

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of January 9, 2019

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on January 9, 2019 at Mary's Center. Commissioner Guthrie called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. About 35 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Bridget Pooley (1C02), Ted Guthrie (1C03), Damiana Dendy (1C05), Michaela Wright (1C06), Japer Bowles (1C07), Amanda Fox Perry (1C08).

II. Election of Officers and Committee Assignments

Commissioner Irani called for nominations. Commissioner Bowles nominated Commissioner Guthrie for the position of Chair of ANC1C. Commissioner Fox Perry seconded the nomination. Commissioners then voted 7 to 0 to elect Commissioner Guthrie as Chair.

Commissioner Guthrie then moved to adopt the following slate of officers and committee assignments for 2019:

Officers

- Vice Chair: Commissioner Irani
- Secretary: Commissioner Wright
- Treasurer: Commissioner Pooley
- BID Representative: Commissioner Bowles

Committee assignments

- ABC Committee: Commissioner Irani, Chair; Commissioners Guthrie and Bowles, members.
- PZT Committee: Commissioner Fox Perry, Chair; Commissioners Irani and Dendy, members.
- PSE Committee: Commissioner Ely, Chair; Commissioners Pooley and Wright, members.

Commissioner Irani seconded the motion and Commissioners then approved the slate of officers and committee assignments by a vote of 7 to 0.

III. Officers' Reports

a. Chair's Report

i. Calendar for 2019

Commissioner Guthrie moved that ANC1C's meeting calendar for 2019 be as follows: the full commission will meet the first Wednesday of every month except August, at 7pm at Mary's Center; and the committees will meet on the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays at 7pm at the Marie Reed Recreation Center, with some adjustment for holidays. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Guthrie noted that for January, the order of the committee meetings will be ABC and Public Safety; then Public Services and the Environment; then Planning, Zoning, and Transportation. For the following months the order will be ABC, PZT, and PSE.

b. Secretary's Report

i. Minutes for December 5, 2018 Meeting

Commissioner Guthrie moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2018 monthly ANC1C meeting. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion which then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

c. Treasurer's Report

i. Authorized agents for checking account for 2019

Commissioner Pooley moved to authorize the following as agents for the ANC1C bank account for 2019: Commissioners Guthrie, Irani, Pooley, and Wright. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

ii. ANC Security Fund for 2019

Commissioner Pooley moved to authorize payment of \$25 for ANC 1C's participation in DC's ANC Security Fund for 2019. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

iii. Rental of meeting space at Mary's Center for 2019

Commissioner Pooley moved to authorize continued rental of meeting space at Mary's Center for ANC1C's monthly meetings for 2019. Commissioner Dendy seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

IV. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

a. January Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Guthrie said he was looking forward to a productive year for Adams Morgan and stressed the importance of hearing from constituents. He noted that contact information for Commissioners is on the ANC1C website and urged the public to help make this a better ANC by being involved.
- Commissioner Guthrie reported that Christmas trees can now be recycled by placing them where residents' trash is picked up, not on the parking strip.
- Commissioner Fox Perry announced that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee will meet on January 30th and will consider the appeal of the permit at 1630 Argonne Place; locations for capital bikeshare; and, parking on the 1700 block of Kalorama Road. She urged neighbors to come to the PZT meeting to discuss these issues and to contact their Commissioners with input.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the January 16 meeting of the ABC and Public Safety meeting will include the monthly police report, and Shawn Townsend, the new Director of the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture, will attend the meeting to hear from the public.
- Commissioner Pooley said that there were currently no agenda items for the Public Services and the Environment Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Wright announced that Washington Parks and People will be holding a clean-up day at Meridian Hill / Malcolm X Park on Martin Luther King Day.

V. Public Announcements / Comments

- Crawford Sherman, from the Line Hotel, introduced Jessica Bruce, the new manager for the hotel's Community Center. Ms. Bruce, an Adams Morgan native, explained that the Community Center is for nonprofits as well as artists. She provided her email contact: jsbruce@dclinehotel.com and said they will be holding a Drag Queen story hour with DC Public Libraries on February 7. In response to Commissioner Guthrie's questions about Unity Park, Mr. Sherman said they have not had luck with Pepco on restoring power and that no water will be in

the fountain during the winter. He added that they are working with the contractor regarding pot holes in the park which will be filled for now, but will eventually need to be resurfaced.

- A representative from the Office of the People's Council informed members of the public that they can contact the Council for advocacy assistance by calling: 202-727-3071.
- Alan Roth announced that the issue regarding equal treatment of nonprofits with respect to the clean rivers fee has been resolved so that all types of nonprofits – whether religious or secular – will be treated the same.
- Denis James, President of the Kalorama Citizens' Association, invited everyone to attend KCA's January 17 meeting at the Goodwill Baptist Church on Kalorama Road at 7pm. He added that DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson will be a guest speaker.
- Matt Wexler announced that construction at the Admo Heights building, 1777 Columbia Road is complete and apartments can now be rented. He noted that Burger King is closing and they are open to ideas for the commercial space on the ground floor.
- Brian Barrie with the Adams Morgan BID announced a promotion in February and March that will advertise Adams Morgan as a premier dating destination. He said various businesses will be offering package deals.
- Davon Fuller, constituent services coordinator with Councilmember Nadeau, introduced himself. He announced that the Councilmember would be hosting a Brianne on Your Block event at Potter's House on Monday, January 28 at 6:30pm. Mr. Fuller urged the public to contact him for assistance and provided his phone numbers: 202-286-9741 (cell); 202-724-8031 (office).
- Reuben Forman from Mayor Bowser's office provided information on how the DC government is filling in during the federal shut-down. He said the DC Department of Employment Services is extending hours for furloughed federal workers who want to apply for unemployment insurance; the DC government is collecting trash at some federal parks; and emergency legislation (the LOVE Act) is being enacted to allow the issuing of marriage licenses in DC. Mr. Forman also announced that Mayor Bowser would give her Second Term Outlook at Gallaudet University on Monday, January 14 at 4 pm and that it would be streamed online. He also announced that on Martin Luther King Day Mayor Bowser will participate in the Holiday Peace Walk and Parade at Anacostia Park. He also confirmed that Christmas tree pick-up would begin on January 14.

