

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A**  
**Minutes**  
**Miner Elementary School**  
**May12, 2011**

**Present:** Commissioners Alberti, Healy, Holmes, Hysell, Lawler, Mack, Ronneberg, and Veenendaal-Selck

The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm.

**1. Agenda**

The agenda was agreed to as presented.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes were agreed to as presented.

**3. Community Comments**

There were no comments from community members.

**4. Community Presentation**

Councilmember Tommy Wells was introduced by Mr. Holmes who said that Rosedale may be the part of Ward 6 most at risk of being lost to another ward. No part of 6A is indifferent to the loss of our brothers and sisters in Rosedale and SMD 8. In fact, he said, he hopes that the Councilmember can reunite Kingman Park, ripped away in 2001, with the rest of the ANC.

The Councilmember began by saying that Ward 6 had gotten a lot of attention recently, because of the resurgence of the Ward's elementary schools, the amount of development going on—the Ward is now #2 in the amount of tax revenue it contributes to the District's coffers, and it had the greatest drop in crime of any Ward last year. He said the Ward works together, works with a ward-wide PTA organization, and works together on development. It has built one of the best communities in the country.

He gave a brief rundown the redistricting process: He said the population of the city is divided by eight, and each Ward is supposed to be within a range that is 5% higher or lower than that figure. Ward 6 is within its population range, but Wards 7 and 8 both need to grow and it has to be in areas where they can grow contiguously. The only thing the Redistricting Committee has talked about, he said, is taking the needed population from Ward 6. He used as an example what had happened to Kingman Park ten years ago when it was moved to Ward 7, and how isolated it is, from the rest of the ward, and has trouble with services.

He said that the only things that are negotiable as far as he is concerned are Penn Quarter, Chinatown and the Convention Center. He said he hadn't seen any discussion of Ward 5, and he can understand why others would want part of Ward 6. He said that Councilmember Barry would love to see Southeast moved to Ward 8, but that he doesn't want to give up any part of Ward 6.

He said there will be a map at the end of May, after which there will be a hearing. He said the ANC has great weight and has to weigh in. There will be two votes in the Council, and it's supposed to be done by July 15, after which each Councilmember will set up a committee to work out the ANC map.

Ms. Mack asked whether Ward 6 had lost population. The Councilmember said that in fact the population had increased and had probably even gained since the census. Mr. Hysell asked whether anyone had suggested moving his SMD to Ward 5, and the Councilmember said there have been no proposals.

Sondra Gilbert said that Councilmember Mendelson had mentioned Rosedale in a newsletter, and Councilmember Wells responded that he will predict that east of 17<sup>th</sup> Street to Benning Road will be moved to Ward 7. He said that nobody has proposed anything yet, but he thinks the committee is looking for a minimum amount of work and taking a minimalist view. Ms. Gilbert asked what Mr. Wells can do to fight for Rosedale, to push for a move from Ward 5, and said that putting Rosedale into 7 is moving it to the poorest part of the City. She asked how to get the Council to be fair.

Mr. Wells said that what he's done is someone unprecedented and he hasn't bargained a single person away. Councilmembers Brown and Mendelson are elected by everyone, and have gone to every neighborhood and heard what residents say. They've gotten petitions about not moving anyone. He said that people should lobby them, and stand with him to not change anything. Ms. Gilbert said she felt that deals have been made.

The Councilmember said that the argument can't be about parking—they'll just offer dual parking stickers. Resident John Hill asked why Wards 7 and 8 couldn't be combined and was told there would be too many people. He reiterated that the first vote will be in June and the second in July, and the ANCs will be decided and voted on by the end of the year. He said he would get information on the maps out as soon as it is available.

A longtime resident said he has lived here all his life and feels he is about to be pushed away from his community. Councilmember Wells said that that was the reason he is fighting. His interest is in having the Ward stick together. He talked about how the PTA leadership organization was a Ward-wide organization, and you have to let the Committee know you don't want to be divided.

## **5. Officer Reports**

### Chair

Mr. Holmes reported that he testified on his own behalf against any possible taking of SMD 7 and/or 8 for Ward 7. He said that the ANC is at real risk, as a case must be made that the division of 7 and/or 8 makes less sense than alternatives, that geographic contiguity and fraternal and political ties should not be sundered. Having Kingman Park in Ward 7 makes the ANC area vulnerable to expansion westward, and the ANC should fight to reinstate the boundary at the River, a natural boundary line.

