

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of March 3, 2021

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on March 3, 2021. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Celeste Carano (1C02), Peter Wood (1C03), Meghan Faulkner (1C04), Zack Gold (1C05), Benjamin Hart Butz (1C06), Japer Bowles (1C07), and Fiona Clem (1C08).

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani announced that those experiencing hardship with utility bills can contact the Office of the Peoples' Counsel at opc-dc.gov, and that starting the week of March 8 all DC residents can pre-register for the COVID vaccine. He noted that once registered, people will be contacted based on priority group and zip code to schedule a vaccine appointment. He directed people to: coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc for more information.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Clem reported that she posts ANC 1C announcements and updates on the Adams Morgan io listserv and on Twitter, and asked people to contact her at: 1c08@anc.dc.gov if they would like her to post on other venues or if they have other feedback.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Faulkner gave an update on ANC 1C finances and said there were no major changes this month. In answer to a question at the February meeting, she said the monthly 4 dollar bank service fee is for images of checks, which DC requires for ANC statements.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Clem reported that a PEPCO service representative has been invited to the April 7 ANC 1C meeting to provide updates on construction and renovations along Florida Avenue. She also asked people to email her if they would like to join a tour of the substation on Champlain Street which she was setting up with PEPCO for either March 19 or 26. She noted that constituents have raised issues about noise there.
- Commissioner Clem also announced that the Sitar Center will be holding a virtual student showcase on March 12 and provided a link with more information: <http://www.sitarartscenter.org/calendar-item/winter-2021-virtual-student-showcase/>.
- Commissioner Bowles reported that the only items on the ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting agenda for March 10 were the police report and an update on ongoing settlement agreement negotiations with Air.

- Commissioner Bowles announced that he is filing as many 311 requests as he can for 311 month. He said he is keeping track of the requests on an excel sheet for follow up with service people and that constituents can add their requests to his sheet by forwarding it to him via email or tagging him on requests filed via Twitter.
- Commissioner Butz noted that his intended announcements about 311 month and vaccine registration had already been covered and encouraged those in his Single Member District to reach out to him if they would like to chat.
- Commissioner Gold noted that there is an ANC bulletin board near Philz Coffee and asked whether the ANC should think about using it for announcements. Commissioner Irani noted there is another ANC bulletin board at Kalorama and Champlain, and they date from before his time as a Commissioner. Commissioner Wood added that there is one at Kalorama Park.
- Commissioner Gold reported that excavation for the 16th Street bus lanes had begun and is expected to continue through March 13. He also reported that the WMATA budget for fiscal year 2022, including recommendations for bus route consolidation, is open for public comment until March 16. He encouraged all residents to weigh in and provided a link in the chat: [Metro's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget: Tell Us What Matters to You | WMATA](#).
- Commissioner Gold announced that the agenda for the March 17 meeting of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee includes a discussion of Councilmember Nadeau's proposed amendments for the DC Future Land Use Map, and a renewed discussion of potential tree plantings in at the northeast corner of the intersection of 18th St / Adams Mill Rd NW and Columbia Rd NW (BB&T Plaza). He said any updates to the agenda will be posted on the ANC website.
- Commissioner Faulkner also encouraged people to fill out the survey regarding the WMATA budget.
- Commissioner Wood reported that the panel he hosted on neighborhood housing proved to be informative and peaceful and he hopes to organize similar events in the future. He also reported that he was a judge for the BID's Valentine's Day decorating contest and that he testified at a DC Council oversight hearing on domestic violence. He noted that DC Council oversight hearings are continuing and that residents can look for opportunities to testify on issues that concern them.
- Commissioner Wood echoed the importance of filing 311 requests noting that the push was tied to March 11 or 3/11. He asked constituents to also send their 311 requests to him so he can help with getting responses noting that Twitter is the preferred method.
- Commissioner Wood also announced that there would be a cleanup of Unity Park on March 20.
- Commissioner Carano reported that that the Public Services and the Environment Committee is now considering grant applications and encouraged groups to reach out for more information. She said that in February the PSE committee heard from Murals DC, which is currently taking mural proposals from property owners and artists.
- Commissioner Irani reviewed the March committee meeting dates: ABC and Public Safety on March 10; Planning, Zoning, and Transportation on March 17; and Public Services and the Environment on March 24. He said agendas and meeting access details are on the ANC website.

