

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Miner Elementary School
October 8, 2015**

Present: Commissioners Phil Toomajian (Chair), Matt Levy, Patrick Malone, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Calvin Ward, and Stephanie Zimny

The meeting convened at 7:01 pm.

The minutes for the ANC 6A September 2015 meeting and the agenda for the October 2015 meeting were approved without changes or objection.

Community Presentations

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Assistant Chief Diane Groomes

MPD Assistant Chief Diane Groomes spoke at length regarding MPD's ongoing public safety initiatives including increasing overtime for officers in an effort to ensure added police presence, the dispatching of mountain bicycle officer patrols, and the expansion of the "night life" program, i.e. small groups of five to ten (5-10) officers dispatched to neighborhood night spots throughout the city including the H Street NE corridor, during the late evening to early morning hours. Assistant Chief Groomes indicated that there has been increased police presence along Benning Road NE where there is a concentration of lawbreaking activity and which serves as a convenient means of evasion for many lawbreakers. Additionally, Assistant Chief Groomes advised that an arrest has been made in the case of a robbery and resultant homicide at Seventh (7th) and H Streets NE. The Assistant Chief further indicated that robbery figures were down substantially after an uptick earlier this year. Finally, the Assistant Chief clarified that marijuana use in public is still illegal and also noted that tickets may be issued for marijuana possession as well.

MPD First District Captain Antonio Charland highlighted MPD crime-fighting efforts in the H Street NE area, and recommended that members of the public contact the MPD if there are concerns about questionable activity or misconduct. Captain Charland can be reached at AntonioCharland@dc.gov.

MPD Detective Sergeant Andrew Struhar of the Narcotic Enforcement Unit relayed that illegal drug activity dealing with sales and/or distribution can be reported to MPD by calling 911, sending an anonymous text to 54011, or by email at NSID.DrugComplaints@dc.gov.

Representatives from Mayor Bowser's Office

Mr. Seth Shapiro, Ward 6 Outreach Service Specialist, gave an update on the initiatives proposed by Mayor Bowser to improve public safety and again made available copies of the fact sheet provided from the Mayor's office at the September 2015 meeting. Mr. Shapiro also elaborated on last month's report from the Mayor's office regarding improving services for the city's homeless population, including working on ending homelessness for veterans.

Anacostia River Sediment Project

Mr. Richard Jackson, Deputy Director, Department of Energy and Environment (DDOE), Environmental Services Administration, outlined briefly the ongoing study for the proposed de-contamination and cleanup of a nine (9) mile section of the tidal portion of the Anacostia

River. Further information can be obtained from the DOEE website at www.doeedc.gov/anacostiasediment.

Officer Reports

Chairman Phil Toomajian spoke about the positive reception in reference to the September 2015 ANC 6A Education Forum, and indicated interest in making the Education Forum an annual event. The Chairman advised that the traffic light at Tenth (10th) Street and Maryland Avenue NE has been installed and should be operational by the end of October 2015. The Chairman announced the resignation of Mr. Dan Golden as Co-Chair of the Economic Development and Zoning Committee (EDZ), relayed his thanks and commendation to Mr. Golden for his efforts in behalf of the EDZ. Mr. Golden will continue to serve as a committee member. Mr. Toomajian advised that the Economic Development and Zoning Committee's recommendation regarding a proposed expansion of a property on Emerald Street would be tabled as the application had been withdrawn. Finally, Mr. Toomajian raised the issue of the many vacant properties located on the H Street NE corridor and the delays by the city in the disposition of these properties.

Treasurer's Report. Ms. Stephanie Zimny presented the 2016 ANC 6A budget. The budget was accepted without objection (7-0). Ms. Zimny delivered the Treasurer's Report. The opening balance in the checking account was \$14,695.52, with a forwarding balance of \$22,793.42, (including Q1 and Q2 District Allotments of \$4,481.70 each). There were disbursements of \$450.00 to Irene Dworakowski (Check 1714) for agenda/webmaster services and \$200.00 for September 2015 minutes; (Check 1715); \$215.50 (Check 1716) to FedEx; leaving a balance of \$22,793.42, in the checking account and \$13,720.56, with a \$0.21 interest deduction in the savings account. The report was accepted without objection.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach Committee (COC)

The September 2015 COC Report was accepted without objection.

Ms. Wyckoff advised of the resignations of Ms. Jean Kohanek and Ms. Shirley Worthy from the COC. Ms. Wyckoff submitted a prototype of the ANC 6A grant application and a proposed updated grant application fact sheet for review.

