

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee  
January 16, 2012 Minutes  
Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith annex, 1235 C St. NE

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Rose Williams, Louis Barbash, Jean Kohanek (quorum)

Committee members absent: Pat Joseph

I. Agenda

Adopted.

II. Status of ANC/COC activities

The ANC approved the grant application from the Eliot-Hine Middle School PTSA but increased the amount of the award to \$5,000 from the requested \$4,000. The check has been delivered and Ms. Jackson is arranging for delivery of the books.

III. Possibility of integrating social networking into ANC website

1. Ms. Nelson received an offer from a resident of ANC 6A, Jon Mitchiner, to provide technical assistance in integrating social networking capability into the ANC 6A presence, including the website. The committee discussed various possibilities including blogging, Facebook, Twitter and electronic recording of ANC meetings.
2. Electronic recording has been considered in the past but it would present a considerable expense, technical difficulties, and the benefit is unclear. So the Committee is not interested in pursuing at this time.
3. The Committee focused on the website's primary function, which is to serve as a "virtual office". Blogging was unappealing because it is not consistent with this purpose, would require extensive moderating and is somewhat inappropriate on what is, after all, an official government website.
4. A Facebook presence was considered and would have the advantage of appealing to residents more accustomed to this venue than to a traditional website. But the functionality would be similar to that of the website and it is not clear what the "value added" would be, given the additional resources that would be employed.
5. Twitter, however, seems like a good first-step in social networking, especially if automation can be introduced. For example, when documents (or certain classes of document like agendas or minutes) are posted to the website, perhaps automated messages could be generated. Likewise, tweets might be generated by events on the website calendar. This would provide timely notification and increase the visibility of ANC 6A activities. Ms. Nelson has sent a message to Mr. Mitchiner thanking him for his offer of assistance and asking if we can pursue this possibility.

IV. Availability of Sign Language interpreters.

Subsequent to the meeting, Gottlieb Simon contacted Ms. Nelson with regard to interpretive services. Apparently, the existing program to provide interpreters for ANC (and other) District Government activities was a pilot only. Funding has been

exhausted and the program has effectively ceased to exist. It is not clear what will be done about this. In the meantime, if services are requested, the ANC will have to make the arrangements on its own - both in terms of identifying and retaining interpreters and also in paying for the service.

- V. **The next meeting of the COC will take place Monday, February 20, at 7:30 p.m. at 1235 C St. NE**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.