

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of July 10, 2019

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on July 10, 2019 at Mary's Center. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. About 20 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Bridget Pooley (1C02), Douglas Ely (1C04), Damiana Dendy (1C05), Michaela Wright (1C06), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Amanda Fox Perry (1C08).

II. Officers' Reports

a. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani announced that there would be no full Commission nor Committee meetings in August, and as there were currently no committee agenda items for July, those meetings were also tentatively cancelled.

b. Secretary's Report

Minutes for June 5, 2019 Meeting

Commissioner Wright moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2019 monthly ANC 1C meeting. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion which then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

c. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Pooley provided an overview of ANC 1C's June spending, including some adjustments from previous years and a grant payment.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Commissioner Pooley announced that the DC Office of the Attorney General is starting a new Civil Rights Section and would be holding a civil rights public listening session on Thursday, July 18. She also announced that DC Public Library is accepting comments until September on future placement of libraries. Commissioner Pooley also announced that an All Hands On Tech event sponsored by OCTO would be held on Saturday, July 20 for help with tech issues. Finally, she reported that a walk-through of Kalorama Park was held on July 5 with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Government Services to follow up on issues were raised by the ANC 1C. She said she would share updates on those issues with those who are interested.
- Commissioner Irani reported that he had received quite a few email messages regarding location of a bikeshare station near 1901 Columbia Road. He said the Commission will revisit this issue in September to consider amending the draft resolution to add a site one block west on Columbia Road in front of the triangle park.
- Commissioner Ely reported that the Public Services and the Environment Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C send a letter regarding use of the Marie Reed field; approve a grant for Young Playwrights' Theater; and, continue discussing updating the website to potentially allow live streaming. Finally, Commissioner Ely announced that he will be resigning his ANC seat because he is leaving DC. He encouraged everyone to let people know in his Single Member District (ANC 1C04) that this seat will be vacant and to get information on how to run for it.
- Commissioner Dendy announced that there would be a community meeting on July 11 on alternatives for keeping United Medical Center open. The meeting would take place at the

hospital and be sponsored by the District of Columbia Nurses Association. She said that in light of this development, she would not be offering her resolution on keeping UMC open. Commissioner Dendy also disclosed that she works for Unite Here and that there would be a solidarity event on July 23 at DCA airport for airline catering workers.

IV. Public Announcements / Comments

- Jessica Bruce of the Community Center at the Line DC hotel announced the winners of the banner contest for Ward 1 fourth graders. She said the winners and 40 other entries were on display at the hotel. Ms. Bruce also announced various activities at the Center including Pride Month activities, guided meditation sessions, Jubilee training sessions, planning sessions for the Hola Cultura murals tour, ongoing office hours for several nonprofits, ongoing club programs with DC Public Libraries, and a rodent control program hosted by the DC Department of Health. She encouraged the public to contact her with any questions.
- The new owner of 1830 Columbia Road announced that the property will remain as a furniture store on the first floor and a single-family residence on the top floor.
- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID announced that Porchfest would be held on Saturday, October 5 from 2 to 6 pm. She asked for recommendations for local bands.
- Matt Wexler of the Admo Heights project at 1777 Columbia Road said he expects it will be completely leased by the end of the fall. He also reported that the restaurant of the first floor received its liquor license and that the Settlement Agreement with ANC 1C was helpful in that process.
- Michelle Loggins of Councilmember Brianne Nadeau's office announced that there would be a Brianne on Your Block meeting on July 11 at Pleasant Pops. She also announced that their office has free tickets for Ward 1 residents for museum and theater nights. Ms. Loggins also gave an update on the Councilmember's newly introduced comprehensive DCRA reform bill that would make enforcement of contractor standards more transparent. She said the bill includes provisions to make it easier for homeowners to file insurance claims when adjacent construction damages their building; to require that documents related to zoning decisions be shared with ANCs within 48 hours; and, authorize ANC Commissioners to submit complaints to DCRA.
- Reuben Forman of Mayor Bowser's office announced that the DC Department of Energy and Environment would be doing an electronics trash pick-up at the Mount Pleasant Library on July 20. He also announced that the groundbreaking for a short-term family housing project in Ward 1 was held on July 2 at the Rita Bright Family and Youth Center. He said the plans are to provide 35 family units and 15 permanent units for seniors. Finally, Mr. Forman announced that the Department of Health would be conducting a community health assessment survey which can be found on the web page: Ourhealthydc.org.

V. Scheduled Business

a. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

i. BZA [appeal request](#) by owners of 1831 Ontario Place

Commissioner Fox Perry reported that discussion of this issue would take place at the full ANC meeting on September 4.

ii. Request for a new bus shelter at bus stop #1001694 [at Columbia Road and Connecticut Avenue](#)

A member of the public requested ANC 1C support for a new bus shelter at the stop on Columbia Road near Connecticut Avenue. He said he was already working with Councilmember Nadeau's office and was told he should also get ANC support. Commissioners and members of the public discussed bus stop guidelines, the width of the sidewalk at that location, and different models of

bus stops. Commissioner Fox Perry said she would look into the different types of shelters and that she and Commissioner Guthrie planned to visit the stop and take up the matter either at the next ANC meeting or Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee meeting.

iii. Audit of Line DC hotel

Commissioner Bowles moved to place on agenda consideration of a resolution addressing the audit of the Line DC hotel without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that not doing so would be adverse to the community. Commissioner Pooley seconded the procedural motion which then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Bowles provided background on the Line DC audit that was done to determine whether the hotel had met specific hiring requirements in exchange for a property tax abatement. Commissioner Bowles then moved a resolution requesting that Mayor Bower and the Department of Employment Services make public their audit of this matter.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the public and private audits. Crawford Sherman from the Line DC said that they support this resolution because DOES has not shared their numbers or determinations with the hotel and they would like to have that information.