### Treasurer

Mr. Alberti presented the Treasurer's Report. It shows that the opening checking account balance was \$23,163.80 and the savings account balance was \$4,204.53. There was an interest payment to the savings account of \$.18. There were disbursements of \$100 to DCAccess for a web ad (Check #1508); \$353.97 to FedEx Office (March 2011 statement) (Check #1509); \$180 to Roberta Weiner for taking and transcribing the March 2011 minutes (Check #1510); and \$200 to Heather

Schoell for the March 2011 Agenda package (Check #1511), leaving a balance of \$22,329.83 in the checking account and \$4,204.71 in the savings account.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to approve the disbursements. It passed without objection.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It passed without objection.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Healy seconded a motion to approve the Quarterly Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of FY 11. The motion passed without objection.

## 6. SMD Reports

**Ms. Veenendaal-Selck** said she and Ms. Mack had done a community walk-through, which was very good. Among the things that emerged were the question of consistent traffic cameras and fencing at the Metro. She said her constituents are concerned about not splitting the SMD.

**Ms. Mack** reported that the Rosedale Health Fair was very successful. She also said that the walk with Ms. Veenendaal-Selck was great and it was good to see what was within her boundaries.

**Mr. Hysell** reported that the clean-up on 14<sup>th</sup> Place was excellent and included several other blocks as well. He also said that the 13<sup>th</sup> Street valet parking has shifted and that up to four spaces are being taken for parking on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He is meeting with Margaret Gentry to discuss it.

**Ms. Lawler** said she is having "office hours" at SOVA on Friday from 7 to 9 am.

**Mr. Alberti** reported that there is an increase in crime and drug sales at Constitution Ave. and 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and he is planning a walk-through.

**Mr. Holmes** reported that 1008 Massachusetts Ave. NE is being returned to the Vacant Properties list. He also said that there had been trash truck violations at the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church. He reported that the Zoning Office was having a "Zoning 101" session at Ebenezer Baptist Church on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Dr. Ronneberg** reported that parking is being enforced in the 600 block of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Sts. He also reported that he is making progress on the removal of a curb cut at 701 10<sup>th</sup> St. NE.

**Mr. Healy** announced that he would have an SMD meeting on June 6 at Pilgrim Church. He said he is working with DPW on the condition of the alleys in his SMD. He said he has had complaints on the Bike Share stations.

## 7. Committee Reports

### Community Outreach

### Capitol Hill Garden Club

This is a grant request for \$650 from the Capitol Hill Garden Club to purchase bulbs in public areas within ANC 6A. Elizabeth Nelson spoke about the bulb-planting program which, she said, is very popular and well-received by community groups who are recipients of the bulbs. Vera Sisolak, president of the Garden Club, was present at the meeting. **Motion:** The committee

proposed/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to fund the grant application for \$650. The motion passed without objection.

#### Eastern High School PTSA

This is request from the Eastern Senior High School PTSA for up to \$4000 to purchase percussion instruments for the Eastern SHS band. Ms. Nelson introduced John Gibson of the PTSA, and pointed out that it is a worthwhile program that will benefit the whole school. She said that this year, because of the number of students at Eastern, they will incorporate students from Eliot-Hine middle school next door. She said the band is a popular activity, but DCPS cannot fund it. James Perry, the band director, was also present. **Motion:** The committee proposed/Ms. Veenendaal-Selck seconded a motion to fund the grant application for up to \$4000. The motion passed without objection.

#### Allocation for Hill Is Home Ad

This is a request for \$350 to renew the ANC's ad on The Hill Is Home e-publication. Ms. Nelson pointed out that the ad links directly to the ANC's website so that there is always up-to-date information available. **Motion:** The Committee recommended/Ms. Veenendaal-Selck seconded that the ANC approve the expenditure of \$350 on an ad on The Hill is Home. The motion passed without objection.

