

AGENDA
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street, NE)
August 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Introductions
 - A. Committee members in attendance: Omar Mahmud (Co-Chair), Todd Sloves (Co-Chair), Jeff Fletcher, Andrea Adelman, and Elizabeth Nelson.
 - B. Commissioners in attendance: Matt Levy, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Calvin Ward.
- III. Announcements - none.
- IV. Community Comment
 - A. Sara Alcorn raised an issue regarding Mia's Coffeehouse located at 101 Fifteenth (15th) Street NE. She said that the shop is not operating its sidewalk café within the hours stipulated by the ANC in its conditional letter of support to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). They are operating Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 7 am to 3 pm. Co-Chair Omar Mahmud said he would reach out to the business owner about the issue.
 - B. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert asked whether the Committee had followed up with the owner of Tony's Breakfast regarding its trash bins. Co-Chair Todd Sloves explained that the Committee had considered this issue in June 2015 and that the owner of the business had not provided formal plans to the Committee regarding its request to construct an enclosure on public space to house its trash bins nor had the business submitted an application to DDOT. Co-Chair Mahmud said that the Committee had suggested the business owner try to work out a deal with a neighboring business for storing its trash, and that the Committee could not make a recommendation or take a formal action until some type of application was submitted, but that enforcement could be requested. Co-Chair Mahmud said he would follow up with the business's owner.
 - C. Scott Oldstein raised an issue regarding parking on the 1200 block of Florida Avenue NE. He said new parking signs were installed but that they are not the correct ones. He also said Residential Permit Parking (RPP) had not been implemented. Co-Chair Mahmud stated that RPP is a separate issue that will be done through DDOT's own process and timeline, but that we could get them to do the correct thing regarding current parking signage.
- V. New Business
 - A. Presentation from the Bicycle Advisory Council
 - i. Committee Member Andrea Adelman provided information on the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC). She explained that it functions like the ANC and that each ward has an appointee in addition to the Mayor's appointees. There are currently vacancies on the BAC and those interested in participating are encouraged to attend and consider joining. Ms. Adelman provided contact information to attendees for follow-up. The BAC meets monthly at 440 Fourth (4th) Street NW.

- B. Update from the Rappaport Company regarding redevelopment of H Street Connection
- i. Emily Struck, representative of the Rappaport Company, explained the history of the site and her company's involvement. The development will contain 419 residential units, 435 parking spaces along with bike parking for customers and residents. The ground level will have retail space.
 - ii. The existing retail at the site will be out by the end of 2015 or early 2016. They will begin the raze process in early 2016 and be done by that August 2016. It will then take another two (2) years for full construction schedule.
 - iii. They have already filed for raze permits and will submit for building permits in October 2015. For the demolition, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) will require rodent collection and abatement, which they will carry out.
 - iv. Nick Alberti asked if there would be disruption to the sidewalk during demolition and construction. The developers have not yet designed this but have been told by DDOT that they need to try to keep pedestrian traffic uninterrupted.
 - v. They are asking for changes in the way the development will occupy certain public space. The developers will ask for a "café zone" on the Eighth (8th) Street NE side of the development (behind the 90/92 bus stop). Any occupant would have to then apply for the use of public space, but DDOT would have approved that the area be available for use as a sidewalk café if requested. DDOT says they want fifteen (15) feet behind the bus stop, but the current standard is six (6) feet and the developers would like to maintain that precedent and use the extra space for a potential café area.
 - vi. There will also be small changes to street trees, but no change to street lamps at all. One tree from the Tenth (10th) Street NE side will be moved in order to make space for large trucks to enter the back alley. Originally DDOT wanted to remove parking spaces from the east side of Tenth (10th) Street NE to make room for truck turning radius, but residents would prefer to not reduce any parking. The developers have taken this into account and will ask DDOT for the ability to move the tree instead and will request the ANC's support in making that change to the plans.
 - vii. They will also ask for a valet zone for evening hours and a residential drop-off zone on the south side of H Street NE.
 - viii. One resident commented that the city needs to reassess whether fifty-five (55)-foot trucks really ought to be allowed to make inner-city deliveries. The infrastructure cannot handle them.
 - ix. In response to a question, the developers said that all but one (1) of the spaces will be designed to accommodate a restaurant, although it is not necessarily the case that the retail space will be occupied solely by restaurants.
 - x. Co-Chair Sloves asked if the retail spaces will be able to be combined to form one or more larger spaces. Developers responded that due to the differences in slab grades, there is not much ability to unify the retail spaces.
 - xi. Committee Member Elizabeth Nelson explained that the process of relocating a tree is not necessarily true as stated. One is removed and a new one is planted in its place that will require considerable attention and watering, and trees must be watered during construction as well. Developers said that any new trees will be planted after construction, they will be planted with guide posts

and the property owner will be required to water it. Any complaints can be directed to Rappaport.

- xii. A resident asked if the alley would be dug out. The developers will need to dig out the alley because it houses below-grade utilities that will need alteration. Also, the alley will end up being four (4) feet wider than it currently is.

The agenda was amended without objection to consider item V-D ahead of item V-C because it took presenters some time to set up their projector.

