

Please note: In addition to the text and vote counts of the official actions taken by the Commission, these minutes may contain summaries of comments that were made and discussions that took place at the meeting. Such summaries are not intended to be a verbatim account of the meeting.

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C  
Adams Morgan  
Minutes of June 1, 2016**

**I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners**

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on June 1, 2016 at Mary's Center. Chair Guthrie called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. About 6 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Julie Seiwell (1C01), Ted Guthrie (1C03), Alan Gambrell (1C05), Billy Simpson (1C06), and Wilson Reynolds (1C07).

**II. Officers' Reports**

**a. Chair's Report**

Chair Guthrie reported that announcements about ANC 1C meetings are now being posted on boards in two locations in Adams Morgan. He also announced that a re-opening celebration for Kalorama Park would be held on Saturday, June 4.

**b. Secretary's Report**

**i. Minutes for May 4, 2016 meeting**

Secretary Simpson moved to approve the minutes for the May 4, 2016 monthly ANC 1C meeting. Chair Guthrie seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 4 to 0 with 1 Commissioner abstaining because she was not present at the May 4 meeting.

**III. Commissioner Announcements and June Committee Meeting Agendas**

- Commissioner Reynolds announced that the city would be holding Truck Touch on Saturday, June 8 at RFK Stadium from 9 to 2. He said various DC agencies would have large vehicles available for kids to climb on.
- Commissioner Seiwell reported that 22 people were present at the May meeting of the ABC and Public Safety Committee, and that the June 8 meeting would be held at Sarah's Circle. She also said that members of the public can receive tips for building and home security and how to prevent break-ins and package theft by contacting Metropolitan Police Department Community Outreach Coordinator Marco Santiago at: [marco.santiago@dc.gov](mailto:marco.santiago@dc.gov).
- Commissioner Simpson announced that a meeting on Marie Reed School modernization would be held on Wednesday, June 8.
- Commissioner Gambrell thanked Councilmember Nadeau and staff for holding a coffee chat at Potter's House in May.
- Commissioner Simpson gave an update on the significant issues that had arisen in connection with the relocation of students during renovations at Marie Reed.

**IV. Public Announcements / Comments**

- Kristen Barden, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan Partnership BID, gave an update on their spring and summer programs. She said that the Saturday summer concert series is

continuing in front of the BB&T Bank and the movie nights on Tuesdays at the Marie Reed field would continue until June 21. She also announced that she had free ride coupons for the Circulator, which will be essential during restricted Metro hours this summer. Finally, Ms. Barden noted that the public hearing on renewal of the Adams Morgan BID would be held on June 21 at 4 pm at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

- Claudia Barahona from Councilmember Nadeau's office reported on topics addressed at the May 23 gathering at Potter's House. She said the Councilmember is aware of ongoing issues in Adams Morgan including Marie Reed modernization and the DC Line Hotel. Commissioner Seiwell asked about information on holding block parties. Ms. Barahona said their office has a fact sheet on how to follow city regulations for holding a block party.
- Benedicte Aubrun commented on the loud music outside the T Mobile store. Commissioner Reynolds asked her to let him know when this happens.

## **V. Scheduled Business**

### **a. ABC and Public Safety Committee**

#### **i. El Nuevo Migueleno Alcohol License Renewal**

Commissioner Seiwell reported that the ABC and Public Safety Committee previously voted to recommend that ANC 1C protest the alcohol license renewal of El Nuevo Migueleno. Chair Guthrie moved to protest the renewal this restaurant alcohol license on the grounds that granting it would have an adverse effect on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, and to authorize any of ANC 1C Commissioner to represent the Commission on this matter. The motion did not need a second since it was recommended by committee. Commissioners then voted to pass the motion by a vote of 5 to 0.

At a duly noticed public meeting held on June 1, 2016, with a quorum present, ANC1C voted 5-0 to protest the application by El Nuevo Migueleno (ABRA-100312) to renew its restaurant alcohol license on the grounds that granting the renewal would have an adverse effect on peace, order, and quiet. ANC1C further authorized any of its Commissioners to represent ANC1C before ABRA and the ABC Board in connection with this matter.

### **b. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee**

#### **i. DCRA's Online Permit Tracking Database**

Commissioner Reynolds introduced a resolution recommended by the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee to send a letter calling on the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to immediately restore public access to their online permit tracking database.

Commissioner Gambrell explained that the online system makes it possible to track permits for construction projects and the resolution calls on DCRA to re-activate the system as soon as possible.

Claudia Barahona said that Councilmember Nadeau has been looking into this issue and learned that DCRA pulled the system down because the information it contained was not up to date. She said the agency is going through the database to make sure everything is updated before putting it back online.