#### Father's Day Event at Sherwood Recreation Center

Ms. Nelson began by pointing out that Jordan Washington, representing the group wanting to hold an annual Father's Day event, had not come to the committee meeting to discuss it, and this was the first time it had been raised. She said there was negative feedback on the event, which has traditionally been held at the Sherwood Recreation Center, and there is a bad history of drunkenness, trash, public urination, etc. at the event. Mr. Holmes said he was uncomfortable approving anything that hadn't been fully vetted by the Committee. There is a long history of excessive noise, trash and the illegal blocking of city streets (with towing of neighborhood cars), and being an organization that is not organized as a 501(c)(3). Beyond that, Mr. Washington is not a resident of the community.

Mr. Washington said there is no record of these accusations, the permit has been denied "because of money, not behavior." On being asked, he said the name of his group is Project Greenspace.

Ms. Gilbert said that Mr. Washington runs this event every year, and the community needs a function that reaches out to youth, to male youth, and she asked what the Commissioners object to.

Dr. Ronneberg, in whose SMD the Recreation Center is located, said that Police Commander Kamperin has not supported the event this year. He said he lives a block away, and he has seen drinking in the street, urination in the alley. People come from out of the area. Last year, no DPR permit was issued for the event, and it was opposed by Rafael Marshall, the former ANC Commissioner who now is the director of the Rec Center.

Mr. Alberti asked for the full name of the organization, and Mr. Jordan said it was the Friends of Sherwood, the Sherwood Vets and it was registered with DPR. Mr. Alberti asked what their IRS status is.

Ms. Nelson said they could have made their case if they'd come to the Committee. They have no formal relationship with DPR or with Sherwood Rec Center. Such a relationship would have had to come through the ANC, and it never has.

Mr. Holmes said that his SMD directly abuts that block, and people complained to him that the block was closed. When he called MPD about it, they said there was nothing they could do because the street was full of people. **Motion:** The committee recommended/ Dr. Ronneberg seconded that the ANC oppose Mr. Washington's request for support of a 2011 Father's Day event at Sherwood Recreation Center. The motion passed 7-1, with Ms. Mack in opposition.

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

#### Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee

Mr. Healy reported that there have been discussions at ABRA as to what constitutes "significant change" in a liquor license, and that the ABRA board has great latitude in making a decision. He asked for approval of a letter to ABRA as to ANC 6A's views on what constitutes a substantial change requiring public notice, placarding and community input. **Motion:** The committee recommended/Mr. Hysell seconded a motion to send a letter to the Chair of the Alcohol Beverage Control Board detailing what changes to an ABRA license should constitute a substantial change and subject to placarding and public comment. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Mr. Alberti not voting.

Mr. Healy said that he's heard from a number of individuals about the need to have a discussion about whether or not to consider imposing a cap on the number of alcohol licenses in 6A. The ABL Committee will work on scheduling an informational meeting where the ABRA director would be invited to give information about how a cap would work and ANC commissioners in other parts of the city with existing license moratoriums or caps to give their perspective of how they work. Details will be forthcoming.

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

#### Economic Development and Zoning

##### H Street Festival Signature Waiver

This was a request from Anwar Saleem for support for a waiver from the requirement that the signatures of 90% of residents within 500 feet of the H Street Festival be obtained in order for permission for a street closing be approved. Mr. Holmes said that H Street is a commercial corridor and expectations that there may be closings are inherent. He said it is unreasonable to impose the signature requirement that is appropriate for a residential area. **Motion:** The Committee recommended/Mr. Healy seconded that the ANC send a letter to the Mayor requesting a waiver of signatures for closing H Street for the H Street Festival. The motion passed without objection.

##### 601-645 H Street NE

This is a request for support of a two-year extension of variances and special exceptions for a project at 601-645 H Street NE. Because of the economic downturn and challenges at the site, the developer has been unable to secure financing for the project. The project has not changed.

The project is located in ANC 6C, but 6A was granted party status at the time of the original application.

Mr. Holmes said that the 6A action duplicates that of 6C. There have been no changes to the plans previously approved by ANC 6A and 6C. Moreover, there has been no change in circumstances and no new development nearby that were not anticipated at the time ANC 6A approved the project. He said the H Street corridor's current reconstruction between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Sts. NE in preparation for the streetcar, and other public space upgrades were planned in 2005, and thus considered at the time the project was being reviewed by the two ANCs.

The gains obtained from the project by the ANCs and the communities, such as lowered rear massing, are at risk if this extension is not granted. In summary, approval of the extension request would not adversely affect or materially change the basis of the ANC's previous approval as the original application was filed subsequent to the District's planning for the streetcar, additional density and uses along the street, and on-going development and improvement of the H Street corridor.