Commissioner Bowles amended the wording of the resolution without objection. Commissioner Irani offered an amendment to request that all audits related to determination of the tax abatement be made public. That amendment was accepted without objection. Commissioner Fox Perry seconded the resolution as amended.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed precedent for releasing audits whether public or private, and whether this case is different due to the public nature of the agreement with the hotel. Crawford Sherman specified that the question is just over the construction jobs audit. He said there is a separate audit done with DOES on a monthly basis on the requirement that 51% of the hotel team be from District residents and that 51% of that number be from Ward 1. He said they have more than met that standard.

Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 6 to 0. Commissioner Bowles said he would send it to the Mayor, DOES, and other ANCs in Ward 1.

iv. Crosswalk at the intersection of Columbia Road and 16th Street

Commissioner Dendy moved a [resolution](#) considered at the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee meeting to request the District Department of Transportation to implement pedestrian safety measures at the intersection of Columbia Road and 16th Street. The resolution listed improvements such as repainting the slip lane crosswalk for better alignment, more visible signage, flashing lights, and a timed pedestrian signal.

Kristen Barden noted that that intersection may be redesigned in connection with the bus lane project. Commissioner Dendy pointed out that the pedestrian crossing could still be repaired in the meantime.

Commissioner Pooley seconded Commissioner Dendy's resolution which then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

v. Bike lane on Harvard Street

Commissioner Dendy moved a [resolution](#) to request DDOT to study and implement cyclist and pedestrian safety improvements for the intersection of Columbia Road and Harvard Street. The resolution also requested an assessment of the feasibility of a protected bike lane on Harvard Street NW between Mount Pleasant Street and Adams Mills Road, created by swapping the locations of the existing bike lane and parking spaces without eliminating any existing parking spaces. Commissioner Dendy noted that she has spoken to Commissioners in ANC 1D about this issue.

Commissioner Pooley seconded the motion. She commented on the difficulties with turning left onto Harvard Street and said that switching the bike lane with parked cars may also calm traffic on Harvard Street. Commissioner Pooley suggested amending the resolution to say “urge” rather than “request” DDOT to make these changes, and to specifically suggest a bike box as a safety measure. These amendments were adopted without objection.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the width of the road and the width of the posts that protect bike lanes; the possibility of establishing bike boxes; related problems on surrounding streets; the need for “No trucks” signs; and, adding reference in the resolution to the need for better enforcement to keep cars from parking in bike lanes.

Commissioners then voted to pass the resolution as amended by a vote of 7 to 0.

b. Public Services and the Environment Committee

i. Community usage of Marie Reed field and other fields in the area

Commissioner Ely moved that ANC 1C send a letter to the DC Deputy Mayor for Education seeking assistance in increasing community access to the Marie Reed Elementary soccer field, and to discuss alternate options. He noted that the interested parties have been cooperative and negotiations have been amicable on this issue.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed where else the letter should be sent including Councilmembers, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the relevant Marie Reed director. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion to send the letter and Commissioners then passed the motion by a vote of 5 to 0.

ii. [Young Playwrights’ Theater grant application](#)

Commissioner Ely reported that the Public Services and the Environment Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C approve a grant request of \$1,000 for the Young Playwrights’ Theater. Commissioners and members of the public discussed past grants made to this group, and ANC 1C’s budget for making grants. Commissioner Pooley explained ANC 1C’s grant making procedures, guidelines, and budget.

Commissioner Pooley announced that she would abstain from voting because of a potential conflict of interest due to work her firm is doing.

Commissioner Ely moved that ANC 1C issue a grant to the Young Playwrights’ Theater for its after-school playwriting program. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0 to 1 (with Commissioner Pooley abstaining).

iii. New library in Adams Morgan

Commissioner Pooley moved to add to the agenda consideration of a new library in Adams Morgan without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that not doing so would be adverse to the community since the comment period on new library locations is closing soon. Commissioner Dendy seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Pooley moved a [resolution](#) urging DC Public Library to add a Public Library or Library Express in the Adams Morgan neighborhood; and that it consider the SunTrust Plaza as a library site. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the location of the nearest libraries; the possibility of the SunTrust Plaza site; a Library Express option; the library programs at the DC Line hotel Community Center; the possibility of reviving bookmobiles; and, the community aspect and multiple services offered by libraries. Commissioner Pooley noted that the survey for public comments was still open at: community.feedback@dc.gov.

Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 7 to 0.

iv. Grant Guidelines

Commissioner Pooley moved a resolution to update ANC 1C's grant guidelines that had been tabled from the June meeting. She explained proposed changes in the timeline so that grants would be considered twice a year; allowing grants of up to \$2,500.00 and, adding electronic submission of grant applications.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed ways to engage nonprofits to make them aware of the grant availability, process, and deadlines; and whether the proposed timeline would reduce flexibility.

Commissioner Pooley moved to table the resolution to continue working on the guidelines. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Bowles moved to adjourn at 8:58 pm. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion which passed unanimously.