

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of December 4, 2019

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on December 4, 2019 at Mary's Center. Commissioner Guthrie called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. About 25 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Bridget Pooley (1C02), Ted Guthrie (1C03), John Zottoli (1C04), Damiana Dendy (1C05), Michaela Wright (1C06), and Japer Bowles (1C07).

II. Officers' Reports

a. Chair's Report

Commissioner Guthrie encouraged the public to let their ANC members know of neighborhood problems. He cited a recent example of neighbors letting the ANC know about problems with a development that needed to be addressed.

b. Secretary's Report

1. Minutes for November 6, 2019 meeting

Commissioner Wright moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019 monthly ANC 1C meeting. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

2. ANC 1C Annual Report

Commissioner Wright presented a report on actions taken by ANC 1C in 2019 and explained that this was a new requirement for all ANCs in DC. She moved that approval of the report be added to the agenda without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that it is in the community interest since the report was due at the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Bowles seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Wright provided an overview of the [annual report](#). Commissioners commented on the professional quality of the report and how it will help people understand what the ANC does. Commissioner Wright then moved for approval of the report. Commissioner Zottoli seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

c. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Pooley had nothing to report.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Commissioner Guthrie thanked the Adams Morgan BID for dressing up the Festivus Pole at the BB&T Plaza.
- Commissioner Bowles announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee would hold a joint meeting with the ABC and Public Safety Committee on December 11 and that elements of the DC Comprehensive Plan may be considered at that meeting.
- Commissioner Bowles announced that he would be offering a resolution at the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee meeting on December 18 in support of two scooter corrals and pedestrian bump-outs; and a resolution requesting a traffic study of the 18th Street and Florida Avenue intersection.
- Commissioner Guthrie noted that the December 18 PZT Committee agenda also would include a request for support by the RocknRoll Marathon and discussion of the DC Comp Plan.

- Commissioner Pooley acknowledged Commissioner Bowles for organizing a successful and well-attended networking gathering of LGBTQ elected officials.
- Commissioner Zottoli raised a public safety issue concerning the Marie Reed field and cited recent incidents of theft of soccer players' belongings, an incident of someone brandishing a knife, and a recent shooting nearby. He said discussions about security cameras have begun among relevant police, park, and school officials.

IV. Presentation on the DC Comprehensive Plan

Evelyn Kasongo from the DC Office of Planning presented an overview of DC's Comprehensive Plan and the timeline and process for amending it. She described the plan as a long-term vision for the District including areas such as housing, equity, resilience, and public resources. She noted that in response to outreach efforts over 3,000 amendments have been proposed. Ms. Kasongo noted that survey results reflect livability, safety, and equity as the top guiding values that residents want to be incorporated in the Comp Plan. She said that time is being allotted during the public review period for ANC consideration of resolutions and that the Office of Planning will provide technical support for ANC members related to the Comp Plan.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Kasongo for the presentation and asked about possible changes in Adams Morgan population density, whether the Adams Morgan Vision Framework would receive consideration, and the timeline for submitting comments.

V. Public Announcements / Comments

- Matt Wexler said they will be applying for a special exception for the second phase of the Admo Heights development adding that Core Power Yoga and Reveler's Hour would be opening soon. He noted that the parking they provided is currently under-utilized, and that they will hold an open house in January to have a discussion on parking utilization and on improving the traffic flow on Columbia Road and the alley behind their building. He said a variety of ideas have already been suggested for improvements.
- A member of the public raised safety issues about the intersection at Harvard and 16th Street and asked whether it is mentioned in the Comp Plan. Commissioners commented that that area is included in DDOT's 10-year plan and it will also be affected by bus lane plans for 16th Street.
- A bar owner who is an Adams Morgan resident said he is hoping to open a sports bar in the space that was Southern Hospitality and that it would include sports gambling. He said he would like to dispel fictions about gambling for anyone who is interested.
- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Brienne Nadeau's office said the next Brienne on Your Block meeting would be on Wednesday, December 18 at Pitango on Columbia Road from 6:30 to 8 pm and that a representative from DCRA would be there.
- Reuben Forman of Mayor Bowser's office announced upcoming events including a tree lighting at the Wilson Building on December 9; a Fit DC Fresh Start 5k Run in Anacostia Park on January 1; and, a Roll-Off Day on Saturday, December 14 at Monroe Community Park for bulk item collection. Commissioner Guthrie added information about Christmas tree collection procedures.

