and, whether the ANC could ask the Attorney General to intervene without saying which side he should take. In response to a request, Commissioner Irani attached to the [resolution](#) a 1976 letter from Thomas Owen of Perpetual Federal Savings, addressing use of the site by Adams Morgan residents.

The motion to adopt the resolution failed by a roll call vote of 3 to 3 with Commissioners Dendy, Zottoli, and Guthrie voting yes; and Commissioners Jackson, Bowles, and Irani voting no.

Commissioner Irani said the PZT Committee meeting could give the matter further consideration in December and go to the new full Commission in January.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.