

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Miner Elementary School**

**Minutes  
April 8, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alberti, Beatty, Holmes, Mack, Marshall, Robinson, and Ronneberg

Absent: Commissioner Schultheiss

**1. Approval of agenda**

Mr. Holmes requested an addition to New Business a discussion of the potential termination of bus routes. It was added to New Business. The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes for the March meeting were approved without objection.

**3. Community Comment**

John Hill of Rosedale addressed the changing of 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets NE to two-way streets, saying it was dangerous to children, would eliminate church parking spaces on Sunday on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and he was requesting that the ANC move to stop it.

Sondra Phillips Gilbert requested that the ANC reconsider its support for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets transportation study because it doesn't consider its impact on the Rosedale Community Center, the new library, H Street and Benning Road. She said there will be a 100% increase in traffic and will have a huge impact on the neighborhood and Benning Road. She said that a study is needed. She asked that the Rosedale community be given an opportunity to participate, and said that they were not notified by DDOT. They are asking for a supplemental study.

**4. Community Presentations**

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer - Saturday, May 1

Molly Gascoigne of the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer presented information on the Walk, which will be held on Saturday, May 1. They will be walking in the ANC 6A area between 7:30 and 10 am, but they will be walking on the sidewalks and stopping for red lights. They will have a water station at Maury Elementary School, one of those set up every two miles, and they will have a clean-up crew following.

US Dream Academy Learning Center

C.J. Gross, Mentor Coordinator for the DC Dream Academy Learning Center, presented information about the program, which has 10 sites across the country and works with the children of incarcerated people. Their programs focus on "dream building, skill building, and character building." It's a mentoring program from 3:30-6:00 pm, and currently serves 40

children. Their funding comes from such sources as Oprah Winfrey, Wachovia and Wells Fargo. They are seeking volunteer mentors, are located in Southeast and can be reached at [www.usdreamacademy.org](http://www.usdreamacademy.org), 202/563-9001.

#### Capitol Hill Public School Parents Organization

Sherry Trafford, a representative of the Capitol Hill Public School Parents Organization (CHPSPO), a group that has representatives from several local schools, has, for the past four years, been meeting monthly with representatives of the local elementary and middle schools. The group is currently focused on improving the middle schools on the Hill—Stuart Hobson, Eliot-Hine, and Jefferson (in Southwest). They have taken an informal survey of parents through listservs, PTAs, etc, asking questions about current perception and what they would like to see in the future, and have developed a proposal which was delivered March 25<sup>th</sup> to DCPS. DCPS has responded positively to the proposal, which asks that they continue to support programs at Stuart-Hobson, with improvements in technology and arts programs; increase the capacity at Eliot-Hine, which can take 850 students and now only has 2\350 with an International Baccalaureate program that can feed into Eastern; 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade programs at Miner and Brent and continue Reggio Emilio, museum and Montessori programs. They are also asking DCPS to increase the number of students and encourage community input.

Mr. Alberti asked how the community is kept informed and was told that there is a website: [capitolhillmiddleschools.ning.com](http://capitolhillmiddleschools.ning.com). Mr. Robinson inquired as to the level of engagement at the local schools and Ms. Trafford responded that they do outreach to PTAs, and have at least one person from each school on the committee who is responsible for reporting to her/his own PTA. Mr. Robinson encouraged Ms. Trafford to reach out to the broader community.

## 5. Officer Reports

### Chair

Mr. Robinson said he would be attending a Ward 6 ANC Chairs meeting with Councilmember Wells on April 21<sup>st</sup>. He also announced a City Council ANC Oversight hearing on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and asked for input from Commissioners.

### The Vice Chair and Secretary had no reports

### Treasurer

Commissioner Alberti presented the Treasurer's Report. The report shows that the opening checking account balance was \$18,354.12 and that the savings account balance was \$4199.67. There was an interest payment to the savings account of \$.32 leaving a balance of \$4,200.35 in the savings account. There were disbursements of \$279.44 to FedEx Office for January copies (Check #1455) @50 to the US Postal Service for PO Box renewal (Check #1456); and \$200 to Heather Schoell for preparation of the January agenda packet (Check #1457)), leaving a balance of \$17,624.68 in the checking account. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/ Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to approve the expenditures. The motion passed without objection. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved /Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was approved without objection.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion that \$600 be approved for copying for ANC materials for February, and that up to \$60 be approved for copying for each Committee's

materials and each SMD's materials for the next month. The motion was accepted without objection.

