



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



September 12, 2014

Samuel D. Zimbabwe
Associate Director
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street, SE 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Proposed Rules on Private Improvements to DDOT-Controlled “Pocket” Parks –
Amendments to Chapters 1 and 33 of Title 24

Dear Mr. Zimbabwe,

ANC 6A commends the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) for issuing the much-needed proposed rulemaking on private improvements to DDOT-controlled “pocket” parks. At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on September 11, 2014 our Commission voted 6-0-1 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to submit the following comments on the proposed amendments to Chapters 1 and 33 of Title 24.

1) Section 3314.5 - ANCs should be given the opportunity to review **all** types of alterations to triangle parks including those made for transportation purposes.

The proposed Section 3314.5 states, “Before issuing a permit for a landscaping or hardscaping improvement to a United States reservation that is a triangle park under the Department’s jurisdiction, the Director shall send the permit application to the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) for its review and recommendations”. We understand that proposed language to mean that the ANCs would only be given the opportunity to provide input on landscaping and hardscaping improvements and that ANC would not be given an opportunity to provide input on other types of alterations such as those made for transportation purposes. We believe that Section 3314.5 should be modified to required that affected ANCs be noticed and given the opportunity to comment on **all** proposed alterations to triangle parks that affect their use as publicly accessible amenities, including alterations made for transportation purposes as such alteration will also affect the use of triangle parks as publicly accessible neighborhood amenities.

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the listserves anc6a-announce@yahogroups.com, anc-6a@yahogroups.com and newhilleast@yahogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.



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- 2) Section 3314.5 – ANC’s should be given 60 days in which to review and provide recommendations on permit applications or proposals to make alterations to U.S. Reservations.

The proposed Section 3314.5 states “The Director shall provide the ANC thirty (30) business days to perform its review and provide its recommendations.”

ANCs must be given sufficient time to notify their constituents, receive public input, and for the full ANC to consider and vote on the proposal. It is unreasonable to expect an ANC to accomplish those tasks in 30 days. ANC 6A recommends allowing a 60-day period for review and comment, as it would provide a more reasonable opportunity for public input.

- 3) Section 3399 – The definition of ‘triangle parks’ should be amended to include parks that fit the definition when jurisdiction was initially transferred to the District but due to subsequent alterations no longer fit the proposed definition.

The proposed Section 3399 defines a triangle park as “an area of open space, generally triangular in shape, that is located at the intersection of two (2) streets (generally, one of which is orthogonal and one of which is diagonal) and that has been set aside for public ownership”. Some triangle parks, which fit the proposed definition of triangle parks when jurisdiction was initially transferred to the District, no longer fit that definition because they have since been intersected by roads or otherwise altered. The definition of triangle parks should be expanded to include all open spaces that were located at the intersection of two (2) streets (generally, one of which is orthogonal and one of which is diagonal) at the time jurisdiction was initially transferred to the District.

On Behalf of the Commission,

Nicholas Alberti
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A