

**Report of the Economic Development and Zoning (ED&Z) Committee of the Advisory
Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 Tenth (10th) Street NE
January 18, 2018**

Present:

Members: Brad Greenfield, Missy Boyette, Jake Joyce, Michael Hoenig, Tim Drake, Ruth Ann Hudson

Commissioners: Amber Gove

Brad Greenfield chaired the meeting.

Community Comment

None.

Previously Heard Cases

1226 North Carolina Avenue, NE (BZA #19593) was unable to complete the shade study prior to this meeting. Once they have it complete, they will bring it to the next meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Maury Elementary Play Space: Maury Elementary School is currently closed for a large renovation, which is planned to take place over eighteen (18) months. The design of the renovation is still underway, and Maury parents and the community have raised concerns regarding the latest version of the design as it relates to teacher parking and play areas for the children.

The latest renovation proposal includes 46 square feet of outdoor play space per child, which is significantly lower than the recommended amount of outdoor space of 76 square feet per child.

Many community and planning meetings have been held to discuss this issue over the last year. The current zoning regulations require a set amount of parking spaces per 1,000 square feet. The current renovation proposal includes 23 teacher parking spots which is roughly equivalent to the current number of parking spots Maury had prior to the renovation. The renovation is expected to increase school capacity to accommodate a thirty-five percent (35%) increase in student enrollment, which will naturally require additional staff.

Several solutions to the parking challenge have been considered:

1. **Opening up street parking for teachers:** Neighbors indicate that street parking in the neighborhood often opens up during the day. The results of a parking study showed that there were 65 spots available on the street at 7:00 am and 126 available at 8:00 am. This parking is currently zoned residential, but the suggestion has been made that teachers could either have parking permits for weekday parking (from 8:00 am-4:00 pm) to park on the street, or, designated parking spots on the street could be zoned for teachers on weekdays from 8:00 am-4:00 pm.
2. **Building a parking structure as part of the renovation:** This is expected to cost \$125,000 per parking spot, or roughly \$5 million for the parking needs of Maury. It is unlikely there is funding or appetite for this amount of investment in addition to the renovations already planned for Maury.

3. **Explore other parking options within the neighborhood:** There is a church (formerly a movie theatre) on C Street NE that has surface parking behind it. This may provide at least 10 parking spots if an agreement could be reached with the church for this use.
4. **Seek a variance from the parking requirements:** DCPS could seek a variance from the parking requirements, but this would be challenging if there is no proposed solution to the parking situation. This could also result in a 3 to 4 month delay to the project.

Creative solutions to add play space to the design were discussed. These included the following:

1. **Explore using neighborhood parks as additional play space:** Lincoln Park would be the closest park for this, but there are challenges with trying to walk children that far (permission slips, etc).
2. **Explore using the green space on the roof as play space:** There may be a way to expand the play space above the multipurpose room and also to build the play space on top of the green roof.

Given this discussion and the options considered, Mr. Greenfield made a motion to recommend that the ANC write the following letters regarding the issues at Maury Elementary School:

1. A letter requesting DCPS and DGS request a variance and seek other ways of increasing play space. This letter would include 4-5 suggested ways to from the community to address the issues and support the variance.
2. A letter to DDOT requesting they engage creatively with DCPS to come up with a solution to these challenges around parking and restrictions.
3. A letter to BZA asking for maximum flexibility in the interpretation of the parking requirements.

Motion was seconded by Missy Boyette. Motion was approved 6:0.

Closing

As no other issues were brought forward for discussion, Mr. Greenfield closed the meeting.

**Next Scheduled ED&Z Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
7:00 -9:00 pm
640 10th Street NE, Sherwood Recreation Center, Second (2nd) Floor**