

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Minutes
Miner Elementary School
January 12, 2012

Present: Commissioners Alberti, Healy, Holmes, Hysell, Mack, Ronneberg, & Veenendaal-Selck

The meeting was convened at 7pm

1. Election of Officers and Committees

Mr. Holmes asked Ms. Veenendaal-Selck to call the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Ronneberg seconded a motion to adopt the Commission Rules in the form they were adopted in January 2011. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

He announced that the next order of business is the consideration of the nomination and election of officers. He announced that nomination would be accepted in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominated were: Chair: David Holmes; Vice Chair: Drew Ronneberg; Secretary: Andrew Hysell; Treasurer: Nick Alberti.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to vote on the officers and committee chairs as a slate. Mr. Holmes said that there must be two-thirds of the Commission present to consider a slate. He noted that there are more than six commissioners present, so that condition is met.

The proposed slate is comprised of: David Holmes, Chair; Drew Ronneberg, Vice Chair; Andrew Hysell, Secretary; Nick Alberti, Treasurer; Adam Healy, Chair, Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee; Elizabeth Nelson, Chair, Community Outreach Committee; Drew Ronneberg, Chair, Economic Development and Zoning Committee; Omar Mahmud, Chair, Transportation and Public Space Committee. Mr. Holmes noted that there is no appointment of a chair for the Public Safety Committee, and its responsibilities will remain with the full Commission. The slate was elected unanimously.

The members of the Commission's standing committees were then elected *en bloc*: **Alcohol Beverage Licensing:** Michael Herman, Ann Marie Koshuta, Katy Ziegler Thomas, and Adam Healy; **Community Outreach:** Elizabeth Nelson, Louis Barbash, Patricia Joseph; Rosetta (Rose) Williams, Jean Kohanek; **Economic Development and Zoning:** Charmaine Joseph, Dan Golden, Jeff Fletcher, Laura Gentile, Melissa Boyette, Phil Toomajian, Drew Ronneberg; **Transportation and Public Space:** DeLania Hardy, Marlon Smoker, Sean Lovett, Shane Artim, J. Omar Mahmud. The members of the Commission's Standing Committees were elected unanimously.

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Healy seconded a motion to notify the various appropriate offices of the City government (OANC, Mayor, Council Chair and other Council members, Auditor) of the Commission's officers, membership and meeting times and dates for 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Veenendaal-Selck seconded a motion that the ANC participate in the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund by paying a \$25 contribution. The Fund covers malfeasance by the officers. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Meeting Dates and Time: The meeting time and place will be at 7pm on the second Thursday of the month, except during August, at the current location, Miner Elementary School, 601 15th Street NE.

2. Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented by unanimous consent.

3. Agenda

Mr. Alberti asked to have the question of whom will represent the ANC at the raze permit hearing on 1310 East Capitol Street added to New Business. Mr. Holmes asked that the question of a raze permit for 1402-1406 H Street be added to New Business. The two items were approved by unanimous consent.

4. Officer Reports

Chair

Mr. Holmes announced that he and/or Mr. Alberti will speak at a Mayors Agent hearing in opposition to the proposed raze for the outbuilding at 1310 East Capitol Street. The ANC has already voted to oppose the raze; Commissioners Alberti and Holmes are authorized to act on behalf of the ANC.

He also said the following about recent revelations of corruption in city government: “Guilty pleas have been entered or are about to be entered by City officials. There is only disgrace and revulsion for those who so spit in the face of the public trust. There are no mitigating circumstances in either case. In the case of former chair Shelton, it calls all Commissioners into question and jeopardizes the funding we receive from the City.”

Mr. Holmes also asked the Commission to suggest speakers who can illuminate the ANC’s tasks and responsibilities. “I intend to ask PSA 107 Lt. Eddie Fowler to speak to us briefly next month. It will give us a chance to let him know our concerns. Excepting Mr. Healy, our SMDs are either incorporated into or border on PSA 107. At the same meeting, Carolyn Crank or someone else from the US Attorney will inform us on how to provide community and Victim Impact Statements.”