Mr. Alberti called the Commission's attention to the Budget Review included in the packet, and said that he does this every year at this time to provide a snapshot of Commission expenditures. He said that the ANC is probably spending more than it's receiving in allocations, with the money going to grants.

Mr. Marshall applauded Mr. Alberti for doing a great job as treasurer, and thanked him.

## 6. SMD Reports

**Mr. Alberti** spoke about the chronic problem in his SMD with delivery cars parking on the sidewalk, saying it was not only unsightly but presented a safety hazard as well. He said a mother and child had almost been hit. He reported that he had called DDOT and the problem had been somewhat alleviated but it still was there.

**Dr. Ronneberg** reported that the construction on H and 8<sup>th</sup> Street is completed, and the bus is back to its regular route. He also said that a 7-11 is coming to the H Street Connection, and mentioned that there is an issue at Auto Zone with ticketing after hours.

**Mr. Holmes** reported that extra police had relieved a lot of the problem with the National Marathon, but it still existed with people having difficulty getting to the dialysis center. The officers did their best, but the situation was overwhelming. Mr. Robinson commented that the changed route missed his SMD, but the topic will stay on the agenda with Councilmember Wells and the ANC Chairs.

**Ms. Mack** reported that there was a Rosedale community meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street study and, as a result, sent a letter to DDOT on April 4<sup>th</sup>. She read the following statement:

As the ANC representative for single member district 6A07, I come before you to request your support to reconsider your previous support for the conversion of 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets NE on the recommendation of the Capitol Hill Transportation Study of 2006.

The reasons are as follows:

1. The CHTS was based on community residents' concerns in the Capitol Hill neighborhoods to reduce commuter traffic. This study did not include the participation of my SMD. Meetings for the study were conducted outside of the Rosedale community that would be greatly impacted. No considerations, concerns or opinions were obtained or included in the study.

Furthermore, DDOT did not reach out to the Rosedale residents to participate in a redevelopment of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street conversion during its study. Other community groups were given the opportunity to participate in a community driven process which the DHTS and the C Street NE Project. These projects were also provided funding and assistance through DDOT.

2. The CHTS of 2006 did not consider the current development and traffic congestion that exist along the Benning Road corridor, H Street development, the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge

project and the current new development of the Rosedale Community Center/Library and field. New construction will begin this spring of 2010.

**Motion:** Ms. Mack moved/Mr. Marshall seconded a motion that a letter of support be sent from 6A ANC Commissioners asking for the Director of Transportation to delay the implementing of the conversion until a Traffic Study/Supplemental Impact Assessment is completed along with the Rosedale community's input in the process. Mr. Robinson suggested that the discussion of the issue be moved to Number 4 under New Business.

Mr. Marshall reported that the buses are still not running properly. He appointed himself to the EDZ committee, and said that the trash on Wylie Street seems to be declining.

## 7. Committee Reports

### ABL

#### Queen Vic - 1206 H Street NE

This will be British-themed gastro-pub, with a wide beer selection, and British-style food. They have applied for a CT license. Ms. Beatty said that the ABL committee voted to protest the license unless there is an ANC-approved VA prior to their petition date, which there is. **Motion:** Ms. Beatty moved/Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to approve the VA signed by The Queen Vic. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Mr. Alberti not voting.

#### Chow - 1110 H Street NE

Ms. Beatty reported that the attorney for Chow wants to remove from the VA all language that is in DC law and the language that he believes is unenforceable. The ABL Committee discussed the issue and felt it should not accept the modifications until after the ABRA hearing on the establishment. Mr. Holmes asked whether this could be done without prejudice. She said that the protest date has passed, so they are only postponing the signing of an agreement, but she has assurances from the owner that he will sign, and it's just that the attorney wants to make changes. Mr. Alberti offered the information that the license has been granted and the protest period is over, but the ANC can enter into agreement at any time. **Motion:** Ms. Beatty moved/Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to not accept the current VA presented by Chow. The motion passed 5-0-2 with Mr. Holmes and Mr. Alberti not voting.

#### CT Licenses on H Street NE

Ms. Beatty said that the committee feels that there are more and more CT licenses on H Street and the last time there was a hearing on a possible moratorium was in 2007. At that time Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle ANCs came to testify. She asked for ANC approval to hold a hearing. She also said that she may come back to the ANC for funding for advertising for a hearing. **Motion:** Ms. Beatty moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to approve the committee's recommendation to hold a public hearing regarding the number of CT licenses along H Street. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Mr. Alberti not voting.

