

AGENDA
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G Street NE
November 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm

- I. Called meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- II. Introductions
 - A. Committee members in attendance: Chair Elizabeth Nelson, Marc Brumer, Jeff Fletcher
 - B. Commissioners in attendance: Mike Soderman (6A03), Sondra Phillips-Gilbert (6A07)
- III. Announcements - none.
- IV. Community Comment - none.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Consideration of request from Events DC for letter of support for 2019 Rock N Roll Marathon. (Events DC (Rock N Roll Marathon) was unable to send a representative.)
 - i. Event organizers made significant changes to the race route (attached), at the urging of the TPS Committee. Traversing fewer Ward 6 streets, its impact on 6A constituents is drastically reduced. Capitol Hill street closings times will be cut almost in half as will the number of residential blocks on which cars will be banned.
 - ii. ***Mr. Fletcher moved that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter to in support of the 2019 Rock N' Roll Marathon (based on revised route). The motion was seconded by Mr. Brumer and passed unanimously, 4-0 (Incl. Soderman).***
- VI. New Business
 - A. Proposals for Urban Farms on Kramer Street NE - in response to RFP dgs.dc.gov/event/dgs-urban-farming-rfp-2018-03.
 - i. Marcus Roberson, co-owner of WoodBox Farm:
 - Water source would be a fire hydrant across the street. Probably he would run it into a storage tank so that it could be done quickly and during off-hours to minimize disruption to traffic. A permit would be necessary for this.
 - There would be a fence around the property. Operators will work with neighbors to accommodate trash pick up and alley access that could be affected by the fencing.
 - Crops would be grown in the ground. Due to arsenic contamination, soil remediation will be necessary - this could take about 5 years. However, Roberson believes some crops could be produced within 18-24 months by being grown in some other medium.
 - There are no plans to have a farmers market on-site. Deliveries might be made by cycling.
 - Would partner with youth groups.

- ii. Thomas Langan, owner and founder of Apogee Farms:
 - Water source would be installed plumbing and there will be a small office structure including rest rooms.
 - A green house structure will cover about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lot area. There will a small parking lot - perhaps 2-3 spaces - to accommodate staff and visitors.
 - There would be a fence around the property. Operator will work with neighbors to accommodate trash pick up and alley access that could be affected by the fencing.
 - Crops will be exclusively hydroponic; per the presentation hydroponic cultivation uses less water and land area. Also, this would avoid contaminants known to exist in the soil. No soil remediation is planned. First harvest would be approximately a year from now.
 - There could be on-site sales. Produce may be sold through other farmers markets or to restaurants.
 - Operator currently has a relationship with a non-profit working at Miner ES and intends to expand to involve other schools and/or youth groups.
- iii. A resident living near the property noted that the current placement of utility poles is problematic and residents and trash trucks are coping with this by driving through the property rather than in the alley. If the parcel is fenced, the poles will have to be moved.

B. Bobby Akines & Elizabeth Emerson, Ditto Development, public space concepts, 201 8th Street NE

- i. The project consists of two (2) two-unit buildings on what is now a parking lot plus five (5) units in an existing building. The units will be sold, not rented, but it has not been decided whether it will be a single condominium entity or will be broken into two entities.
- ii. The property is within the Capitol Hill Historic District (CHHD); the project will go to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) on December 20, 2018. The developers have already met with the ANC 6A ED&Z Committee and expect to meet with them again prior to ANC consideration at the December 13, 2018 meeting.
- iii. The public parking area is narrow. The developers plan to add trees and replace the existing fence with a hedge. The planned hardscaping consists of narrow walkways of paving stones plus crushed gravel seating areas. It is unclear whether these are consistent with the CHHD. There will also be window wells and bay projections. The developers stipulate that their plans for public space use conform to DDOT guidelines
- iv. The plans do not call for movement of the existing curb cut or the elimination of any existing street parking. However, there are community concerns that they provide for only three (3) parking spaces for nine (9) units, making parking more difficult. The developers say that they considered not allowing RPP but that their lawyers have told them such an arrangement would be unenforceable.

- v. Neighbors are concerned about the relocation of the building entrance onto Constitution Avenue NE. This may be a historic preservation issue as well, but that is outside the purview of the TPS Committee.
- vi. There are also concerns about trash storage, that residents of the new building may be inclined to store their trash cans on public space, though there is a trash storage area associated with the existing building. This could be a bigger problem, long-term, if the legal relationship between the two structures changes and the occupants of the new structure are no longer allowed to use the trash storage area associated with the existing structure.
- vii. The developers have designed the project in such a way that no zoning relief will be required, thereby reducing the public's leverage in asking for accommodation. Aside from the regulations concerning hardscaping in the CHHD, there are no public space issues.

C. Proposed regulations for E-bikes and E-scooters

- i District Department of Transportation (DDOT) released proposed regulations for E-scooters and E-bikes on October 26 with a deadline for comments of November 26, 2018. This made it impossible for the TPS Committee to study the issue and advise the ANC Commissioners for official action prior to the deadline. Nevertheless, the Committee felt it worthwhile to consider the regulations and form a recommendation.
- ii Committee members and members of the audience shared their concerns about the safety of these devices, especially the hazards they present to pedestrians.
- iii ***Commissioner Soderman moved that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A provide written comments to DDOT regarding the proposed E-bike & E-scooter regulations and send a letter to City Council expressing these views: 1) General support for the regulations as they will improve public safety with respect to the use of these motorized vehicles; 2) Particular support for the requirement of governors on E-scooters that will restrict the speed to 10 mph until such time as E-scooter operation can be effectively eliminated from sidewalks and other pedestrian walkways. This may require their re-classification so that they are not considered "personal mobility devices"; 3) Additionally, helmets should be required when using any of these motorized vehicles, whether E-scooters or E-bikes - as is already required for motorcycles and 4) Cash payment devices should be designed in such a way that they cannot easily be vandalized. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fletcher and passed unanimously, 5-0 (Incl. Soderman and Phillips-Gilbert).***

VII. Additional Community Comment - none.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.