



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



August 20, 2004

Mr. Neil Stanley, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Government of the District of Columbia  
3149 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20010

Re: Sherwood Recreation Advisory Council

Mr. Stanley:

We are writing you today to notify you of our concerns regarding the existing Sherwood Recreation Advisory Council (RAC). Over the past few months, we have witnessed what can only be categorized as bizarre behavior from a group that purports to represent our community to the Department of Parks and Recreations. Specifically, our concerns are as follows:

1. **Emergency meetings.** The Sherwood RAC seems to be operating in a crisis management mode. Over the course of the summer, there have been at least two emergency meetings called by the co-chair of the RAC. One meeting was to deal with the RAC's approval of a boxing and wrestling event and the other was to deal with the Mr. Frank Crawford's departure at the center. To be honest, we do not understand why these events required an emergency meeting. In both cases, these meetings violated the spirit of the District of Columbia's sunshine laws. In short, public meetings must have public notification seven days prior to their occurrence and the community must be notified in advance of such meetings?
2. **Monthly meetings.** Despite continued requests, the Sherwood RAC continues to hold their meetings on the same day and time of the Advisory Neighborhood Council 6A meetings. We continue to question this decision as it divides participation between two worthy public meetings.
3. **Lack of Organization.** To this day, minutes of the prior Sherwood RAC meetings are not available for public review. Agendas are not shared with the community prior to the meetings. We are attaching a letter provided to us by Ms. Toni Thompson that echoes some of our concerns.

As a result of these concerns, we recommend that the current Sherwood RAC be disbanded. We would further request that, Ms. Maria Barner be empowered to establish a new Sherwood RAC. Our only request is that whatever process is used to create a new Sherwood RAC -- it is shared with the community. We would certainly welcome a community meeting to even discuss the role and mission of a recreation advisory council as it relates to the operations at the Sherwood Recreation Center.

Respectfully,

  
Joseph Fengler,  
Single Member District, ANC 6A-02

  
Paulette Page,  
Member, Sherwood RAC

cc: Councilmember Ambrose  
Ms. Maria Barner, Director, Sherwood Recreation Center

Attachment

*For more information about our Commission -- please visit our website at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org)*

July 20, 2004

Sherwood Recreation Center Advisory Council  
640 10<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Recreation Advisory Council Members:

While serving various communities within the last fourteen years, I have tried to embrace the ideals, mission, programs and interests of the community as it relates to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Since January 12, 2004, while assigned to Sherwood Recreation Center as the *interim Co-Site Manager*, it has been a responsibility that I have taken very seriously.

Because of my evidenced commitment to Parks and Recreation, it is difficult to understand how Mr. Robert Pittman, co-chair of the Sherwood Recreation Center, Recreation Advisory Council (RAC) can question my integrity, motive or dedication. It has come to my attention that he has blatantly challenged, to my superiors, the very essence of my professionalism. I have been openly accused, without justification, of being self-serving, not a team player and difficult to work with.

According to departmental policy, the RAC is to assist the site manager and staff in the development of effective and quality programs for the entire community, including collaborations and partnerships with other organizations, agencies and community groups. As co-site manager with program responsibility, I have worked with the RAC to coordinate and implement activities that we agreed would benefit our neighborhood residents.

In my opinion, Mr. Pittman does not adhere to the mission of the RAC. He has repeatedly questioned my position as a member of the Sherwood staff, often implying that I should be moved because I do not have the community's best interest at heart. I believe he is engaged in a personal attack, which is totally void of professional substantiation. My concern is that if Mr. Pittman, as a community leader, can so easily integrate his personal opinion, how effective can he be in this leadership role.

I invite the members of this committee to share and discuss my performance as the co-manager of Sherwood Recreation Center.

Yours in service to the community,



Toni Thompson

cc: M. Barner  
B. Kenner  
S. Ratliff