



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2019



Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A Minutes Miner Elementary School February 14, 2019

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Phil Toomajian, Mike Soderman, Sondra Philips-Gilbert, Stephanie Zimny, Ruth Ann Hudson, Brain Alcorn, Marie-Claire Brown.

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Amber Gove called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

The minutes for the ANC January 2019 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the February 2019 meeting was accepted without changes or objection.

Community Presentations

Jessica Sutter, Board of Education Representative, Ward 6

Ms. Sutter gave a summary of what the State Board of Education (SBOE) has authority over and the major issues before the Board. She stated that the SBOE is in charge of all state-related education matters that apply to both public schools and public charter schools. These include high school graduation requirements, state standards, state assessments, any federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) plan that the states have to get approved, etc. She noted that while SBOE votes on these matters, but that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) actually creates policy; therefore SBOE does not have any authority over items like school modernizations or school budgets. She said that what SBOE can do, however, is represent their constituents and connect residents to the correct agencies, offices, and/or resources. She announced that they have released the first edition of the DC School Report Card, including the STAR (School Transparency and Reporting) framework. She also announced that OSSE is gathering feedback through surveys, and she will be talking with the community and soliciting feedback on the report card and STAR reports. She went on to announce that SBOE is looking at social studies and science instruction across all grades this year. Chairwoman Gove inquired about trends in participation in statewide PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) exams and the possibility of elementary school students not being required to take this exam via computer, rather on paper. Sutter stated that SBOE has brought up this issue to OSSE and they hope to hear more about it, however she stated that there are no clear plans or interest to change to a new assessment.

Carrie Hildebrandt, Community Engagement Manager, H Street Fresh Farms Market

Carrie Hildebrandt stated that H Street Fresh Farms Market, located along 13th Street NE near the corner at H Street NE, is seeking support from the ANC for their public space permit for their continued operation. Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown asked if Ms. Hildebrandt knows how many vendors participate at any one time. Ms. Hildebrandt stated that they generally have the same line-up every week, with an occasional pop-up vendor, and estimated that there are between 10 - 12 vendors at any one time. She additionally confirmed that the market does accept EBT cards and always plans on doing so.



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Commissioner Phil Toomajian moved and Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown seconded the motion for the ANC to send a letter of support for the public space permit for H Street Fresh Farms Market. The motion passed 8-0.

Amy Mauro, Right Care Right Now, DC Fire and Emergency Management Services

Amy Mauro provided an overview of the Right Care Right Now program, and how the program has fared since launching over a year ago. The program connects residents who call 911 emergency services to a nurse triage line, if appropriate, who will assess the situation and refer the caller to a neighborhood clinic. The program aims to better connect residents to the appropriate services, and save emergency resources for life threatening situations. Ms. Mauro provided statistics from the first nine months that the program has been in operation: on average, there is a 9 second transfer time from 911 to the nurse triage line, 6 minutes spent on the call, and a 13-minute average arrival time for Lyft vehicles to reach the caller to transport them to the neighborhood clinic. She announced that some changes to the program that will be piloted in certain sections of the city as of March 1, 2019. These include the ability of EMTs/paramedics in the field to connect patients to the nurse triage line. Ms. Mauro confirmed that there is no direct line for the Right Care Right Now triage line, but the hope is that residents become educated on what does and does not require 911 emergency services and will call the neighborhood clinics directly. She stated that they monitor the percentage of calls that go back to 911 dispatch to assess any adverse effects of the program; she noted that most complaints received are in regard to transportation. Mauro provided an overview of past community outreach. The program hired a digital engagement firm that sends educational text messages; representatives from the office have attended numerous ANC meetings. As of now, only adults are eligible for the Right Care Right Now service, and only those receiving Medicaid are eligible for transportation to a neighborhood clinic. While there is no detailed cost analysis yet, Mauro stated that approximately 1,000 individuals have avoided ambulance and emergency room services.

Shawn Townsend, Director, Office of Nightlife and Culture

Shawn Townsend introduced himself and described the role of this new position and office. The Office of Nightlife and Culture will engage with nightlife establishments to resolve issues unique to nighttime-centric entertainment and events and serve to connect residents to the correct offices and personnel within the Mayor's Office.

Officer Reports

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2019. There were disbursements totaling \$799.00: \$450.00 to Irene Dworakowski (Check 1851) for agenda/web master services; \$200.00 (Check 1853) for the January 2019 minutes; \$129.00 (Check 1852) for FedEx printing; leaving a balance of \$3,341.55 in the checking account. There is a balance of \$13,794.65, including a \$0.22 interest deposit, in the savings account. The January 2019 report was approved by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach Committee (COC)

1. The January 2019 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson seconded the motion that the ANC6A provisionally approve the Ludlow-Taylor Parent Teacher Organization (LTES PTO)



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grant application for \$2,930 for the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) Red Bundle pending resolution of the negative opinion from the Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (OANC) regarding grant making by ANCs. The grant applicant, Rachel Turow, Chair of the Grants Committee at Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School, was in attendance. Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert noted that this was a large request and Commissioner Mike Soderman asked Ms. Turow to further explain the LLI program. Ms. Turow explained that the program provides books and resources to address literacy in the upper grades, and explained that this is a well-known and proven program that has a broad community/public benefit. She also noted that the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) does not fund this program. Ms. Turow stated that ANC6C asked her to increase the funding request due to ANC6C's available funds, and that ANC6A has historically matched the amount.

Chairman Gove offered a friendly amendment to the motion to cap the grant at \$1,000. The amendment was seconded by Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown.

The motion passed 8-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 25, 2019 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

1. The January 2019 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. FYI: The ABL Committee voted not to protest the request for a change in hours for Dynamix Lounge at 1220 H Street, NE (ABRA # 106194).

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 19, 2019 (3rd Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The January 2019 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Zimny seconded the motion for ANC6A to send a letter of support to DDOT for the reinstatement of expired construction permit #316465 for Chick-Fil-A (1401 Maryland Ave. NE). Elizabeth Nelson noted that she could not find any evidence that the ANC6A had supported the original construction permit, but also noted that the plans do not look controversial. Commissioner Zimny confirmed that the plans address changes within their boundaries, but there is nothing that will affect outside traffic. The motion passed 8-0.
3. The Committee requested that ANC 6A Commissioners respond with comments to the prioritized list of traffic/pedestrian safety issues, developed by the TPS Committee, by February 22, 2019. The list will subsequently be provided to DDOT. The TPS Committee will review comments and produce a final list to be approved at the March 2019 ANC meeting.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 25, 2019 (4th Monday; usually 3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. The January 2019 report was accepted by unanimous consent.



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Old Business

2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion to send a letter of support to BZA for a request for variance regarding the location and screening of HVAC units on the lower roof over the kitchen of the new school, and the nature of the parking lot fence for Maury Elementary School at 1250 Constitution Avenue NE (BZA #19993). The motion passed 8-0.
3. **Recommendation:** ANC6A send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception under the inclusionary zoning lot dimension requirements of Subtitle E § 201.1, to subdivide the existing lot and construct three (3) new, attached flats in the RF-1 Zone at 1511 - 1515 A Street NE (BZA #19913), on the conditions that the developer make best efforts to obtain letters of support from neighbors at 1507, 1509, and 1515 A Street NE; revise the final design to include consistent massing with design of the cornices; that the developer conduct a shadow study; and that the current owner withdraws the appeal currently pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) related to prior zoning of the property.

Ramy Ali, the project director or RAM Design LLC, presented the project plans and the results of the shadow study, which is one of the conditions for ANC support. After much discussion, it was discovered that Mr. Ali had not sufficiently satisfied the remainder of the conditions that EDZ discussed at their January 2019 meeting to make best efforts to secure letters of support from the neighbors and for the current owner to withdraw the appeal currently pending before the OAH. Commissioner Brian Alcorn stated that, due to these unresolved issues, sending a letter of support would be premature. Commissioner Alcorn made the suggestion to Mr. Ali to postpone the February 22, 2019 BZA hearing until the following month to give him and the owner time to address the outstanding conditions. Mr. Ali insisted that the owner will withdraw the appeal and that he has attempted to reach the neighbors with not much success. He went on to state that the BZA hearing had already been postponed once, and that the owner is eager for it to take place. The neighbor at 1507 A Street NE was present at the meeting and stated that he has not received plans or had any formal discussions about the project with Mr. Ali, but that he would be happy to sit down with him to discuss his questions and concerns. Brad Greenfield suggested that language could be added to the letter to state that support is only offered on the condition that the appeal to the OAH is formally withdrawn, but also noted that this may not be enforceable. Commissioner Alcorn stated that the appeal needs to be definitively off the table. Chairwoman Gove and Commissioner Toomajian asked repeatedly why the conditions provided at the January 2019 EDZ meeting were not met; both suggested that Mr. Ali request an extension on the BZA hearing because the ANC is not ready to support due to outstanding conditions. Mr. Ali departed the meeting to confer with the owner of the property.

Mr. Ali returned at the end of the meeting. He stated that the owner has emailed his attorney to drop the appeal before the OAH, but Mr. Ali does not have a copy of that email himself. Commissioner Toomajian stated that the ANC is not prepared to vote in favor of the letter of support presently, and explained that the options are for the ANC to vote against the project, or to jointly, with Mr. Ali, request a one-month delay before the BZA hearing in order for Mr. Ali to satisfy the outstanding conditions. These conditions are official withdrawal of the appeal to the OAH and that Mr. Ali meet with neighbors to



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discuss the project, address concerns, and seek letters of support. Mr. Ali agreed to jointly seek a one-month delay.

Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion to jointly seek a postponement of the BZA hearing for one month and to authorize Commissioner Brian Alcorn, Nick Alberti, and Brad Greenfield to represent the ANC at the BZA hearing in the event that it occurs prior to the next ANC meeting (March 14, 2019). The motion passed 8-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 20, 2019 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

1. Commissioner Gove made a motion that ANC6A send a letter of support to Commun-ET LLC for after-hours permit applications that would allow the Maury Elementary construction team to make up lost time due to weather delays under building permit B1806524. The team is requesting to work on Sundays from 7:00 am -7:00 pm from February 17 to April 28, 2019. Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

Single Member District Reports

Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson (6A05) reported that she has received feedback and questions about the intersection of 15th Street NE and C Street NE and stated that this is a high priority intersection and she is happy to see it on the prioritized list of traffic/pedestrian safety issues that TPS will provide to DDOT. She is also helping to escalate action on some tree removal issues that residents have experienced.

Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert (6A07) represented the ANC6A at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Baldwin Apartments (1300 H Street NE) on February 5, 2019. The building is comprised of 100% affordable housing. On February 4, the Department of General Services (DGS) announced that Thomas Langan of Apogee Farms was selected to establish the urban farm in the Rosedale community. Commissioner Philips-Gilbert expressed gratitude to the community for their participation and support throughout the selection process. She announced a Public Safety Meeting to be held at the Peace Baptist Church (712 18th Street NE) from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm on February 15, 2019.

Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown (6A01) reported that construction in the 900 block of H Street NE is progressing; there are still some community issues especially regarding traffic patterns. She is going to meet with the developers soon. She also stated that Dynamix Lounge is on her radar and she will continue to look into it.

Commissioner Brian Alcorn (6A08) reported that he was able to attend the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) ANC Commissioner Training ahead of the robust renewal season for alcoholic beverage licenses. He has also been informed that Motir Services, a DC government contractor that primarily supplies building support services, has acquired 1500 East Capitol Street (formerly a barbershop) and may have some commercial plans in the future. He will share any information he received with the relevant committees.



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Commissioner Phil Toomajian (6A02) reported that he continues to try and schedule a walk-through of Sherwood Recreation Center. He also announced that there will be another Casey Trees tree planting at Sherwood Recreation Center; and that most of the trees that were planted years ago at a similar planting, a community event that he and Commissioner Brown co-led, are still there. Finally, he announced that DDOT will also be planting trees at Sherwood Recreation Center.

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny (6A06) announced that Baldwin Apartments have identified qualified applicants for all of the affordable housing units. The website is thebaldwindc.com for any news or updates. For the retail portion of the building, they have a letter of interest from a potential buyer; an owner/operator who would operate a wood-fired Italian pizza restaurant. However, they are still looking at other options. She also reported that traffic issues persist at Linden Court. Additionally, there is a problem with erosion at G Street NE and Maryland Avenue NE caused by busses going up onto the curb; a DC tow truck even had to tow out a bus at the expense of the city; something the tow truck driver said was not uncommon. She is working to get some fencing in that area.

Commissioner Mike Soderman (6A03) reported that he attended a Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) hearing on January 24, 2019 in regard to 201 8th Street NE along with former Senator Benjamin Nelson of Nebraska, who is the adjacent neighbor. The HPRB voted to keep the entrance on 8th Street NE and not move it to Constitution Avenue NE. He also announced that the unveiling of Outlaw Way (200 block of 10th Street NE) occurred on January 26, 2019. The event was attended by Councilmember Charles Allen, community members, and members of the Outlaw family.

Chairman Amber Gove (6A04) announced that Maury Elementary has released a survey asking residents, alumni, and community members to help decide whether the school should change its name (John Walker Maury was a DC mayor and slaveholder). She stated a link will be posted to the ANC website and asked that other Commissioners assist with handing out flyers. Next, she announced that the Rock and Roll Marathon will take place on March 9, 2019, and will operate under the Clean Streets Initiative. Lastly, she announced that the next community litter clean-up will take place on March 2, 2019 at various locations around the neighborhood.

Community Comments

Brittney Pinto, Ward 6 Community Liaison, invited residents to attend the Mayor's Budget Engagement Forum on February 21, 2019.

A representative from the DC Consumer Utility Board invited residents to learn more about the organization.

An announcement was made that Councilmember Charles Allen will conduct Community Office Hours at Radici on the morning of February 15, 2019.

A resident expressed concern about a development at 200 K Street NE, which will purportedly be a mixed-used condo building. She expressed concern that it appears that the developers and ANC 6C had an agreement that residents would not be eligible for Residential Parking



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Permits (RPP), but that DDOT has this property listed as RPP-eligible, which supersedes the agreement between the ANC and the developer. She expressed concern that the same could be the case with the many mixed-use residential buildings that are being built in the neighborhood.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.