- C. Presentation from Department of General Services and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) regarding proposed redevelopment of pocket park at Fifteenth (15th) Street NE and North Carolina Avenue NE
 - i. DPR is developing a new initiative to activate triangle parks. They have done surveys to come up with ideal candidates for redevelopment in each neighborhood and the one at Fifteenth (15th) and North Carolina seemed like the best fit for Capitol Hill. They heard some initial comments regarding preserving the trees and not excavating.
 - ii. They have developed a “Zen parks” idea that involves the use and the experience in the park rather than the look of it.
 - iii. Their challenge is creating a sort of separation from the streetscape while maintaining sight lines for public safety purposes.
 - iv. They’re looking at creating various small hills in the park that would create some kind of undulating pattern. They would also pave over a central part of the park to allow for pedestrian space and add a couple of benches.
 - v. Committee Member Nelson had a number of questions and concerns. She suggested that they look into coordinating with the city’s Wildlife Action Plan and the overall goal of increasing the tree canopy. She also asked if there is a requirement to use native plants, and how long-term maintenance would be managed. She also said any mounding has the potential to damage the tree. The DPR representatives said they will have to consult with an arborist before construction, but that anything they did in terms of mounds will be along the lines of the infill at the park in southwest waterfront.
 - vi. One neighbor, Heather Schoell, said the concept seems like a nice idea but it is in the wrong spot. There is not enough tree cover there and pavers in the center will make the area even hotter. A better area to look at would be at Sixteenth (16th) and North Carolina Avenue NE, where there is more shade and already at an incline that would add to their plans to create changes in elevation. She also mentioned that even native plants can die during a hot summer.
 - vii. Nick Alberti said that while the ideas are nice, there is not easy maintenance. Current gardeners just mow the lawn at these parks. Anything that requires more manicured maintenance will not get the attention it needs. Also, space with benches and pavers is likely to attract trash.
 - viii. The presentation concluded. Co-Chair Mahmud said he looks forward to future presentations on the concept that incorporate the community’s concerns.
- D. Application for public space permit to operate a sidewalk café at 1210 H Street NE
 - i. This is the location of Vendetta restaurant. The space they are asking for is a small nook in the façade. They would like to have a table that is half inside and half outside. The table would fold down and window/doors closed when not using the public space. The seats on the outdoor side would be barstools that would be

- brought inside when not in use. There will be no separate tables outside, just the one that is partially inside and adjustable.
- ii. They will not seek any changes to their current Settlement Agreement (SA).
 - iii. The owner agreed to maintain the tree box and said he can mulch it and water it.
 - iv. The owner has agreed to remove the umbrella currently in their plans, which DDOT had told them would not be allowed).
 - v. The owner also agreed to keep the hours for opening their windows to the current hours.
 - vi. ***Co-Chair Mahmud moved that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter of support for Vendetta's public space application provided the owners agree to adhere to the following conditions: no changes to the hours when the front windows are open, no changes to the current settlement agreement, maintenance of the adjacent tree box, and no placement of an umbrella over the table. The motion was seconded by Jeff Fletcher and passed unanimously.***
- E. Request for support of traffic calming application for 400 block of Nineteenth (19th) Street NE
- i. One resident, Tony Hurst, spoke in favor of the application. He said Nineteenth (19th) Street is unsafe in its current form and that with the new school, traffic calming measures are even more needed.
 - ii. ***Co-Chair Mahmud moved that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter of support for the traffic calming application for the 400 block of Nineteenth (19th) Street NE. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Sloves and passed unanimously.***
- F. Presentation from Events DC regarding plans to construct a playground on the 2000 block of C Street NE
- i. A number of playgrounds have been developed partnering with KaBoom, because they are able to do it cheaper through preferred vendors and less expensive equipment. This location has good visibility and is outside the bounds of what could potentially be redeveloped if changes are made at the stadium. The current playground location is not good because it is on the RFK Stadium campus.
 - ii. Some neighbors oppose the new location, arguing that it is located at a busy intersection. Children are likely to cross into the street under dangerous conditions. The current C Street NE Transportation Study does not include any plans to redesign that intersection to make it safer, and DDOT does not have any plan to do so.
 - iii. Other neighbors said that this would make a playground more accessible to those who live south of C Street NE.
 - iv. The Eliot Hine Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) president asked for speed humps by the school but they have not been installed.
 - v. Commissioner Ward said he neither supports or opposes the proposal but wants residents to have to opportunity to weigh in and wants to be involved going forward as plans are further developed.

Co-chair Mahmud moved to add one item of old business to the agenda, which the Committee agreed to unanimously.

- VI. Old business
 - A. Request for support of plan to convert into a community garden the parking area located in the middle of the square bound by Fifteenth (15th) Street NE, C Street NE, Sixteenth (16th) Street NE and D Street NE.
 - i. Commissioner Calvin Ward, who brought this proposal to the Committee, provided a petition indicating the support of the residents of the adjacent properties.
 - ii. ***Co-Chair Mahmud moved that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A support the plan to convert the parking area located in the middle of the square bound by Fifteenth (15th) Street NE, C Street NE, Sixteenth (16th) Street NE and D Street NE into a community garden. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Nelson and passed unanimously.***
- VII. Additional Community Comment - none.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.