Commissioner Gambrell said that no evidence has been provided of errors in the database. Commissioner Reynolds commented that DCRA operates with four databases related to property and there is a problem with certain packets of information being able to migrate into the system. Commissioner Reynolds noted that the resolution could ask for more clarification on the situation. Commissioner Gambrell said if there were actual errors in the databases, it would be incumbent on DCRA to provide that information. Chair Guthrie agreed that DCRA should be providing updates and said he supports the resolution. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 5 to 0.

**ANC1C Resolution**  
**DCRA Removal of Online Building Permit Database**

*Whereas, DCRA has two online databases to assist parties in tracking the status of construction projects. They include:*

- *PIVS Online Building Permit Application Tracking (OBPAT)*  
<http://pivs.dcra.dc.gov/OBPAT/Default.aspx>
- *Property Information Verification System (PIVS,*  
<http://pivs.dcra.dc.gov/PIVS/Search.aspx>*).*

*Whereas, On February 25, 2016, DCRA removed OBPAT from its website, stating: “the information was too often unreliable and resulted in misinformation to constituents. This is totally unacceptable, DCRA is hopeful that the site will eventually be restored, but the data issues must be resolved before it is. DCRA is committed to transparency, but transparency is helpful when accurate information is available. It is DCRA's goal to have truthful, accurate communication from staff, and the public access sites need to reflect that as well.”*

*Whereas, PIVS OBPAT was widely regarded as far more useful than PIVS as an information tool in that it provided information on:*

- *pending as well as approved construction permit applications (permit numbers provided but not complete information on such permits);*
- *pending, unapproved applications (unlike DCRA's PIVS database, which lists only issued permits);*
- *the allowable scope of work for approved permits (not provided in PIVS);*
- *names of the individuals submitting applications and property owners (not provided in PIVS);*
- *reviewer notes on various disciplines (such as mechanical, electrical, and zoning code compliance), along with the names of DCRA reviewers (not provided in PIVS); and*
- *the date on each application was submitted (not provided in PIVS).*

*Whereas, to the extent that PIVS OBPAT contained misinformation, its removal denied DCRA the means to make corrections as many citizens were regular users of the database and thus in a position to inform DCRA of such errors.*

*Whereas, removal of PIVS OBPAT deprived citizens of information necessary in assessing the legality of permits and/or work being performed, particularly in terms of submitting appeals for alleged building code and zoning regulation violations, both of which have time limits within which individuals must file appeals.*

*Whereas, DC Official Code § 2-536(a)(8A) and (b) require DCRA to make the complete permit file for each application available online, for free, without the need for any citizen request. Additionally, the Director of the District's Office of Open Government stated in a 1/29/16 opinion letter that DCRA is “woefully out of compliance” with this statutory obligation. \**

*Whereas, whatever problems with OBPAT may have existed cannot justify disabling public access to the overwhelmingly accurate and up-to-date records that are now completely unavailable online.*

*Therefore, ANC 1C calls upon DCRA to restore public access to PIVS OBPAT immediately.*

*Furthermore, ANC1C authorizes any ANC1C Commissioner to represent ANC1C on this matter.*

*And Finally Resolved, that the Chair of ANC 1C shall be authorized to communicate this resolution to the Mayor, the Director of DCRA, members of the District Council and the Zoning Commission.*

\* OOG Opinion Letter of Jan. 29, 2016, <http://www.open-dc.gov/documents/oog-00212916-eckenwiler-advisory-opinion>.

## **ii. 2005 Kalorama Road NW.**

Commissioner Gambrell reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted 2 to 0 with one abstaining to recommend that ANC 1C not oppose the proposed renovation to 2005 Kalorama Road NW in the Kalorama Triangle Historic District. The resolution did not need a second since it was recommended by committee.

The architect for the project explained that the renovation is at the rear of the building on the first floor only and that they would be removing a screened porch. Commissioners then voted 5 to 0 to not oppose the proposed renovation at 2005 Kalorama Road NW.

## **iii. 2412 18th Street NW.**

Commissioner Gambrell reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted 2 to 0 with one abstaining to recommend that ANC 1C not oppose a proposed development at 2412 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW in the Washington Heights Historic District, and to specifically support the use of matching brick for the rear extension. Since the recommendation came out of committee it did not need a second.

The architect for the project noted that she had also presented the plans to the Kalorama Citizens' Association and that they voted to approve the project. She also noted that the neighbors on both sides have been notified about the proposed project. Commissioner Gambrell asked about review from the staff at the Historic Preservation Office.

Denis James, President of the KCA, said he was pleased to see the renovation of this historic building. Commissioner Gambrell noted that he had abstained from voting during the PZT Committee meeting because he had concerns with another project by this architecture firm, but that he was going to change his vote tonight. Chair Guthrie asked about possibilities for preserving the original windows. Commissioners then voted 5 to 0 to not oppose the proposed development and to specifically support the use of matching brick for the rear addition.

**VII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Commissioner Seiwel seconded the motion which passed unanimously.