

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C**  
**Adams Morgan**  
**Minutes of August 5, 2020**

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

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on August 5, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. About 45 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 had no report.

**B. Secretary's Report**

Commissioner Wright said the minutes from the July meeting would be voted on as part of the consent agenda.

**C. Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Bowles gave an update on ANC 1C finances and grants and reported that the financial reports for FY20 Q2 and Q3 would be voted on as part of the consent agenda.

**III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas**

- Commissioner Irani reported that DC outdoor pools would remain closed for the season and indoor pools are closed until further notice.
- Commissioner Irani also reported that the Census deadline had been moved up to September 30 and urged people to respond if they haven't already. He added that the Adams Morgan response rate was around 62 or 63%.
- Commissioner Irani announced that Commissioner Wright is leaving DC and said it has been a pleasure to work with such a reliable colleague and a steady voice.
- Commissioner Irani announced that there would be no ANC 1C committee meetings in August.
- Commissioner Guthrie reported that cars are being stolen while being left running and urged everyone to turn off their cars and lock them.
- Commissioner Wright thanked Commissioner Irani for his nice words. She said she will miss everyone and can still be contacted through her on personal email while in Seattle.
- Commissioner Bowles thanked Commissioner Wright for her partnership in Reed-Cooke efforts, her help with constituents, and particularly with neighborhood cleanups.
- Commissioner Bowles said he would be introducing a resolution later in the meeting with feedback to the DC Board of Elections on locations for early election sites, polling places, and ballot drop boxes.
- Commissioner Jackson thanked Commissioner Wright for her help and wished her good luck with her move.
- Commissioner Jackson also announced that he has filed for re-election as Commissioner.

**IV. Councilmember Brianne Nadeau's update on the budget**

Councilmember Nadeau thanked Commissioner Wright for her service on the ANC and thanked all those who are running. She said we need to keep our ANC's operating at full capacity.

Councilmember Nadeau reported that the Council permanently reauthorized the Adams Morgan BID and reduced fees that businesses are required to pay during the health emergency. She said she is continuing to work to make sure businesses in Adams Morgan are able to make ends meet and she has not given up on the 18<sup>th</sup> Street open street plan.

She highlighted some human services provisions she was able to add to the FY21 budget by eliminating a high-tech tax credit. The provisions included a reduction in the number of in-person government visits required for immigrants; increased housing for the homeless; assistance for workers who did not receive help under Federal COVID programs; grants for childcare providers; and, increases for school-based mental health services. She said other budget amendments provided funds for emergency rental assistance, programs for youth impacted by violence, and homeless outreach programs.

Councilmember Nadeau also provided some details on cuts to MPD funding. She said \$15.1 million was cut from a \$19 million enhancement. She explained that contracts limited what cuts were legally feasible. She said amounts that were cut were redirected to fund a violence interruption program; a public information campaign for the Red Flag Law to remove guns from someone who poses a danger; staff for a truancy mediation program; funds for a reentry housing program; a justice grants program; a new shelter for the domestic violence victims; a behavioral health program; affordable housing; and immigrant legal services.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about ongoing MPD reforms; restorative justice; decriminalization of certain behavior to reduce police enforcement; putting more money in prevention; reviewing the MPD contracts and reducing the number of police; DC Zoning Administrator's straying from zoning regulations in his decisions; possible revision in DC's revenue estimates; accountability for police actions on Swan Street during the protests; and, transparency in budget negotiations. Councilmember Nadeau provided links in the chat to address questions about [police reform](#) and [restorative justice](#).

## **V. Public Announcements/Comments**

- Nick Roland from the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association thanked Commissioner Wright for all her work, especially for showing up on neighborhood clean-up days. He also thanked ANC 1C for a grant, and individual donors for their contributions, to the RCNA COVID-19 Relief Fund. He reported that the fund has helped 60 families thus far, but more will be needed as federal assistance ends. He urged those who can to donate at: [reedcooke-dc.org](http://reedcooke-dc.org).
- Kristen Barden from the Adams Morgan Partnership BID thanked ANC 1C for a grant to install four hand sanitizers in Adams Morgan. She said the BID is monitoring them and keeping them full. She also said the BID sent a letter to several DC agencies and our Councilmember asking for continuation of the pedestrian zone pilot program.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the consent agenda which consisted of the [minutes](#) from the July meeting and financial reports for FY20 [Q2](#) and [Q3](#). Commissioner Bowles gave an overview of the financial reports and revisions that were made in the Q2 report to correct a category. Commissioners discussed invoices, the personnel versus purchase of service, checks for meeting space that were not cashed last year, and grants. The consent agenda was then adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

## **VII. Regular Agenda**

### **A. ABC and Public Safety Committee**

#### **1. Transfer and substantial change to an ABC license for MAHK Meetings LLC**

Commissioner Guthrie moved a [resolution](#) to protest a [transfer and substantial change](#) to an ABC license on the bases of adverse impact on: the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood; real property values; and, residential parking and vehicular and pedestrian safety; and on the additional

basis that it would result in an excessive over-concentration of tavern licensees, contrary to the provisions of the Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone (AMMZ). The resolution further authorized any Commissioner to act on behalf of the Commission in proceedings on this protest. Commissioner Irani seconded the motion. Commissioner Guthrie explained that the licensee is requesting to transfer a license from 1723 Columbia Road NW, to a new location at 1806 Vernon Street, NW, and that the transfer site abuts a residential building.

Commissioners discussed the ANC working to get a settlement agreement with the owner before a hearing; whether there would be evidence of adverse impact on property values and whether that basis was necessary; and, whether an ANC settlement agreement would impact a protest filed by neighbors. The resolution was amended to identify the license type and number.

Neighbors on Vernon Street, including some who live in the adjacent Carswell building, expressed concerns about potential problems from noise; patrons congregating outdoors; late night hours; trash and rats; delivery and traffic issues on Vernon which is primarily residential; windows that look into the Carswell; the effect on resale value of unit properties; and, Carswell residents who would have trouble re-locating. Andrew Kline, a lawyer for the owner, said they look forward to working with the neighbors to address their concerns.

Commissioners discussed trying to reach a settlement agreement before any protest hearing is scheduled. Commissioner Bowles moved to remove the reference to property value in the resolution. There was no second for that motion. Commissioners then voted 6 to 1 to pass the original resolution.

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

### **1. Resolution to oppose and appeal B2005159 for 1808 Ontario Place NW**

Commissioner Zottoli recognized the time and effort that Lanier Heights residents put into efforts to better manage development in their community through a zoning change. He said some of those neighbors have asked ANC 1C to oppose a permit recently granted for a development project at 1808 Ontario Place.

Kathleen Gille spoke for the residents of an adjacent coop building in support of a [resolution](#) to oppose and appeal the permit for this development which would violate height restrictions in areas zoned RF-1, such as Lanier Heights. She said the neighbors have communicated with the developer, met with the Zoning Administrator, and presented their concerns at the ANC's July PZT meeting. She said the Zoning Administrator has allowed the height of the building to be measured incorrectly and the addition of a fourth story, contrary to regulations for areas zoned RF-1. Former Commissioner Alan Gambrell summarized the resolution in opposition to the permit.

Commissioner Irani noted that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted to recommend passing this resolution. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 5 to 2.

### **2. Resolution in Favor of 17th St NW Protected Bike Lane**

Commissioner Bowles reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C pass a [resolution](#) in support of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW Protected Bike Lane and its extension into ANC 1C. He said that ANC 2B Commissioners requested support for this effort; that the protected section is just to the south of ANC 1C; and that it is used by many Adams Morgan residents.

Commissioners and members of the public spoke in support of extending and connecting bike lanes; discussed the impact it would have on businesses on 17<sup>th</sup> Street; and, cooperation among ANCs. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 7 to 0.

### **3. Tree plan for BB&T Plaza**

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee discussed proposals for tree plantings at the BB&T plaza including a proposal offered by Alisha Edmonson, a landscape architect and co-owner of Songbyrd. Commissioner Irani said that the [revised plan](#) under consideration incorporates feedback from DDOT and the Bikeshare group.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed tree selection and maintenance; possible purchase of planters and potted plants by the Adams Morgan BID; the amount of space left for pedestrian passage; the process in developing this plan; a water source for the trees and plants; whether DDOT can implement the revised plan; the benefits of utilizing this space; size and placement of the bike station; possible locations for the farmers market; and, seating.

Commissioners then passed the revised plan by a vote of 7 to 0.

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

### **1. Feedback to DC Board of Elections**

Commissioner Bowles reported that the DC Board of Elections is looking for feedback on locations for voting centers and ballot drop boxes. He proposed a [resolution](#) requesting that Marie Reed and H.D. Cooke schools be used as voting centers; that the Hilton hotel on Connecticut Avenue be used as an early voting center; and, that ballot drop boxes be located in 8 suggested spots in Adams Morgan in consultation with ANC 1C and neighborhood associations. Commissioners and members of the public discussed the proposed locations and suggested additional locations for drop boxes.

Commissioner Irani moved to add this matter to the agenda without the usual 10 days' notice on the basis that it is in the community interest to provide feedback on this before the deadline.

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

Commissioner Irani then moved to pass the resolution. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

## **VIII. Vote on Secretary**

Commissioner Irani noted that with Commissioner Wright's departure the Commission needed a new Secretary. He nominated Commissioner Jackson for this position. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the nomination that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

## **IX. Checkbook location**

Commissioner Bowles reported that he had moved, and that the new location of the ANC 1C checkbook needed to be on record. He moved that this matter be added to the agenda without the typical 10 days' notice on the basis that it is in the community interest. Commissioner Zottoli seconded the procedural motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0. Commissioner Irani then moved to change the recorded address for ANC 1C's check ledger from unit 202 to unit 303 of 2426 Ontario Road, NW. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 pm.