

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of July 1, 2020

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on July 1, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. About 80 members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Ted Guthrie (1C03), John Zottoli (1C04), Damiana Dendy (1C05), Michaela Wright (1C06), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Chris Jackson (1C08).

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani reported that there will be a full ANC meeting on Wednesday, August 5 and that anticipated agenda items include a tree plan for BB&T Plaza, and transfer of a liquor license by MAHK Meetings for a tavern on Florida Avenue and Vernon Street. He also urged residents of single member district 1C02 to consider running for Commissioner to fill that vacancy.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Wright said the minutes from the June meeting were circulated and will be voted on as part of the consent agenda.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Bowles gave an update on ANC 1C finances and grants. He noted that he would recuse himself from consideration of a grant to the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association. Commissioners discussed the District schedule for quarterly allotments.

Commissioner Bowles reported that the Public Services and the Environment Committee would be discussing parks at its July meeting – including updates on Walter Pierce Park and playground, Kalorama Park, and the Ann Hargrove triangle park – as well as several possible grant requests.

Finally, Commissioner Bowles announced that he would be running for re-election to represent ANC 1C07. He said he wants to continue engaging with residents, nonprofits, and businesses in the area and advocating for Adams Morgan. He urged residents to contact him if they want to hear more about what he has been doing and what he plans to do going forward.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Commissioner Wright said that with bittersweet emotion she will moving to Seattle in August. She urged anyone who lives in the ANC 1C06 single member district who might want to run for that seat to get in touch with her.
- Commissioner Dendy announced that she would not be running again and urged anyone in ANC 1C05 who might want to run to contact her. Commissioner Irani added that information on filing to run for Commissioner can be found on the [ANC website](#).
- Commissioner Zottoli announced that he is running for re-election for ANC 1C04. He noted that someone else may also be running for that seat, but he said contested elections are good for Democracy. Commissioner Zottoli also welcomed residents who were joining the meeting to express concerns about zoning violations at 1808 Ontario Place.
- Commissioner Guthrie reminded everyone to send in their Census information if they had not already done so stressing that it can have a huge impact for Adams Morgan. He also urged everyone to do right by each other and be vigilant about wearing masks when outside. Finally, Commissioner Guthrie

announced that the ABC and Public Safety Committee would be meeting on July 8 and the agenda included a police report and consideration of a transfer of license for a tavern seeking to open on Florida Avenue going through to Vernon Street.

- Commissioner Irani announced that he would be running again for ANC 1C01, and noted that there are vacant seats for ANC 1C02, 05, and 06. He urged residents to look at the boundaries for these districts on the ANC 1C website and consider running. Commissioner Irani also announced that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee would meet virtually on July 15 to continue discussion of the 18th Street pedestrian zone and expanded use of public space, and a tree plan for BB&T Plaza from the District Department of Transportation's Urban Forestry division.