## Capitol Liquors

Ms. Beatty said that a voluntary agreement for Capitol Liquors was sent to ABRA containing language on a price point, which ABRA said they couldn't enforce. A new one is being sent. Ms. Beatty stated that she inadvertently sent the un-amended copy of the VA to ABRA and that she had already sent the re-executed, amended version back to ABRA.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection

## Economic Development and Zoning

### 1019 Florida Avenue NE

This is a BZA case where the owner is proposing to build an attached deck on the rear of her house that will increase the lot occupancy to 100%, and hence requires a variance to lot occupancy, rear yard setback and the expansion of a non-conforming structure.

Dr. Ronneberg said that there is no hardship involved, a requirement to increase lot occupancy and it would set a precedent for other parts of the community. **Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Mr. Holmes seconded a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to oppose the application for a variance.

**Motion:** Mr. Marshall moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a substitute motion to support the application for a variance. Ms. Mack asked whether the project had the support of the neighbors, and was told that it did. The owner of the property said that the building currently covers 78% of the lot, and the alley is shallow. She said the project is not imposing on the neighbors' light and air. She also said that there is a hardship—that there are no outdoor spaces or parks in the neighborhood for a child to play outdoors. Mr. Marshall said that the project has his full support and that of his neighbors and the project is actually enhancing the alley and lessening the prospect of crime. Mr. Holmes said he is disturbed at the idea of setting precedent. Mr. Alberti said he cannot support the project because the owner hasn't met the burden of proof regarding why a variance is needed. There is no uniqueness or hardship involved in the project. Ms. Mack said she will support the substitute motion, because the safety issue in the alley is important, and the fact that the house is not close to a park.

Dr. Ronneberg said he had supported a similar project on Wylie Street, but it was a smaller lot, a 2<sup>nd</sup> story project. On this one, they plan to build out to full lot occupancy. Mr. Holmes added that we have a formidable reputation at BZA, and this would weaken it. Setting this precedent will also be a disaster for his SMD. The owner added that BZA tackles every case on a case-by-case basis. The substitute motion passed 4-3, with Dr. Ronneberg, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Alberti in opposition.

Dr. Ronneberg asked that someone else write the letter because he doesn't know what to say. Mr. Alberti added that the letter should be circulated to the ANC before the letter is sent.

### H Street Historic District Campaign

Dr. Ronneberg reported that he talked with David Maloney of the Historic Preservation Office about the possibility of establishing an H Street Historic District. He's interested in figuring out how it would work. Dr. Ronneberg said it would be necessary to talk with the store owners on H Street and engage them. **Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Ms. Mack seconded a motion to adopt the

Committee's recommendation that the ANC authorize up to \$1000 for a limited education and outreach regarding the commercial historic district for the H Street Historic District.

Ms. Beatty asked how it would be different from the way things are now. Mr. Holmes replied that there would be enormous financial advantages to store owners. Mr. Alberti asked how the money would be spent, and Mr. Ronneberg replied that the details will be spelled out. Mr. Alberti asked that a friendly amendment be added that reads "up to \$1000 be *allocated in the budget*..." He added that he wholeheartedly supports the motion. The motion passed without objection.

#### Updating Zoning Map

Dr. Ronneberg reported that the Comprehensive Plan has a future land use map that advocates different land use than what is currently envisioned by the Zoning Map, and he drafted a letter asking for a meeting to discuss rezoning the eastern H Street area to be consistent with the Comprehensive plan. **Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to send a letter to Harriet Tregoning of the Office of Planning asking for a meeting to discuss the rezoning of the eastern end of H Street, and to authorize Drew Ronneberg and Andrew Hysell to represent the ANC in this matter. The motion passed 6-0-1.

**Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion that if the Office of Planning does not propose the recommended changes to the Zoning Commission that the ANC will. The motion passed without objection.

#### Public Space Training for DCRA Staff

Dr. Ronneberg reported that the ANC had not received a response to its letter to DCRA head Linda Argo, urging the training of its permitting staff to be able to recognize when electrical equipment is located on public space, and do not issue electrical permits and approvals unless the owner demonstrates that the equipment has received a public space permit. **Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to send a letter to DCRA Director Linda Argo requesting a response to the ANC's letter. It passed without objection.