VI. Scheduled Business

a. ABC and Public Safety Committee

1. Grand Central sports betting application

Commissioner Guthrie provided background on an application by Grand Central to allow sports wagering. He said that ANC 1C could protest the application if Commissioners wanted to negotiate changes in its settlement agreement with Grand Central to address betting, but it is unclear what those provisions might be. Commissioners discussed Grand Central's reputation as

a good business owner and the change in DC law to allow sports wagering. No motion to protest was made.

2. Request by Columbia Station to increase its capacity

Commissioner Guthrie reported that Columbia Station is requesting to increase its capacity and expand into the upper floor which had been part of Heaven and Hell. No one from Columbia Station was present to present plans or make a request, so no motion was made on this matter.

b. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. BZA application for Destination Pet, LLC (2218-2220 18th St NW), to expand Life of Riley in operation at the neighboring building (2222-2224 18th St NW)

Commissioner Guthrie provided background on an application from Destination Pet to expand the current Life of Riley and to add animal boarding and an animal hospital, which requires a special exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Commissioner Guthrie noted that representatives from Destination Pet presented these plans at two prior meetings and that the owners and neighbors are working on a memo of understanding to address neighbors' concerns about noise and odors.

Commissioner Guthrie then moved a [resolution](#) asking BZA to deny Destination Pet's application unless a memo of understanding is signed by the neighbors prior to the December 18 BZA hearing. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion.

Commissioners discussed the positive side of having businesses other than bars on 18th Street, but also acknowledged the legitimate concerns of neighbors. The counsel for Destination Pet said he believed the memo of understanding would be agreed to before the hearing. Neighbors expressed general support but wanted to make sure their concerns were met, including noise concerns with the current Life of Riley and waste disposal. Counsel for Destination Pet confirmed that they would use rat-proof containers and increase trash pick-up to twice a week.

Commissioners discussed wording and tone of the resolution, then passed it by a vote of 5 to 1.

c. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. Jubilee Jumpstart grant application

Commissioner Bowles moved that ANC 1C approve a [grant](#) application from Jubilee Jumpstart for \$2,057.18 to buy a 6-seat buggy for children. The Public Services and the Environment Committee recommended approval, so the motion did not require a second. Commissioners asked questions about the population served and the amount of the grant, then approved the request by a vote of 5 to 0 to 1 (with Commissioner Pooley abstaining).

2. Resolution opposing flavored tobacco products

Commissioner Bowles moved a [resolution](#) in support of legislation before the DC Council that would ban flavored electronic smoking devices. The resolution was recommended by the PSE Committee and so did not require a second. Commissioner Bowles explained that use of these products by teens is increasing dramatically. He also noted that the DC bill may be amended to ban all flavored tobacco. Commissioners then voted 4 to 1 to 1 to pass the resolution (with one Commissioner abstaining).

3. ANC 1C Contract for audiovisual services

Commissioner Pooley reported that a [contract](#) to provide audiovisual services for ANC 1C was recommended for approval by the PSE Committee. She explained that the contract includes

livestreaming of the ANC full meetings and that there were 500 views of the first stream. She noted that Commissioners previously voted to approve funding for these services and equipment with the possibility of including committee meetings as well as full commission meetings in the future. Commissioners then approved the contract by a vote of 6 to 0.

4. Resolution in support of ATU Local 689 Transdev Striking Workers

Commissioner Dendy moved a [resolution](#) in support of ATU Local 689 Transdev striking workers. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Commissioner Dendy provided background on the strike which began in October among workers for a portion of the WMATA system that has been privatized.

Commissioners noted that the striking workers are in Virginia and a resolution from a DC ANC may not have great weight, but they and members of the public expressed support for the resolution. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Guthrie moved to adjourn at 8:54 pm. Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.