IV. Public Announcements/Comments

- Kristen Barden from the Adams Morgan Partnership BID thanked the Commissioners for working many long hours on the 18th Street pedestrian zone the previous weekend. She said while it was a success, improvements can be made in enforcing social distancing and wearing masks, and reminding patrons not to sit on the jersey walls. She noted that although there would be no pedestrian zone this coming weekend, the jersey walls would stay up and restaurants could still apply to set up parklets behind the barriers adding that information on that is available on their website at: admodc.org/18th.
- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided her contact information - phone: 202-531-5186; and email abobak@dccouncil.us. She thanked all those who worked on the pedestrian zone and noted that Councilmember Nadeau and staff members enjoyed the space last weekend. Ms. Bobak reviewed some of the guidelines for Phase 2 of re-opening restaurants, childcare facilities, churches, parks, and playgrounds and noted that many testing sites are open now. She gave some safety reminders about fireworks, and said a virtual Ward 1 Public Safety Forum would be held on Tuesday, July 7 including speakers from local organizations.
- Elias Benda, an Adams Morgan resident for 23 years, announced that he is running to represent ANC 1C03. He said he supports opening 18th Street, but thinks implementation needs to prioritize public health. He also spoke in support of the Black Lives Matter resolution and defunding the MPD and stressed the importance of having young people involved as a way to ensure a better future. He gave his contact information - twitter: @BendaElias; email: elias.benda@gmail.com; and, cell phone: (202) 355-8284.
- Fiona Clem, a resident of Adams Morgan for 20 years and a member of the RCNA board, announced that she is running for the ANC 1C08 seat. She provided her contact information: fiona1C08@gmail.com; 202-670-2103.
- Peter Wood, a resident of Adams Morgan, announced that he is running for the 1C03 seat. He stressed safety including police behavior as well as disease; fair governance; and, maintaining a thriving population for individuals, small businesses, and the larger community. He said he is a 30-something professional who is a renter and has worked with various volunteer organizations and wants to continue the diversity of voices in the area. He provided contact information - cell: 563-528-3630; and email: peter.david.arnould.wood@gmail.com.
- Denis James offered comments on the previous weekend's pedestrian zone on 18th Street. He said that printed material misrepresented that the Kalorama Citizens Association was collaborating in the initiative. He also expressed concern about the number of people with no masks and in clusters less than 6 feet apart, and said he intends to keep opposing this effort.
- Erin Van Gessel, a representative of [Community Mediation DC](http://CommunityMediationDC.com), said that they are building up a network of support with mediators across the District for all types of conflict resolution services. She said they would love to have a Commissioner serve as ambassador to their organization.
- Jeffrey Wilkes thanked Allie Bobak of Councilmember Nadeau's office for her help getting the crossing lights fixed in the center island on Columbia Road at Champlain Street.

- Matt Wexler thanked the ANC for working tirelessly over the past month on many issues especially the pedestrian zone. He announced that the Line Hotel had just re-opened, guests are checking in, its restaurants are open for take-out, and the roof is open for guests only.
- Nick Roland from the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association said it is great to see people running for ANC seats and commented that they could also get involved with RCNA. He mentioned their neighborhood relief fund for residents affected by COVID-19 and said more information can be found on their website at reedcooke-dc.org. Finally, he announced that RCNA will be having board elections in October and those interested should contact him at: info@reedcooke-dc.org.
- Joe Lapan, co-owner of Songbyrd Music House, said that they are working to process and act on feedback on the pedestrian zone and streateries on 18th Street. He said they take seriously the privilege and responsibility of opening their restaurant and are adhering to the safety guidelines and requirements. He welcomed additional feedback from the community through: joe@songbyrddc.com.

V. Presentation by DDOT of the 16th Street bus lanes project

Spring Worth, manager for the District Department of Transportation's 16th Street bus lanes project, reported that the designs are completed and they are on schedule to begin construction this Fall. She said that 16th Street between Arkansas Avenue to H Street is one of the highest ridership corridors in the city, and the project is intended to improve performance and reliability by adding peak period bus lanes, consolidated stops, and left turn restrictions. She provided links to [designs](#) and a [pamphlet](#), as well as the project website: 16thstreetnwbus.com, and her email address: Spring.Worth@dc.gov.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about go-ahead lights for busses; coordination with bicycle traffic; crosswalks at Harvard Street and Kalorama Road; better signage for crosswalks; automated camera enforcement for bus lane violations; and, due consideration of previous resolutions passed by ANC 1C regarding safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Ms. Worth suggested following up with Kenny Marable, an outreach specialist at DDOT, on these matters and he provided his email address: Kenny.marable@dc.gov.

VI. Legal Aid DC overview of COVID-19-related legal information

Caroline Fehr and Ellen Peterson from the Legal Aid Society of DC provided an overview of services they offer in the areas of: public benefits, including unemployment and federal stimulus payments; family law, including custody; domestic violence; housing, including tenants' rights and foreclosure; debt collection; and, immigration law. They noted that evictions, foreclosures, debt collection, auto repossession, and utility turn-offs cannot be carried out during the public health emergency, and rent increases should currently be frozen. They said people can request help with these issues by calling: 202-628-1161 or going to their website: www.legalaiddc.org.