IV. Public Announcements/Comments

- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided updates and her contact information: abobak@dcouncil.us, 202-531-5186. She said DC Council oversight hearings are continuing including

one on the Coronavirus response and vaccine rollout and she posted the [schedule for upcoming hearings](#) in the chat. Ms. Bobak said the glitch in unemployment insurance checks should be resolved now, but residents should reach out to their office if they are still having problems with that. She also said leaf and holiday tree collection is done but to contact her or make a 311 request if people still need help with that. In response to a question about when street sweeping will resume, she said the Councilmember has a pending meeting with the interim DPW director and she would add that question to the agenda.

- Nick Roland of the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association announced a spring clean-up of Unity Park on March 20 and noted that trash bags and gloves would be provided. He also announced that their COVID 19 relief fund is still operating and provided the web address: [RCNA COVID-19 Relief Fund – Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association \(reedcooke-dc.org\)](#).
- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID said they were excited by the response to the BID’s date night promotion, and that the “love letters to Adams Morgan” postings on the kiosk are being archived at the Library of Congress. She also announced that the BID’s March 9 meeting would feature a video of Fleet Feet, an Adams Morgan business for the last 15 years; one of the Cherry Blossom Festival sculptures will be placed at the BB&T plaza; and they are looking for sponsors for the AdMOBILE truck which will be traveling around again this spring with live music. The BID is also organizing outdoor fitness classes, an outdoor book festival, and monthly story times in Unity Park.
- A representative from the Office of the People’s Council urged consumers who have challenges in paying utility bills or anyone with issues including disconnection, scams, or service complaints to call them. She noted that when the current moratorium on disconnections ends people may need help making payment arrangements. She placed contact information in the chat: [opc-dc.gov](#); Phone: 202-727-3071; Email: [info@opc-dc.gov](#).
- KJ Hughes, owner of the property at 1806 Vernon Street, at the corner of Florida Avenue and 18th Street, gave an update on ongoing settlement agreement negotiations for a proposed business there. He noted that some of the protestants to the license participated in a virtual tour of the building and urged Commissioners to help bring the negotiations to a close.
- Sammi Nesbit, CEO of Momentum Health Development, a small start-up nonprofit with a presence in Adams Morgan, urged increased community involvement at future ANC meetings and asked what outreach will be done for community members who cannot participate via Zoom once meetings are again held in person.

V. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani moved for approval of the Consent Agenda which consisted of [minutes](#) from the February 2021 ANC meeting, and a [Resolution](#) Authorizing Renewal of ANC 1C Domain, anc1c.org. He explained that the ANC 1C domain expired last year and it took awhile to track down its ownership. Commissioner Irani proposed authorizing payment to register it for at least five years, and if possible, for ten years. Commissioners discussed the yearly fee for the domain, and questions about web hosting. Commissioners then passed the consent agenda by a vote of 8 to 0.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee

1. BZA variance for the Festival Center at 1640 Columbia Rd NW

Commissioner Gold moved that ANC 1C direct the chair to write a letter in support of the [variance](#)

request for the Festival Center. Commissioner Irani noted that this motion did not need a second since it came out of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee unanimously.

Kyle DeThomas introduced the team working on the Festival Center project who then presented the proposed renovations. Commissioners asked about changes to the roof, and the reasons a floor area ratio variance was needed. Commissioners then voted 8 to 0 to send a [letter of support](#) for the variance.

2. Resolution on proposed FY 2022 WMATA operations

Commissioner Faulkner presented a [resolution](#) addressing the proposed FY 2022 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operations, which came out of the PZT Committee with unanimous support. She explained that WMATA is proposing significant service cuts, including some that would impact Adams Morgan. Commissioner Irani moved to adopt resolution.

Commissioner Gold offered an amendment to insert a paragraph regarding crosstown bus service, and a second amendment regarding the shift of the H2 line from Harvard Street. Both amendments were accepted without objection.

Commissioners thanked Commissioner Faulkner for taking the lead on this and expressed support for the resolution. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 8 to 0.

In response to a question, Commissioners returned to discussion of how ANC 1C meetings are made accessible to members of the public, including a dial-in option for those who cannot access Zoom, and the fact that in-person meetings are still not possible.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.