

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C**  
**Adams Morgan**  
**Minutes of July 5, 2017**

**I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners**

A regularly scheduled meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on July 5, 2017 at Mary's Center. Chair Guthrie called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. About 30 members of the public attended. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Hector Huezo (1C02), Ted Guthrie (1C03), Ryan Strom (1C05), Brendan Reardon (1C06), and Wilson Reynolds (1C07).

**II. Officers' Reports**

**a. Chair's Report**

Chair Guthrie reported that the Alcohol Beverage Control Board held a hearing about Heaven and Hell bar and that a decision was expected soon. He also reported that the Historic Preservation Review Board approved the April version of the developers' plans for the Meridian International project despite ANC 1C arguments that the proposal is contrary to historic standards.

**b. Secretary's Report**

**i. Minutes for June 7, 2017 Meeting**

Commissioner Reardon moved to approve the minutes for the June 7, 2017 monthly ANC 1C meeting. Commissioner Huezo seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

**III. Commissioner Announcements**

- Commissioner Guthrie reported that Pepco would be taking public comment on their planned extensive rebuild of the power substation on Champlain Street. He encouraged those interested to attend the two meetings Pepco set up to take public comment on July 20 at Meridian International and on July 25 at the Festival Center on Columbia Road.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that a DC Hires Vets event would be held at the DC Armory on East Capitol Street on Wednesday, July 19.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that copies of the DC Council Handbook and other handouts were available on the back table. He noted that the handbook contains information on how to testify before the DC Council.
- Commissioner Irani reported that the ABC and Public Safety Committee received a police report about the tragic incident on 18<sup>th</sup> Street on June 8 and held a discussion on improving safety. The Committee also considered a settlement agreement with Zenebech restaurant, and voted to recommend that ANC 1C protest a license renewal for Phoenix restaurant and lounge. He announced that the committee's next meeting is July 12 at Kalorama Recreation Center.
- Commissioner Huezo announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee would continue discussion of implementation of the Vision Framework for Adams Morgan at its July 26 meeting. He also announced that the Unity Park renovation is almost complete with a reopening date set for Saturday, July 15. He also thanked Shinada Phillips and the Mayor's office for their help in bringing Tai Chi back to Kalorama Park.
- Commissioner Reardon reported that the discussion on traffic safety at the PZT Committee meeting was helpful and that PZT will work with the ABC Committee on this issue. He said there was discussion of setting up a steering committee to consider various proposals to improve safety.

- Commissioner Reardon also reported that Mill Creek Residential, the developer for the Il Palazzo project, held two job fairs for construction jobs on their project. He said they will be providing a report on how many workers they have employed at the site, where they are from, and their field of work.
- Commissioner Strom announced that the District Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting on July 27 at the Columbia Heights Educational Campus regarding proposals for 16<sup>th</sup> Street bus transit. He said those interested could find more information on the website at [16thstnwbuses.com](http://16thstnwbuses.com).
- Commissioner Reynolds reported that there was a good turn-out for the PZT discussion about the June 8 incident on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. He said that representatives from DDOT and the police department were present and a number of ideas were discussed including geo fencing, which would exclude commercial pick up of passengers within certain boundaries; and dedicating specified drop-off and pick-up spots for vehicles for hire. Commissioner Reynolds said the discussion will continue at the July 19 PZT meeting and that DDOT will be providing a report about geo fencing and dedicated pick-up spots. He added that a project at 1749 Lanier Place was also on the PZT agenda.

#### **IV. Public Announcements / Comments**

- Jean Stewart announced that “Put a Price on it DC” is building grass roots support for a carbon fee and rebate plan that would raise money through fees on carbon emissions. She provided fact sheets on the back table and referred people to the website for more information: [Carbonpricedc.org](http://Carbonpricedc.org).
- A representative from DC Vote announced that the group is creating a network of DC residents who will ask their friends and family members across the country to help lobby their US representatives for DC Statehood. He provided information on the back table about that initiative and about a DC Vote youth lobby day on July 20.
- Kristen Barden, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan Partnership BID, reported on summer movie nights and outdoor concerts. She announced that the next BID sponsored activity would be the Porchfest the first Saturday in October, and the Apple Festival the last Saturday in October. She also provided bus and bike maps on the back table.
- Shinada Phillips, Ward 1 liaison for Mayor Bowser’s office, provided information on an extension of the private security camera program; a tree watering app; and the Nominate My Wall program that allows residents to nominate walls for murals through the Department of Public Works.

#### **V. Brianne Nadeau**

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau provided updates on new units of affordable housing in Ward 1 and on the Marie Reed facility. She also announced that she just introduced a bill to provide rental assistance for small businesses and she hopes there will be a hearing on that legislation in the fall.