VII. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the consent agenda which consisted of the [minutes](#) from the June 2020 ANC meeting. The consent agenda was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

VIII. Regular Agenda

A. ABC and Public Safety Committee

1. Internet sales application by Chufly Imports

Commissioner Guthrie moved to notify the ABC Board that ANC 1C approves of [Chufly Imports' application](#) and that a stipulated license should be issued so they may conduct business during the protest period. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion. Commissioner Guthrie explained that this is for online sales and shipping only of high-altitude Bolivian wine. Commissioners passed the motion by a vote of 7 to 0.

2. Resolution in support of Black Lives Matter

Commissioner Dendy provided an overview of a [resolution](#) expressing ANC 1C support for the Black Lives Matter movement and protests. The resolution calls for Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to take action to protect protesters and drop charges against them; reform and reduce funding for the Metropolitan Police Department; and, increase funding for community services and intervention.

Members of the public suggested including decriminalization of sex workers; calling for Police Chief Newsham to resign; banning use of military equipment by police; requiring release of body cam footage within 72 hours; banning choke holds; and, working with other organizations on these issues.

Commissioner Dendy accepted friendly amendments regarding specifics on dropping charges for certain protesters; clarifying funding cuts for MPD and re-direction of those funds; retro-actively term-limiting the police chief; and, requiring release of body cam footage within 72 hours.

Commissioner Dendy then moved to approve the resolution as amended. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that passed by a vote 7 to 0.

3. Resolution requiring a face covering while in and around streateries

Commissioner Irani moved to add to the agenda consideration of a [resolution](#) addressing masks, without the typical 10 days' notice because it is in the interest of the community. Commissioner Bowles seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0. Commissioner Irani then moved to pass the resolution itself and Commissioner Bowles seconded that motion.

Commissioner Irani provided an update on a pedestrian zone pilot from the previous weekend that he said was intended to tackle both a public health safety issue and a transportation safety issue. He said that one of the best ways to protect each other is to wear masks and that this resolution would require that masks be worn in the pedestrian zone and sidewalks adjacent to any outdoor restaurant and for businesses to enforce that.

Members of the public commented on police officers not wearing masks; making available masks that have been procured by neighborhood coalitions and associations; and, the city opening up more spaces so that Adams Morgan is not the only destination for pedestrian zones.

Commissioners discussed the role of city versus the role of the community in implementing the pedestrian zone and streateries guidelines; the need for assistance from an authority with implementing physical distancing and mask requirements; consulting with other neighborhoods on managing streateries; and, specifically mentioning police and other city personnel in the resolution's mask requirement. Commissioner Irani added the latter as a friendly amendment. Commissioners then passed the resolution as amended by a vote of 7 to 0.

4. Resolution waiving certain time provisions in settlement agreements

Commissioner Guthrie moved to add to the agenda consideration of a resolution to waive certain time provisions in settlement agreements without the typical 10 days' advance notice because it is in the community interest to provide relief to some of the neighborhood licensees. Commissioner Bowles seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Irani moved the [resolution](#) to temporarily waive certain time provisions in settlement agreements. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion. He explained that this would allow licensees who have time restrictions on use of outdoor space to operate until midnight and to open for morning hours, as permitted by the Mayor's re-opening plan, even if their settlement agreement says otherwise. He said ABRA has issued temporary rules to allow such waiving of settlement agreements

and that the Kalorama Citizens' Association has already passed a similar resolution. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 7 to 0.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. Continued discussion of pedestrian zone and expanded use of public space on 18th Street

Commissioner Irani noted that the ANC agreed to regularly provide opportunities to receive feedback on the pedestrian zone. He asked that members of the public limit their comments to 2 minutes each.