#### Letter to Neil Albert Requesting a Response to Letter Regarding the Re-ordering of City Approvals

Dr. Ronneberg reported that the order in which City approvals from the Historic Preservation Office, the Zoning Administrator/Board of Zoning Adjustments and DDOT's Office of Public Space is flawed, and a letter has been drafted to suggest a change in the administrative process of approvals. **Motion:** Dr. Ronneberg moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to send a letter to Neil Albert, with copies to the Mayor, city agencies and the City Council urging the District government to require public space approval before zoning or historic issues are addressed, and to also require zoning approval before historic preservation issues are addressed. The motion passed without objection.

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

#### Community Outreach

##### Grant to Capitol Hill Garden Club

Elizabeth Nelson introduced Vera Sisolak of the Capitol Hill Garden Club and presented her request for a \$650 grant to purchase spring bulbs to be distributed for planting in the ANC 6A neighborhood.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to grant \$650 to the Capitol Hill Garden Club for the purchase of spring bulbs. The motion passed without objection.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

### Transportation

#### Stop Signs at 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to send a letter of support to DDOT regarding the installation of stop signs at the intersections of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets at Constitution Avenue. The motion passed without objection.

#### Public Space Permit for 701 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE

This is a request for a status report on an appeal that the ANC submitted in 2006 for a permit for a curb cut that was granted in error by DCRA. The letter requests that the issue be referred to the Public Space Committee for adjudication. **Motion:** Ms. Beatty moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to send a letter to DDOT Director Gabe Klein asking him to refer the issue of the appeal of the curb cut at 701 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE to the Public Space Committee. The motion passed without objection.

#### Nomination of Andrew Hysell

**Motion:** Ms. Beatty moved/Mr. Alberti seconded the nomination of Andrew Hysell to be a member of the Transportation and Public Space Committee. The motion passed without objection.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

### Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee had no report

## 9. New Business

#### Rail-Volution in DC

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to support the Rail-Volution in DC project. The motion passed without objection.

#### More Police Foot Patrols

**Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to send a letter to MPD Chief Lanier supporting additional police foot patrols for PSA 102 and 103. The motion passed without objection.

#### WMATA Buses for Schools

Mr. Holmes reported that WMATA is proposing to eliminate a bus that circulates among three Capitol Hill schools. He said he has been asked by the principal of those schools to request

that WMATA not cut those buses, but in fact expand the service. Ms. Beatty asked what is WMATA's justification for the cuts. Mr. Holmes replied that it's financial and they're cutting all their routes dedicated to schools. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Ms. Mack seconded a motion to send a letter to WMATA supporting the continuation of the Capitol Hill loop bus. The motion passed 6-1, with Ms. Beatty in opposition.

#### Reconsideration of the Capitol Hill Transportation Study

**Motion:** Ms. Mack moved/Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to refer the question of reconsideration of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street portions of the Capitol Hill Transportation Study to the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Alberti said that he was opposed to the motion, as the prospect of increased development had been taken into consideration, and Mr. Schultheiss had summed up the traffic projections. The reasons do not justify taking a second look. Mr. Marshall asked Ms. Mack whether her constituents had been properly notified, and she replied that Capitol Hill had had a community meeting and input into the plan, but her community had not. Mr. Robinson said the question was whether Rosedale had had adequate input. If they didn't it would make great sense to go back and reconsider the support. The motion was approved without objection.

**Motion:** Mr. Robinson moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to send a letter to DDOT asking for additional input into the decision. Mr. Mahmud said that the public had the opportunity to weigh in. Mr. Robinson replied that there is a question about whether there was adequate input. Ms. Mack said she shares 19<sup>th</sup> Street with another Commissioner who doesn't feel there was adequate input. Ms. Gilbert said there should be a supplemental impact statement.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved that the ANC delay sending the letter to DDOT until after the Committee takes action.

Alex Rotan, the Mayor's Ward 6 representative said that he is working with people at DDOT on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and DDOT would welcome the opportunity for additional input. Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Rotan whether he would commit to the ANC that he will work with DDOT and the community to find a solution. Mr. Rotan agreed. Ms. Beatty said that there is therefore no need to delay the letter. Mr. Alberti said he would withdraw his motion. The motion passed 5-0-1, with Dr. Ronneberg abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.