The unique circumstances are that the tenants of the current buildings are DC agencies, and the City will not negotiate a new long-term lease, which has made it difficult to secure financing. **Motion:** The committee recommended/Ms. Lawler seconded a motion to support the two-year extension of BZA variances and special exceptions for the project at 601-645 H Street NE. The motion passed without objection.

Dr. Ronneberg raised the issue of a subsequent motion to send a letter to DRES asking them to extend the long-term leases with the city agencies at the building. Chip Glasgow, attorney for the developer, said that a long term lease is desirable, and the Councilmember is aware of the situation, and they are looking for at least a ten-year extension. The District has been there for over 20 years. Mr. Healy mentioned that most of DOES has moved and Mr. Glasgow said that one side of the building is basically empty. Mr. Holmes suggested setting aside the writing of the letter. Mr. Glasgow said he would rather have no letter than one that puts the city on the spot. Dr. Ronneberg said there was no motion on the floor, and the issue was closed.

#### 710 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE

Dr. Ronneberg said he would like to table the motion in the packet and work with the developer on the issues of the curb cut, air conditioners, etc., so the issue was set aside.

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

## **8. New Business**

### Retirement of Commander Kamperin

David K. Kamperin, First District Commander since 2007, has announced his retirement, set for May 21. He has been very helpful to this ANC, and deserves its thanks. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Ms. Mack seconded a motion to thank Commander David Kamperin for his years of service to ANC 6A and the entire First District, and to wish him well in his retirement. The motion passed without objection.

### Letter to City Council on Redistricting

Mr. Holmes said he has drafted a letter to the City Council on redistricting, from which he has borrowed deliberately from letters, listserv comments and e-mails from residents of ANC 6A and Hill East. He thanked Rob Stephens, Jim Myers and Charmaine Josiah.

He said that the ANC is very much at risk of losing SMD 7 and/or 8. In the Committee and the Ward 6 Democrats forum, it was stated plainly that Ward 6 is in play to increase the numbers needed by Wards 7 and 8. It is possible that Ward 2 may lose population to Ward 6, as they are required to shrink. There is no option here. Federal law requires that Wards 7 and 8 gain and Ward 2 shrink.

Councilmember Mendelson continually asked why is your need to stay together as a Ward more important than say, Ward 5—the other Ward that could lose population to Ward 7. So, he said, he tried to marshal the best arguments he could—contiguity, community institutions, geographic barriers, the history of forged ties and relationships and the loss of racial and ethnic diversity. He said to be aware that Mendelson is also talking about possibly balancing ward populations, not just seeking to meet the federal requirement. Every ward stands to gain or lose if that happens. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Ms. Veenendaal-Selck seconded a motion to authorize a letter to the City Council strongly objecting to any proposal that moves Rosedale, Hill East or any parts of SMDs 7 and 8 from Ward 6 to Ward 7. The motion passed without objection.

### Capitol Bikeshare Stations

**Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Mr. Healy seconded a motion to request a Capitol Bikeshare (CaBi) station at 10<sup>th</sup> and H Sts. NE. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Alberti had a suggestion for another CaBi station at Lincoln Park, but withdrew it pending other suggestions to be discussed at the next ANC meeting.

### Letter to Amtrak on Trolley Issues

Mr. Holmes said that at a recent town hall meeting hosted by Mayor Gray, the question of the start-up of the trolley was discussed, and it was mentioned that the start-up could be delayed six months until the end of 2012. It was also stated that part of the problem is a delay in resolving some outstanding issues between Amtrak and DDOT. It was said that if there was a resolution of these issues within the next 30 days, the start-up could be as early as June 2012.

**Motion:** Mr. Hysell moved/Mr. Holmes seconded a motion to send a letter to Amtrak urging support of the trolley and a resolution of outstanding issues. Mr. Alberti said he supports the motion but would like to see the letter be done without pointing fingers at Amtrak, as there's no proof that it's their fault. He suggested sending the letter to both parties. Mr. Healy said that Scott Kubly, in charge of the trolley project for DDOT pointed at Amtrak. Mr. Alberti said he would like to see both parties to get it. Mr. Holmes said the letter will go to both. The motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.