Commissioners and members of the public commented on the need to manage health risks of people in clusters and not wearing masks; the role of establishments in keeping customers in designated areas; the need for clear signage on alternate traffic routes; trucks on side streets; the addition of hand sanitizer stations; requirements for parklets, including insurance to operate outdoors; the lifeline for all businesses in the area, even if they cannot participate as parklets; the short amount of time businesses had to get ready for the pedestrian zone; and, commitment to improvements and collaborative effort to fix the problems by all stakeholders.

2. Resolution to oppose and appeal B2005159 for 1808 Ontario Place NW

Commissioner Zottoli provided background on a [draft resolution](#) to protest the height of a proposed development at 1808 Ontario Place NW. Inez Saki-Tay from DCRA said the permit for this case has not yet been approved, and once it is permitted there will be 60 days to appeal.

Alan Gambrell said that since the ANC will now have an August meeting, he and the other concerned neighbors could present their concerns at the July 15 PZT meeting, adjusting their request to reflect what actually gets approved by DCRA. Commissioners decided to consider this matter at the July 15 PZT meeting and the August full ANC meeting.

3. Resolution opposing DC Zoning Commission Case No. 19-21 regarding roof top or upper floor architectural elements

Commissioner Guthrie moved to add to the agenda consideration of a [resolution](#) regarding revisions to roof top zoning regulations, without the typical 10 days' advance notice because it is in the community interest to weigh in before the comment period ends. Commissioner Irani seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 1. Commissioner Guthrie then moved for consideration of a resolution to address the proposed zoning regulation change. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion.

Commissioner Guthrie reported that that the Zoning Commission had re-opened the record in this case that was previously discussed by ANC 1C in February. He said that changes proposed by the Office of Planning would go too far in creating exceptions that would disregard protection of architectural elements supported by ANC 1C in Lanier Heights. Larry Hargrove explained that there was no opportunity to address this change in the PZT Committee because the record was closed until late June and then re-opened only for 30 days.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the rule change and its application to rooftop solar panels; how the change could increase BZA discretion on previously protected elements; the likelihood of adoption of the proposed rule change; and, the result for protecting architectural roofline elements in Lanier Heights. The vote on the resolution was 3 to 3 to 1 (one Commissioner abstaining) so the resolution did not pass.

C. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. Grant request for the RCNA COVID-19 neighborhood relief fund

Commissioner Bowles recused himself from consideration of a grant application from the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association (RCNA). Commissioner Zottoli provided background on the [grant request](#) for \$4000 to set up a [relief fund](#) to provide modest support for Adams Morgan residents who have lost income due to COVID-19, especially those who are not receiving support from other sources. Commissioner Zottoli moved for approval of the grant request. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion.

Nick Roland, President of RCNA, noted that RCNA will be matching donations made to the fund and said more information about the \$300 microgrants could be found on their website: reedcooke-dc.org.

Commissioner Zottoli reported that this grant had been discussed with ANC Office Director Simon Gottlieb and it was determined that it is allowed by DC's emergency legislation. Commissioners then approved the grant by a vote of 6 to 0 to 1. (Commissioner Bowles abstained.)

2. Letter of support for a 2021 DCCAH Public Art Building Communities Grant application

Monica Jahan Bose asked ANC 1C for a letter of support for her grant application to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities for the [Concrete Dream](#), a project which uses saris, projection, and poetry in a temporary public art display. She and Robin Bell would project poetry on saris on the DC Arts Center for three days and conduct workshops for people here and in Bangladesh. Ms. Bose said the work would be done this Fall for an installation next Spring.

Commissioners discussed what happens to the saris after the 3-day display; and how they can help getting community signatures in support of the project. Commissioner Irani moved to add this matter to the agenda without the typical ten days' notice on the basis that it will benefit the community.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Irani then moved that ANC send a letter of support to DCCAH for this project.

Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

D. Office of the DC Auditor's report "Are ANCs Given Great Weight?"

Consideration of a resolution in support of the DC Auditor's recommendations in the ["Are ANCs Given Great Weight?"](#) report was moved to the August meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 pm.