

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of July 7, 2021

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on July 7, 2021. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Celeste Carano (1C02), Peter Wood (1C03), Meghan Faulkner (1C04), Zack Gold (1C05), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Fiona Clem (1C08). Members of the public joined electronically.

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani announced that per the Commission's usual schedule, there would be no ANC 1C full or committee meetings in August.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Clem had no updates.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Faulkner gave an overview of the ANC 1C [FY21 Quarter 3](#) financial report. She noted that the starting balance reflects a correction from a previous report.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Clem reported that the extra noise coming from the PEPCO substation has been fixed. She reported that Mayor Bowser has activated a heat emergency plan and has opened cooling centers. She added that more DC libraries are open now and are allowing browsing and computer use with mask and social distance requirements.
- Commissioner Bowles thanked community members and Commissioners for advocating for budget priorities. He reported that some of the likely results include funds for Unity Park renovations; a U Street corridor streetscape; Vision Zero programs; and affordable housing. Commissioner Bowles also reported that he had just done a neighborhood walk-through with Councilmember Nadeau and Commissioner Clem, and they are close to getting traffic calming measures in Reed Cooke.
- Commissioner Bowles announced that the agenda for the July 14 ABC and Public Safety Committee so far included just the monthly police report. He also noted that Commander Han Kim from MPD's Third District was online this evening to introduce himself.
- Commissioner Gold gave an update on the 16th Street project noting that it would probably be mid to late September before re-paving reaches Adams Morgan. He also noted changes in Beach Drive closures during and that the National Park Service is considering whether to keep a portion of Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park closed to vehicular traffic. He provided a [link](#) for a meeting on this and a way to comment on those proposals through August 22.
- Commissioner Gold reported that the June meeting of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee included a DDOT update and a special exception request that was on the agenda for

tonight's meeting. He said the full agenda for the July PZT meeting would be posted on the website, and it included additional DDOT updates. He also noted that the September PZT meeting would be on September 29.

- Commissioner Wood reported on additional seating in front of the Green Zone; new mulch and sand at the Kalorama Park playgrounds; efforts to de-escalate encounters with those in the encampment on the Plaza; and biking on the new addition to the Rock Creek Trail.
- Commissioner Carano reported that the June Public Services and the Environment Committee meeting included a presentation from the League of Women Voters on redistricting in DC and provided a [link](#) to their slides. Commissioner Carano announced that the July PSE meeting would include consideration of revisions to the ANC 1C grant application process. She also noted there is some confusion about the new visitor parking process and encouraged residents to contact her with questions.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the full ANC 1C meeting would probably return to a hybrid of in-person and virtual in September, but committee meetings would continue to be conducted over Zoom. He said announcements on this will be on the listserv and ANC website.

IV. Commander Han Kim from the Metropolitan Police Department's Third District

Commander Han Kim of the Metropolitan Police Department's Third District introduced himself saying that although he started this new position in mid-May, he is very familiar with the Third District from previous assignments, and he is glad to be back. Commander Kim also reported that most crime in Adams Morgan was down in the past 30 days except theft from autos and motor vehicle thefts.

Commissioners asked about giving special recognition to officers for successfully using de-escalation in a recent case; if there were leads in a hit and run at 16th and U Street; and a shooting on the 1700 block of Columbia Road. Commander Kim said he would look into these matters adding that he tries to respond the same day to inquiries and said his contact information is on website.

V. Public announcements

- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office reported that the DC Council is working on the budget with votes expected in late July and early August and provided a website for [Budget FY22](#) information and a link for Councilmember Nadeau's [updates](#). She reported that the Councilmember introduced a voting rights bill that would expand the definition of qualified elector to include permanent residents for local elections, and provided updates on new DMV hours and deadlines; [Building Block Grants](#) for reducing gun violence; and neighborhood walk-throughs. Commissioners asked about upkeep for triangle parks. Ms. Bobak provided her contact information: abobak@dccouncil.us, 202-531-5186 and a link for [STAY DC](#) rent and utility assistance.
- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID reported on upcoming events including Drag Queen Storytime on the second Sunday of the month; Summer Movie Nights starting on July 12 at Marie Reed; a Book Festival on Sunday, August 1 at BB&T plaza; Adams Morgan Day on September 12; and Porchfest on October 2. Commissioners and members of the public asked about vacancies in the commercial building at Florida Avenue and California Street; and road closures for Adams Morgan and Porchfest. She posted the [BID's schedule](#) in the chat.

- Nick Roland of the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association announced a neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, July 10 starting at 10 am at Unity Park.

VI. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the consent agenda which consisted of [minutes](#) from the June 2021 ANC meeting and the FY2021 [Q3 financial report](#). Commissioners passed the consent agenda by a vote of 7 to 0.

VII. Regular Agenda

A. Preliminary matters

1. Adding Seasoned Settlers' proposal to the agenda

Commissioner Gold moved to place on the agenda consideration of a letter of support for Seasoned Settlers' grant application for an art installation without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that not doing so would be adverse to the community interest since the grant application deadline was this month. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. Special exception relief from lot occupancy restrictions at 2240 Ontario Road NW

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C support a [request for Special Exception relief](#) from lot occupancy restrictions at 2240 Ontario Road NW (BZA Case No. 20521). Marty Sullivan, an attorney with the project, explained that the zoning relief sought is an additional 5% from lot occupancy to allow the addition of outdoor decks to the rear of the building. He added that they have letters of support from neighbors on both sides. Michael Cross, architect for the project, presented the drawings for the 8-unit apartment building.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about comparison with adjacent buildings; gross floor area; the size of the bedrooms and egress from them; parking spots provided; the view from the alley; the size of the units and how they are marketed; the basement extension; access to the decks; the date for the BZA hearing; and about a separate project by the same developer that is under investigation.

Commissioners agreed to send a [letter of support](#) for the special exception request by a roll call vote of 5 to 2 with Commissioners Bowles, Gold, Faulkner, Wood, and Carano voting yes; and Commissioners Clem and Irani voting no.

2. Seasoned Settlers art proposal for the intersection of Columbia Road and 17th Street

Sweetz Labamba of Seasoned Settlers requested ANC 1C support for a Public Art Building Communities (PABC) grant application for a traffic-calming art installation at the intersection of Columbia Road and 17th Street. She explained that the curb bulb-out design would complement surrounding buildings.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about feedback from DDOT's Arts in the Right of Way (AROW); what the art and the calming measures would look like; opportunities for community engagement on the design; and whether the ANC would see the final design before installation.

Commissioners then voted 7 to 0 to send a [letter of support](#) for the project.

C. Public Services and the Environment Committee

1. Public art installation at Unity Park and the Line Hotel

Commissioner Carano introduced Monica Jahan Bose who presented a [proposal](#) for a public art installation at Unity Park and the Line Hotel for Spring 2022. Ms. Bose explained the collaborative process for making saris for display with the themes of climate change, agriculture, food insecurity, and sustainability. She requested an ANC letter of support for her grant application to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA). Ms. Bose also requested assistance from the ANC in getting in touch with the Department of Parks and Recreation and for signatures on a letter of public support. She provided a [notice on the project](#) and her email address: Monicajahanbose@gmail.com. Commissioners voted 7 to 0 to send a [letter of support](#) for the project.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.