Motion: Mr. Toomajian moved and Mr. Omar Mahmud seconded a motion that the ANC send letters of appreciation to Ms. Kohanek and Ms. Worthy. The motion passed (7-0).

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 26, 2015 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

No report. The ABL Committee did not meet in September 2015.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 20, 2015 (3rd Tuesday).

Transportation and Public Space Committee (TPS)

The September 2015 TPS Committee Report was accepted without objection.

Ms. Theresa DuBois and Mr. Pete Kirschner from Events DC advised of a partnership with KaBOOM, a national non-profit whose mission is to build, open, or restore play areas or playgrounds primarily in low-income areas, regarding the proposal to build a new community

playground at Twentieth (20th) and C Streets NE. This project is on hold pending community support. Events DC committed to maintain and upkeep the existing Oklahoma Avenue playground going forward.

Motion: The TPS Committee moved and Mr. Calvin Ward seconded a motion that the ANC 6A send a letter of support in favor of the Events DC proposal to construct a playground on the 2000 block of C Street NE according to the plans provided to the ANC. The motion passed (7-0).

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 19, 2015 (3rd Monday).

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

The September 2015 EDZ Committee Report was accepted without objection.

Motion: The EDZ Committee moved and Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion that the ANC write a letter to the Zoning Commission in support of an extension of the order permitting redevelopment of the H Street Connection site at 901 H Street NE (ZC 10-19) with mixed-use residential and retail structure. Ms. Emily Strunk of the Rappaport Companies gave a short briefing on the pending development plans for the H Street Connection located between Eighth (8th) and Tenth (10th) Streets NE. Ms. Strunk committed to working with the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure the security of the site during the period of vacancy before construction commences. The motion passed (7-0).

Motion: The EDZ Committee moved and Ms. Sondra Phillips-Gilbert seconded a motion that the ANC write a letter to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in support of a special exception from the lot occupancy requirements under § 403, the rear yard requirements under § 404, and the addition to a non-conforming structure requirements under § 2001.3 to allow the construction of a rear spiral staircase at the existing flat at 1617 Gales Street NE (BZA 19104), on the condition that the applicant use best efforts to obtain letters of support from the owners of the adjoining properties prior to the September 10, 2015 ANC meeting. The motion passed (7-0).

Motion: The ANC write a letter to the BZA in opposition to the request for a variance from the lot size requirements under § 401, the lot occupancy requirements under § 403, the rear yard requirements under § 404, the court requirements under § 406, and the nonconforming structure requirements under § 2001.3, and the request for special exception from the height requirements under § 400, to construct a third (3rd) story addition to an existing two (2) story, one-family dwelling and a new shed at 1336 Emerald Street NE (BZA 19085). The motion was tabled with no action was taken as the application was withdrawn.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 21, 2015 (3rd Wednesday).

Single Member District (SMD) Reports

Mr. Calvin Ward mentioned the need for maintenance for a large tree located near a resident's yard in the alley between Eighteenth (18th) and Nineteenth (19th) Streets NE and is seeking clarification on whether it is a city maintenance issue or a homeowner issue. Mr. Calvin Ward further mentioned community concerns regarding Eighteenth (18th) and D Streets NE and has requested that MPD provide additional presence between the evening hours.

Ms. Zimny advised of the status of the proposal for a language immersion program at the Miner Elementary School. Ms. Zimny spoke about gathering information from the community about dilapidated building in the neighborhood and indicated that there would be a community clean-up day scheduled for October 24, 2015.

Mr. Mahmud mentioned that there would be a dedication ceremony at the New Samaritan Baptist Church at 1100 Florida Avenue NE on October 18, 2015 at 10:00 am commemorating the renaming of the block as Ruby Whitfield Way. Ms. Whitfield was tragically killed by a hit-and-run driver near the church site.

Mr. Toomajian mentioned the success of last month's the Sherwood Day activities at the Sherwood Recreation Center and provided additional detail on the installation of the new traffic signal at Tenth (10th) Street and Maryland Avenue NE.

Ms. Phillips Gilbert spoke about the success of a Job Fair that took place and announced that a Halloween gathering would take place on October 31, 2015 between 12:00-4:00 pm at Rosedale Community Center.

Mr. Matt Levy mentioned new alley repair requests at Thirteenth (13th) and East Capitol Streets and on 14th Street. Mr. Levy also advised of a SMD meeting at the Maury Elementary School on October 22, 2015, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Mr. Patrick Malone commended Mr. Dan Golden for his service to the EDZ Committee. Mr. Malone also mentioned his intention to follow-up with the MPD regarding the synthetic drug issue, and his observation of a noticeable downtick in crime due to increased bicycle officer presence.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm