

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Miner Elementary School  
October 11, 2018**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove (Acting Chair), Marie Claire Brown, Mike Soderman, Sondra Philips-Gilbert, Patrick Malone and Stephanie Zimny.

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm.

Commissioner Amber Gove chaired the meeting in Chairman Phil Toomajian's absence. Commissioner Gove called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC September 2018 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the October 2018 meeting was accepted without changes or objection.

**Community Presentations**

Nathan Morris, Coordinator, Facility Planning and Design, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)

Mr. Morris spoke regarding the overall projected schedule for the Maury Elementary School (ES) Modernization Project and distributed a handout that provided a breakdown of the schedule. Mr. Morris serves as a liaison between the design/build teams, architects, general contractors, the Department of General Services (DGS) and focuses on school-based needs, and interfaces with the community. He stated that typically, school modernization projects occur over a three (3) year period, with one year devoted to design and two for construction. The Maury project is slated for completion in time for the 2019/2020 school year; the project is on schedule. The 1960s wing of the school has been fully demolished. Construction of the new addition to the historic 1880s wing is currently underway. Mr. Morris addressed questions from the Commissioners regarding staff parking and stated that they are still working with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on specific solutions; their desire is to come to an agreement before legislation is on the table. He reported that a potential solution is to convert the school-adjacent to Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) Place NE, a one-way street, for staff parking during certain hours. If these spaces could be guaranteed for staff, DCPS would be comfortable seeking a zoning variance to shrink the size of the parking lot past the current minimum, thus freeing up green/play space for students. Mr. Morris answered a question on whether there is a contingency plan if the project falls behind schedule; Mr. Morris stated that there are measures that the general contractor can take, including adding labor, increasing the number of work hours, and expediting materials, but that the project management team would address any issues as they arise to prevent the need for a contingency plan. He does not foresee any major obstacles to the current schedule. Mr. Morris also explained the current contracting parking plan with MCN Build, the general contractor for the Maury project, which falls mostly far enough away from the school so as not to congest the area. However, he noted that there have been complaints of reckless driving and illegal parking around the area of Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) Place NE and Constitution Avenue NE. Currently, parking restrictions go into effect at 10:00 am; efforts to secure parking permits for the contractors before 10:00 am have been unsuccessful. As a result, sometimes they will indeed park closer to the school. Mr. Morris reported that oftentimes complaints regarding cars parked in these spaces are not actually MCN vehicles, and at other times, contractor vehicles will be in these spaces before 10:00 am to "save" the space while waiting for deliveries (e.g., steel and concrete) to avoid having the space unavailable by the time the permits go into effect. If the spaces are taken up by resident vehicles after 10:00 am, the

only solution would require ticketing and towing any cars that occupy the spaces, thus slowing the entire process down. Mr. Morris did apologize for any inconveniences and noted that it can be a lose-lose situation.

Chris Laskowski, Legislative Policy Advisor, Office of Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen

Mr. Laskowski provided comments on the Daytime School Parking Zone Act and efforts to create a more permanent solution for teacher parking, with the goal of reducing on-site parking in order to increase green/play space. The legislation was introduced about a year ago and would allow DDOT to set aside an area around a school as a daytime school parking zone that would allow teachers and staff to park on public streets during specified hours. The bill has moved forward and was approved by the Transportation and Environment Committee around July 2018; Chairman Phil Mendelson intends to move it before the end of the year (the end of the Council period). Any legislation that does not get passed will have to be reintroduced and processed again. Mr. Laskowski reported that the bill was changed slightly by the Transportation and Environment Committee. If an ANC believes that a school within its jurisdiction would be a good candidate to avail of a daytime school parking zone, the ANC would make the request and DDOT would have sixty (60) days to respond with a decision. Commissioner Marie Claire Brown asked what differentiates teachers from other DC government workers to occupy spaces that would otherwise be used by residents. Mr. Laskowski stated that the need would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The ANC can request the daytime parking zone if it determines the effect on residents would be minimal and if it would make sense for that school. Commissioner Brown asked if Metro fare reimbursements, shuttle services or other alternatives have been considered to avoid potential consternation from residents who may find it difficult to park where they pay taxes and noted that while teachers are highly respected, the first focus should be residents. Mr. Laskowski reiterated that the ANC could weigh what makes the most sense in their community and went on to state that in the surrounding blocks near Maury Elementary, it has been observed that potentially hundreds of spots are vacant during the day, since many residents with residential parking permits drive to work and, in a daytime school parking zone, teachers would leave as residents return home after work. It was noted that many of the complaints concerning a potential “ripple effect” with other DC agencies and staff parking, do not take into account the direct trade-off that this legislation would have on the amount of additional green/play space that would be available for children, making it a unique situation. Turning to the subject of block party application requirements, Mr. Laskowski spoke about the Go Play Amendment Act of 2018, which would serve as an addition to the existing block party permit program. Under the current program, at least fifteen (15) days before an event or block party, residents may submit a request/application to DDOT to shut down a block provided that signatures from at least 51% of residents on that block have been acquired. The amendment would add an additional element to that process, in the form of a street play permit under which a block could be closed to traffic to allow children to safely play in the street. The legislation would expedite the process for this type of permit, via pre-authorization, if 100% of the residents and businesses along the stretch of street requested for closure supported it and DDOT determined the street was eligible to be closed on short notice. However, Mr. Laskowski stated that the bill is unlikely to get a hearing before the year ends.

## **Officer Reports**

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny presented the Treasurer’s Report for September 2018. There were disbursements totaling \$833.50: \$450.00 to Irene Dworakowski (Check 1847) for

agenda/web master services; \$200.00 (Check 1849) for the September 2018 minutes; \$183.50 (Check 1848) for FedEx printing; leaving a balance of \$5,145.38 in the checking account. There is a balance of \$13,816.00, including a \$.022 interest deposit, in the savings account. The September 2018 report was approved by unanimous consent.

The proposed FY19 Budget was approved by unanimous consent. Commissioner Zimny kept everything the as the actual FY18 budget, with the exception with the exception of a slight decrease to the grants budget (from \$6,000 to \$4,000). Commissioner Zimny emphasized that the proposed budget is flexible and serves as a guideline to submit to the auditor.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Community Outreach Committee (COC)**

1. The September 2018 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Mike Soderman seconded the motion to approve the following changes to the ANC6A Grant Application Package: 1) both small and large grants are reviewed at any regular COC meeting; 2) five (5) copies of the application are required for the COC meeting; and 3) all grants are limited to a maximum of 2 pages. The motion passed 6-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 22, 2018

### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)**

1. The September 2018 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Zimny seconded the motion to take no action on the request by Halftime Sports Bar for changes to its license (adding cover charge endorsement, a 39-seat summer garden, and overall expansion of seating capacity). The motion passed 6-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 16, 2018

### **Transportation and Public Space (TPS)**

1. The September 2018 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Zimny seconded the motion to send a letter to the DC Council in support of Councilmember Charles Allen's legislation (B22-0351), as amended, that would create a School Parking Zone Program.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 15, 2018

### **Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)**

1. The September 2018 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Patrick Malone seconded the motion to send a letter of support to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for a special exception under Subtitle C § 701.5, and pursuant to Subtitle X, Chapter 10, for variances from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1, the rear yard requirements of Subtitle § 306.1, and from the side yard requirements of Subtitle E § 307.1 to construct a new flat in the RF-1 Zone at 824 Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) Street NE (BZA #19854) on condition that the applicant make best efforts to get letters of support from the neighbors at 822 and 823 Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) Street NE, and 1255 and 1253 I Street NE. The owner of the building and the architect were present and have acquired the three letters. The owner clarified that

the building will house two units, with a roof-deck private to the top unit. The motion passed 6-0.

3. Commissioner Malone moved to send letters of support to BZA for zoning relief and to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for historic district approval for the construction of a rooftop penthouse on a row house in a RF-1 zone at 16 10th Street NE (BZA #19885) on condition that the applicant make best efforts to letters of support from the neighbors at 14 Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE, 18 Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE, 915 Massachusetts Avenue NE and 913 Massachusetts Avenue NE. The architect for the project was present but had not acquired the letters. After some discussion, this motion was tabled until the letters are acquired.
4. The recommendation to send a letter of support to BZA for zoning relief to subdivide three (3) existing lots into two (2) lots and for relief from lot area requirements at 1661 Gales Street NE (BZA Case Number Pending) on condition that the applicant make best efforts to get letters of support from the neighbors at 1667 Gales Street NE, 1669 Gales Street NE, 1653 Gales Street NE and 1655 Gales Street NE, was tabled because it is not on the docket yet at BZA.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 17, 2018

#### **New Business**

Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown seconded the motion to send a letter of support for after-hours Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Work Permits for Maury Elementary school construction. The motion passed 6-0.

#### **Single Member District Reports**

Commissioner Malone (6A05) thanked Councilmember Charles Allen's office, in particular Naomi Mitchell, for their assistance with a homeless neighbor living out of his car at Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) and C Streets NE. Ms. Mitchell made numerous visits to talk with this individual and was eventually able to help him secure temporary housing, Commissioner Malone reported that this neighbor now appears to be doing much better.

Commissioner Zimny (6A06) reported that in September, Chick Fil-A participated in the monthly litter clean-up for the first time and provided free breakfast sandwiches for participants. She also reported a carjacking that occurred around 9:00 pm the previous Saturday (October 6) on the corner of Emerald t NE and Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) Streets NE and emphasized the importance of residents installing cameras outside their houses to assist in apprehending criminals. She continues to work with DDOT on the parking issues at Wiley Court NE and Linden Court NE. She also sought clarification about the ANC potentially adopting resolutions to secure Residential Parking Permits (RPP). Commissioner Gove recommended beginning the process in the TPS Committee.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) reported that, on the evening of October 9, 2018, there was an authorized vehicle chase wherein the vehicle was fleeing the scene of a homicide. The vehicle drove up the wrong way on the 100 block of Tennessee Avenue NE., damaging several private vehicles in the process. The suspect was not apprehended that night, but the car was recovered and the individual has since been arrested. Maury Elementary School is starting a community consultation process. Through research conducted by a community member, it has been discovered that John Walker Maury was a slaveholder. The school community wants to reach out to alumni and others who may have had connections with the school to begin a conversation what may or may not be able to proceed. Commissioner Gove noted that NPR's

local affiliate WAMU just did a story on a school that went through the process of having its name replaced for similar reasons. If you have a connection with Maury Elementary and have any thoughts, you are encouraged to email [seandln@yahoo.com](mailto:seandln@yahoo.com). The Maury Fall Festival community fundraiser occurs on October 20, 2018 from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. The Fall Festival benefits the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade class to attend Space Camp. She also announced that Providence Hospital will be closing in December 2018.

Commissioner Brown (6A01) stated that the H Street Festival rescheduled date is October 13, 2018 and also reminded everyone to vote by November 6. She also provided more details about the closing of Providence Hospital on December 16, 2018.

Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert (6A07) reported that DGS would like to place an urban farm on Kramer Street NE between Sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) and Seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) Street NE. She said there was still quite a bit of confusion in the community regarding the project, but she is making efforts to ensure the community has input. DGS has posted the Request for Proposals (RFP) on its website if community members are interested in learning more. She currently has a call scheduled with DGS to discuss the community involvement piece to the project. She also announced that NBC Channel 4 News featured the Benning Court Dream Team, a youth dance group, earlier that morning. The site manager, Sareka Robinson, works with many of the children and their families, and runs an aftercare program. Ms. Robinson is attempting to raise money for uniforms for the children. They will be featured at the Halloween at Rosedale event. Commissioner Philips-Gilbert stated that this is a great program to keep young kids involved in their communities amidst a recent uptick in violence. She also reported that she has contacted Councilmember Allen a number of times inviting him to meet with the community so residents may speak with him about their concerns. She further described the Halloween at Rosedale “safe haven” event, where families can attend and celebrate the holiday in a comfortable space. The event will take place on October 27, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Rosedale Community Center and will feature moon bounces, free food/drink, arts and crafts, and the library will give away free books. Local students may also acquire community service hours by volunteering at the event.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) reported that the ceremonial renaming of the 200 block of Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE to Outlaw Way has gone through committee and he will be working with Councilmember Allen’s office to set a date and time for an unveiling event for the Outlaw family. He went on to report numerous safety issues regarding recent shootings and stabbings and has been in contact with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and neighboring ANCs that are also experiencing an uptick in crime. The MPD response so far has been to reposition officers and deploy special task forces to combat the problem. Commissioner Soderman is also setting up a walk with the Ward 6 DDOT Liaison Naomi Klein to assess his SMD and address sidewalk, intersection, and parking issues. He reported that traffic calming bulb-outs have been installed at Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) and D Streets NE, and he and Councilmember Allen are strongly pushing DDOT to have a four (4) way stop at that intersection.

### **Community Comments**

Ms. Roni Holman announced that the upcoming weekend is Homecoming Week at Eastern High School and provided dates and times for homecoming activities. She also sought clarity on what can and cannot be posted on the ANC website, particularly links to fundraisers. The Commissioners responded that, unfortunately, no fundraising links (e.g., GoFundMe) may be posted on the ANC website.

Residents Patrick McGeehan and Cody Rice each expressed their appreciation and support for ANC6A's support of the Daytime School Parking Zone Act. They both noted that they have observed that there is sufficient on-street parking during the daytime hours when residents are away that could be used to accommodate staff parking and allow Maury ES to maximize the outdoor play space.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.