

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Minutes of September 2, 2020

I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on September 2, 2020. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. About 60 members of the public joined electronically. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Ted Guthrie (1C03), John Zottoli (1C04), Damiana Dendy (1C05), and Japer Bowles (1C07).

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair's Report

Commissioner Irani had no report.

B. Secretary's Report

Commissioner Jackson was not present.

C. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Bowles gave an update on ANC 1C finances, including regular expenditures and grants. He said the next disbursement from the DC government is expected this month.

III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas

- Commissioner Bowles announced that the Public Services and the Environment Committee would be considering grant requests from Platform of Hope, Adams Morgan Day, and Jubilee Jobs at its September 23 meeting. He said he had also requested that a representative from the DC Department of Parks and Recreation attend to provide an update on the Ann Hargrove Park; and, that the Committee would discuss concerns about public urination and intoxication at Unity Park as well as possible community-based solutions to those concerns such as clean-up efforts and public restrooms.
- Commissioner Bowles also announced that Jubilee Seniors and the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association would be sponsoring a voter registration drive on September 12 at Unity Park and that representatives from the Mayor's office would also be there.
- Commissioner Dendy announced that the eviction moratorium has been extended until the end of year.
- Commissioner Zottoli provided information about voting options for the upcoming election. He said that H.D. Cooke and Marie Reed Schools will be open for voting on Election Day; and that the Columbia Heights Community Center would be an early voting center. He added that mail in ballots are expected to arrive in early October and that there will be a ballot drop box at SunTrust Plaza.
- Commissioner Guthrie announced that in addition to the police report, the agenda for the ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting on September 9 included discussion of concerns with Unity Park, and further clarity about enforcement of rules for wearing masks.
- Commissioner Irani announced that information about voting can be found at [DCBOE.org](https://www.dcboe.org) and that registered voters do not need to request a ballot unless they have had a change of address. He added that a ballot drop box will be at the SunTrust plaza starting on October 5 and that H.D. Cooke and Marie Reed elementary schools will be Election Day Vote Centers.
- Commissioner Irani also encouraged anyone who has not yet done so to respond to the Census at [2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov). He said the DC self-response rate is just under 62%, just under the national rate.
- Commissioner Irani announced that a virtual Adams Morgan Day would be held on September 13 and that information is posted at [ADMODay.com](https://admoday.com). He said events include the American University's Humanities Truck parked next to Kalorama Park with historical pictures of Adams Morgan; a mural scavenger hunt; and, special offers by local businesses.

- Commissioner Irani also announced that the DC Office of Campaign Finance would be holding a debate for candidates for the At-large DC Council seats. He said the date had not yet been announced, but it will be posted at: Ofc.dc.gov.

IV. Public Announcements/Comments

- Kristen Barden from the Adams Morgan Partnership BID said they have been working with DC's Department of Human Services to get port-a-john near Unity Park. She also announced that the BID is participating in [Art All Night](#), which will be virtual this year, the 3rd and 4th weeks of September. They are asking artists to submit ideas at: <http://bit.ly/aanpromo>.
- Peter Wood announced that he is a candidate for ANC 1C03 and that some of the candidates are organizing a virtual event to meet the candidates on September 23. He said people can contact him for information at: peter.david.arnould.wood@gmail.com or <https://www.pdawood.com>.
- Alan Gambrell commented that Lanier Heights residents have worked hard on a zoning violation case and he was disappointed the way these efforts were described in a tweet by a Commissioner. Mr. Gambrell said he would prefer open dialogue and questions from Commissioners during a meeting.
- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Brianne Nadeau's office provided her contact information: abobak@dcouncil.us 202-532-5186, and noted that messages from DC employees have been going to people's spam filters, so she urged people to check there. She said that Commissioners had already covered her reminders about the upcoming election and the Census. A member of the public asked her about the status of a rear light requirement in the Vision Zero bill.

V. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Irani reported that the consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the August meeting, as well as a procedural motion to add items to the regular agenda which had received only a nine-day notice instead of the ten days required by ANC 1C by-laws. He added these items on the basis that it was in the community interest to consider them at this meeting. The consent agenda was then adopted by a vote of 5 to 0.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Presentation on Pepco project to replace underground cable

Travis Culpepper from Pepco gave an update on the replacement of 17 manhole covers and aging underground cables in Adams Morgan beginning in September. He said streets and sidewalks along Summit Place, 18th Street, Ontario Road, Lanier Place, and Columbia Road would be impacted.

