

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of October 7, 2020

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on October 7, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. About 35 members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Ted Guthrie (1C03), John Zottoli (1C04), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Chris Jackson (1C08).

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani reported that the District Department of Transportation is asking for feedback from the public on [MoveDC](#), its long-term multimodal transportation plan. He said links will be posted on the ANC 1C website with more information and ways to provide feedback and attend virtual town halls.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Jackson gave an overview of the agenda and said the September minutes would be voted on with the consent agenda.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Bowles gave an overview of ANC 1C's current finances. He noted the District allotment for the past and current quarters had been received and that the statement for Q4 would be presented next month. He presented the FY21 budget later in the meeting.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Bowles announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee may be considering a grant request at its October 28 meeting.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that representatives from the police department would participate in the ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting on October 14 to discuss issues raised at the PSE Committee meeting last month regarding ways to make Unity Park more user friendly for all.
- Commissioner Guthrie also reported that it is not too late to enter information with the Census for those who had not yet done so. He stressed the importance of everyone being counted.
- Commissioner Guthrie also announced that people can start voting now at the drop box on SunTrust Plaza, and that early voting begins at the end of the month as well as on Election Day at Marie Reed Elementary School.
- Commissioner Zottoli added that people can also vote at HD Cooke and a half dozen other centers in Ward 1 on Election Day.
- Commissioner Zottoli also noted that he has received comments from constituents about this being peak pollen time for ragweed.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the October 21 agenda for the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee includes a zoning relief request for a café space at 1630 Columbia Road, and consideration of a letter of support for holiday display from AM BID for BB&T Plaza. He noted that links to join the committee meetings electronically are on the ANC 1C website.

IV. Mary's Center Annual Gala

Commissioner Irani announced that a [virtual gala](#) for Mary's Center was coming up on Friday, October 16. He noted that Mary's Center provides health screenings and other resources for our community.

V. ANC 1C FY2021 Budget

Commissioner Bowles gave an overview of the ANC 1C FY2021 budget. He explained that the final two DC allotments for 2020 would appear on the 2021 financial statements and that there were disbursement delays for some grants which needed supplemental information. He also explained that meeting space costs are estimates since it is not known when in-person meetings might resume.

Commissioner Irani moved for approval of the FY2021 budget. Commissioner Zottoli seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

VI. Public Announcements/Comments

- Ben Schifman announced that [Wangari Gardens](#), a community garden located about a mile east of ANC 1C, is seeking public input on a long-term plan. He said the garden is at Park Place between Kenyon and Irving Streets NW and has about 100 private plots, many of which are provided free to low-income neighbors. Schifman said they are looking for a water source and general community support. He provided a link for providing input: bit.ly/wangari20 and said those interested can also reach the garden's board at wangarigardens@gmail.com.
- Kristen Barden from the Adams Morgan Partnership BID reported on upcoming activities including the ADMObile, a pick-up truck that parks near local businesses on Saturdays from 5 to 7pm with live musicians playing on the back. She also announced a Maskerade contest in which people take pictures of themselves wearing creative masks in front of a local business during the last two weeks in October with prizes for those with the most likes or shares on social media. Barden also announced that there will be no in-person tasting for Apple Festival this year. She said contestants will still bake pies and sell them at the Farmers Market on Saturday, October 21 with and judging will be done online. Proceeds from pie sales this year will go to the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association COVID relief fund. Finally, she provided information about the DC Small Business Resiliency Fund; the Streatery Winter-Ready Grant Program; a survey on streatery space heaters; and the updated DC guide for streateries and outdoor dining. She referred people to the BID's [newsletter](#) for more information on these topics.
- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Brienne Nadeau's office provided updates and her contact information: abobak@dcouncil.us 202-531-5186. She said that the Council and the Mayor will be working on the budget plan based on updated revenue estimates provided by the City's Chief Financial Officer. She also reminded everyone of dates for voting in person and for registering to vote by mail. Bobak also noted that some DCPS schools are now open for some programs, and recreations centers are expected to open soon, including the Marie Reed aquatic center. She also announced that [leaf collection](#) will be by bags this year and encouraged everyone to reach out any with questions or requests for help with services. Finally, she announced that Councilmember Nadeau had introduced the Crown Act this week addressing hair style discrimination based on race.
- Nick Roland thanked the BID for selecting the RCNA COVID relief fund to receive proceeds from the Apple Festival. He also announced that RCNA and Jubilee Seniors would be holding Sweets in the Park in the Unity Park from 5-8 pm on Halloween to hand out candy to kids. He noted that it will be COVID safe with masks, gloves, and safe spacing.

VII. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani reported that the consent agenda consisted of approval of the [minutes](#) from the September meeting and a [letter](#) from ANC 1C to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development endorsing The Potter's House grant application to the Great Streets Initiative. Commissioner Irani explained that Potter's House is applying for the grant to increase outdoor seating and winterize their outdoor space, adding that it will also help improve the Columbia Road corridor. Commissioners passed the consent agenda by a vote of 5 to 0.

VIII. Regular Agenda

A. Platform of Hope Grant

Commissioner Bowles reported that the PSE Committee voted at its September meeting to recommend that ANC 1C approve a [Platform of Hope](#) grant application and moved to add this item to the agenda. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the procedural motion which was passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Judy Estey from Platform of Hope explained that the \$4,000 grant would assist 20 low-income families based in Adams Morgan connect with Platform of Hope staff and other service providers by providing hotspots and refurbished computers. She said they would normally meet in person, but cannot during the COVID pandemic. Commissioner Bowles said that the Office of ANCs verified that the grant request fits the purpose of COVID relief grants. Commissioner Irani moved to approve the grant. Commissioners approved the grant by a vote of 5 to 0.

B. Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association traffic study requests

Commissioner Bowles moved to add to the agenda consideration of a Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association letter requesting DDOT to conduct various traffic studies in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Zottoli seconded the procedural motion that then passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Commissioners discussed whether this should first go through Committee before full Commission consideration. Commissioner Irani moved to table the issue and place it on the PZT October agenda. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion that then passed that motion by a vote of 4 to 1.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.