Councilmember Nadeau also reported that the Council passed a Paid Family Leave bill; that she is working on homelessness legislation; and that the new budget includes increases for school funding, public safety, and police. She said she is also working with the Mayor to allow residents to select non-binary gender on their drivers’ licenses. Councilmember Nadeau encouraged residents to come to her with ideas for initiatives and noted that the program to take back pharmaceuticals came from an idea from an Adams Morgan resident. She also introduced John Hilleglass from her staff who handles constituent services.

Members of the public asked questions about the small business bill, the pharmaceutical drop off program, concerns about public safety and crime, and abandoned properties in the neighborhood.

## **VI. Scheduled Business**

### **a. Public Services and the Environment**

#### **i. Vida Senior Centers grant application**

Commissioner Huezo introduced Rosa Pizzi, Executive Director of Vida Senior Centers located on 1842 Calvert Street. Ms. Pizzi presented a grant request for \$1,000 for therapeutic art classes for seniors at the center. She added that the seniors' art is available for display anywhere.

Commissioner Huezo noted that the request was changed at the Committee level so that the funds will go towards art supplies only. Commissioner Guthrie verified that the majority of the seniors who participate are from Adams Morgan. Commissioners then approved the grant request by a vote 6 to 0.

#### **ii. Adams Morgan Day 2017 grant application**

Commissioner Huezo introduced Carol Miller who presented a grant request for \$1,000 for Adams Morgan Day 2017 to will be held on Sunday, September 10. She explained that the funds would go towards two required porta-potties and for an event banner.

Commissioners and members of the public made suggestions about printing the banner so that it can be re-used each year; and asked about logistics of blocking the street. Commissioners then voted 6 to 0 to approve the grant.

### **b. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee**

#### **i. 2101 Connecticut Avenue NW driveway**

Commissioner Reynolds reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee recommended that ANC 1C support proposed changes to the entrance and driveway of the residential property at 2101 Connecticut Avenue, NW.

A representative for the project explained that they have approval from the Historic Preservation Review Board and they are asking ANC 1C to send a letter of support to the Public Space Committee of the District Department of Transportation. He described plans to widen the sidewalk, widen and realign the driveway, make the entrance handicapped accessible, and address a problem with water pooling in front of the building.

Commissioners voted 6 to 0 to send a letter to the Public Space Committee in support of the proposal.

#### **ii. Pitango Gelato**

Commissioner Reynolds introduced representatives of Pitango Gelato who are opening a new store at 1841 Columbia Road. They have submitted an application to the DDOT's Public Space Committee for a sidewalk patio and asked for support from ANC 1C. They said the plan is to leave 8 feet of space between the planters around the patio and the tree box on the sidewalk.

Members of the public and Commissioners asked about the size of the patio and the hours of operation. Commissioner Guthrie then moved that ANC 1C send a letter of support for Pitango's

application for the use of public space. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

**c. ABC and Public Safety Committee**

**i. 18th Street vehicular/pedestrian safety**

Commissioner Irani reported on the ideas discussed at the ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting to make 18<sup>th</sup> Street safer. He summarized some of the suggestions made by the public including geo fencing and closing 18<sup>th</sup> Street to vehicles on weekend nights. Commissioner Reardon summarized some of the suggestions made at the PZT Committee meeting including using designated Uber and Lyft pick up points on weekend nights. Members of the public and Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of the suggested solutions. Commissioner Irani urged those interested in continuing this discussion to bring their ideas to the ABC Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 12.

**ii. Zenebech settlement agreement**

Commissioner Irani reported that a settlement agreement had been reached with Zenebech restaurant. The owners of this Ethiopian restaurant and their counsel were present. They explained that they had been located on T Street for 16 years and are now moving to 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

Commissioner Guthrie confirmed that the Kalorama Citizens' Association had signed off on the settlement agreement. Commissioner Huezo clarified that extended hours would not apply to the sidewalk café. Commissioner Guthrie then moved to approve the settlement agreement as amended and to agree to a stipulated license if the restaurant opens before the end of the protest period. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

**iii. Phoenix restaurant and lounge license renewal**

Commissioner Irani reported that the ABC Committee voted to recommend protesting the alcohol license renewal of Phoenix restaurant and lounge at 2434 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Commissioner Guthrie explained that the owners originally applied for a new license, but then they bought a license from a previous establishment paying the fines that were due on that license. He said the protest is on renewal of that license which includes an entertainment endorsement.

Commissioner Guthrie moved a resolution that ANC 1C protest the application for renewal of the license for Phoenix Restaurant Lounge on the grounds that it would be adverse to the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood; and that any Commissioner of ANC 1C is authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in any related proceeding. Commissioners passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

**VI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Reardon moved to adjourn at 8:44 pm. Commissioner Huezo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.