Tim Bugh from Pepco and Veron Hadley from Stealth Construction described the specific timeline and locations for the project which is to take place from September 2020 through January 2021, and possibly into the Spring. Mr. Culpepper said they will reach out to the public through listservs, letters, by contacting apartment buildings, and through public meetings. He provided his contact information for questions: tcupepper@pepco.com, 202-872-2024.

Members of the public asked about coordination with the District Department of Transportation, since the area's streets have just been repaved; ADA issues with sidewalks being impeded; blocked bike lane obstruction during the project; and, ongoing community alerts as the project progresses from street to street or when the schedule shifts.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee Consideration of a project at 1833 Ontario Place

Architect Michael Blake presented plans for a renovation project at [1833 Ontario Place](#). He said they have an October 7 hearing scheduled with the Board of Zoning Adjustments to request variances for

lot occupancy and rear yard set-back for a new deck that would extend to the alley, noting that it would have a potential impact for neighbors.

Commissioners asked about other proposed renovations to the property; lot occupancy; and the impact on neighbors. Jeff and Ritika Robertson who live next door at 1835 Lanier Place in the cellar/first floor unit expressed their opposition to the proposal due to encroachment on their light and air. They said they have had productive conversations with the owner and hope to reach a compromise. The Robertsons asked ANC 1C to table the matter so that they could work on a compromise with the owner.

Commissioners discussed the hearing date and sending a letter of support for the project that acknowledges the neighbor's concerns and the efforts of the applicants to lessen the impact.

Commissioner Guthrie moved that ANC 1C send a [letter](#) to BZA expressing support for the application along with the express understanding that the applicant and their neighbor at 1835 Ontario Place #1 will use good faith efforts to amend the development to address the reduced flow of air and increased moisture to the patio and balcony at 1835 Ontario Place NW #1. Commissioner Zottoli seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

C. Review invoices and contract for livestreaming meetings

Commissioner Irani reported that ANC 1C's contract with Gordon Chaffin for livestreaming meetings needed to be updated since all meetings are now virtual. Gordon Chaffin provided background on his past invoices and adjustments to charges going forward with respect to rate, hours for labor, and equipment fees.

Commissioners made some changes in the wording of the draft contract then Commissioner Irani moved that ANC 1C adopt the [contract](#) as discussed along with the invoices. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

D. Discuss a proposal by the Adams Morgan BID for a 2020 Holiday Display

Kristen Barden from the Adams Morgan BID announced that they are working with Throughline Inc. design company on a [holiday display](#) for the BB&T Plaza and the SunTrust Plaza. She said they are hoping to get funding from Truist Bank (the merged entity of BB&T and SunTrust banks). She presented a proposal for oversize gift boxes in BB&T Plaza and an elf hat on top of the kiosk. She said they will come back to request an ANC letter of support once they secure funding and start the permit process. Commissioners asked about potential vandalism; and about the status of tree plantings for BB&T Plaza.

E. Public Services and the Environment

Resolution in support of Initiative 81, the Entheogenic Plant and Fungus Policy Act of 2020

Lia Kuduk reported that Initiative 81 to lower police priorities for offenses for plant medicines would be on the ballot this election, since supporters collected the sufficient number of signatures.

Commissioner Bowles introduced a resolution in support of Initiative 81. Commissioners discussed rewording the resolution to voice ANC 1C support the initiative without advising voters how to vote. Commissioner Bowles accepted revision. Commissioner Irani moved to pass the [resolution](#) as amended. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion that then passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

F. Request for after-hours permit at 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW

Commissioners considered a request for a letter of support for after-hours construction at [1919 Connecticut Ave NW](#), the Hepburn Building. Shon Thomas, the project coordinator, explained the request is for a crane on T Street, NW to hoist HVAC equipment to the roof of the building on Sunday, September 13 from 7am to 7pm.

Commissioner Irani moved to send a [letter](#) to DCRA in support of allowing the after-hours permit. Commissioner Guthrie seconded the motion that passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.