VI. Pepco update on power grid

Travis Culpepper from Pepco gave an update on the Capital Grid project. He said the plans for the Champlain substation have been approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment and that design changes are being made in response to comments from the Office of Planning. He said the final designs will still need historic preservation and ANC review. Mr. Culpepper said that the project has not yet been approved by the Public Service Commission, but a decision is expected sometime this year. He said there will be public meetings on the project, as well as an interactive map, a dedicated phone number and twitter account. He said preliminary soil testing has begun, but construction will not start until late 2020 at earliest, but more likely in 2023, and that it will involve rerouting and transferring customers while construction is being done. Mr. Culpepper answered questions from the public about preservation of the pillars on the substation. He also referenced and made available a letter from the DC Department of Energy and Environment regarding electromagnetic fields.

VII. Scheduled Business

a. ABC and Public Safety Committee

i. Reveler's Hour Settlement Agreement

Commissioner Guthrie reported that a settlement agreement had not been reached with Reveler's Hour, which is to open in the new Admo Heights building on Columbia Road. He said the difference

is over serving food up until one hour before closing, which is the standard agreement between ANC1C and other restaurant licensees, in order to keep restaurants from becoming night clubs. The owners of Reveler's want to stop serving food two hours before closing.

Commissioner Guthrie moved to protest Reveler's Hour's application for an ABC license on the basis that it would be contrary to the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood; and further moved that any ANC1C Commissioner be authorized to represent ANC1C in this matter. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion.

Jill Tyler, one of the owners of Reveler's Hour said they also own Tail Up Goat, have been good neighbors, have a Michelin star, and employ 54 people. She said they want to stop serving food at midnight because it is expensive to keep cooks and dishwashers late if no one is ordering food.

Matt Wexler stressed that the management of the Admo Heights building has no interest in having a tavern or night club in that space, and that he hopes a hearing on this can be avoided so the restaurant can open as soon as possible.

Commissioner Bowles asked for clarification on the protest process. Commissioner Guthrie explained that filing a protest preserves the opportunity to weigh in and continue negotiations on agreement terms. He said that ANC1C is being consistent in its agreements with restaurants and added that in the past there have been problems when a strong agreement is not in place with a trusted restaurant operator that then sells its license to a bad operator. Commissioner Guthrie said he hopes this will be resolved before the next meeting.

Commissioners then passed the motion to protest the Reveler's Hour application for an ABC license, by a vote of 6 to 0 to 1, with Commissioner Bowles abstaining.

b. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

i. Public space application for José Martí statue in front of Cuban Embassy

Miguel Fraga, First Secretary for the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba, presented a proposal for adding a statue of José Martí in front of the Cuban Embassy on 16th Street. He noted that the embassy has been in Adams Morgan for 100 years and asked for ANC1C's support for their Public Space application for the 6-foot-tall statue.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about the placement of the statue, the artist, and whether it needs to be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Office. Commissioner Bowles moved that ANC1C send a letter of support for the Cuban Embassy's Public Space application for the José Martí statue. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

ii. HPRB application on 1819 Vernon Street NW

Commissioner Irani provided background on an application to the Historic Preservation Review Board for approval of a development project at 1819 Vernon Street NW, which is in the Washington Heights Historic District. The owners asked for ANC1C support for their plans for a rear addition. They explained, along with their architect and contractor, that they had received a stop-work order related to demolition of an unstable wall. They have now been cleared by DCRA to continue, but now need HPRB approval. They said they have support from the immediate neighbors.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about the design and size of the development; the number of units and entrances; uniformity in the neighborhood; and, whether the other neighbors on the block are supportive. Members of the public expressed concerns about setting precedent. Alan Roth, a neighbor on Vernon Street, raised issues related to the stop-work order, historic guidelines, and precedent. He asked ANC1C not to support this application.

Other members of the public expressed views about the need for housing in DC, and commented on the appearance of buildings on either side of this property.

Commissioners discussed steps in the HPRB process; and the role of the ANC in that process. Commissioner Irani then moved a resolution opposing the HPRB application for 1819 Vernon Street, NW. Commissioner Fox Perry seconded the motion. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a roll call vote of 6 to 1, with Commissioners Fox Perry, Wright, Dendy, Guthrie, Pooley and Irani voting yes; and Commissioner Bowles voting no.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Bowles moved to adjourn at 9:24 pm. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion which passed unanimously.