



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

November 6, 2018

Councilmember Jack Evans
Councilmember, Ward 2
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004
jevans@dccouncil.us

RE: Proposal to Install a Plaque Honoring Former Commissioner Rebecca Coder at Francis Field

Dear Councilmember Evans,

At its regular meeting on September 20, 2018, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (7-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Harmon and seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt the following resolution:

ANC 2A supports the request of the Friends of Francis Field, of which Rebecca Coder was the first president and subsequently an ANC 2A Commissioner for ten years, to memorialize her successful efforts to provide passive recreation space in the West End neighborhood, specifically the portion of Francis Field that is now a pleasant park, where neighbors can walk dogs, sit on benches, and enjoy this small but welcoming outdoor space, created in 2009 under her leadership.

There is no intention to rename Francis Field, which has several sub-sections, including the large athletic field, Francis Pool, and, since 2015, Francis Dog Park. Rather, the request is for an act by the DC Council to designate a small and distinct portion of Francis Field, lying entirely outside of the athletic field, as follows:

“To designate the park area of Francis Field adjacent to the west side of 25th Street NW, in Ward 2, as Coder Park.”

A landscape plan of this area, with an accompanying photograph of the area, is attached to this resolution.

ANC 2A also supports the placement of a small bronze plaque, 10 inches by 4 inches, in the circular sidewalk shown in the attached plan. The plaque would read:

In Memory of
Rebecca Coder



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

1969-2018

Friends of Francis Field

No other signage is contemplated or requested. A proof of this plaque is also attached to this resolution. The plaque is consistent with current “DPR Donation Guidelines for Plaques and Trees,” which state:

“The sign/plaque must be made of lasting materials (i.e. brass, stainless steel, powder-coated steel or stone). It should not exceed about 6" x 12" nor should be elevated more than 9" above the surrounding soil. If it is to be mounted to a wall or masonry surface it should be bolted or set in mortar.”

Those Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) guidelines also state that language such as “in memory of” requires DC Council approval, which the Friends of Francis Field has informed ANC 2A that it has discussed with your office and feels confident that you will support.

The plaque and its installation will be funded entirely with private funds, at no cost to the District of Columbia.

ANC 2A thus respectfully requests that your office take action regarding this request.

Commissioners Florence Harmon (2A06@anc.dc.gov) and William Kennedy Smith (2A04@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

William Kennedy Smith, MD
Chairperson

CC: Keith Anderson, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Peter Nohrden, Capital Projects, Planning, and Design, DPR
Katie Rehwaldt, Manager of Park Partners and Community Engagement, DPR
Gary Griffith, President, Friends of Francis Field