Treasurer

Mr. Alberti presented the Treasurer’s Report. It showed that the opening balance in the checking account was \$18,190.84, and the savings account balance was \$4,206.11. There was an interest payment to the savings account of \$.18. There were disbursements of \$180 to Roberta Weiner for November 11 minutes (Check #1539); \$200 to Heather Schoell for the October 11 agenda package (Check #1540); and \$158.40 to FedEx Office for the November 2011 copying (Check #1541), leaving a balance of \$17,652.84 in the checking account and \$4,206.29 in the savings account.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Healy seconded a motion to approve the disbursements. It passed without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/ Mr. Holmes seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. It passed without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Veenendaal-Selck seconded a motion to approve the Quarterly report for the first quarter of FY 2012. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Alberti said that the ANC's allotment for the second quarter was still missing, but the Auditor's office was tracking it down.

5. SMD Reports

Ms. Mack announced that Elisa Butler will be receiving the Korean-American Grocers Association of Greater Washington Scholarship essay award of \$1000. Elisa, who's major is communication arts, will be attending Elizabeth City State University of North Carolina.

Ms. Veenendaal-Selck reported that she is working on getting a speed camera for her SMD

Mr. Healy reported that he was having an SMD meeting on February 7th. He also said he had received an email from DDOT telling him that a drop-off at J.O. Wilson School on K Street in the morning won't work but it's possible that they could do one on 7th St. Also in DDOT news, they have installed pylons to narrow the exit on L St. NE at 10th and Florida NE.

Mr. Holmes reported that an old issue has re-emerged: Medlink—the building on the south side of the hospital—700 Constitution Ave.—has been vacant for years and has been leased by Dr. Peter Shinn, who is the worst property owner in the neighborhood, to JPG for development as apartments. He said he thinks it will work this time but there's a need to do community education. We need the developers to understand what their needs are and how badly they've been burned in the past. He also reported that the skateboard park has one again been delayed, but they have another new promise to have the agreement signed.

Dr. Ronneberg reported that the Bikeshare station at 11th and H Sts. has been installed. He also reported that he has received a letter approving the street sweeping in the alleys that he requested.

Mr. Hysell reported that he would have an SMD meeting on January 31 from 7:45 to 8:30am at SOVA.

6. Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee

Rose's Dream-1370 H Street NE

Motion: The Committee moved/Mr. Healy seconded a motion to support the Committee's recommendation that the ANC withdraw its protest of the substantial change proposed for Rose's Dream, 1370 H St. NE. The ANC voted 6-0-1, with Mr. Alberti not voting, to support the Committee's recommendation,

Chicken Tortilla - 1324 H Street NE

Mr. Healy said that the Committee had moved to support a placeholder protest to license for Chicken Tortilla until a VA had been signed. Prior to the meeting a VA was signed and so he moved to amend the Committee's motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion: Mr. Healy moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to approve the VA between Chicken Tortilla and the ANC and support their license application. The motion passed 6-0-1, with Mr. Alberti not voting.

Sol Mexican Grill - 1251 H Street NE

Mr. Healy said that the Committee had moved to support a placeholder protest to the license for Sol Mexican Grill, 1251 H St. NE, until a VA had been signed. Prior to the meeting a VA was signed, so he moved to amend the Committee's motion. The motion to amend was approved by

unanimous consent. **Motion:** Mr. Healy moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to approve the VA between Sol Mexican Grill and the ANC, and support their license application. The motion passed 5-0-2, with Ms. Mack and Mr. Alberti abstaining.

7. Transportation and Public Space Committee

Capitol Hill Classic Race

Committee Chair Omar Mahmud presented the following motion:

Motion: the Committee moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to support the Capitol Hill Classic on Sunday, May 20, and send a letter to the Emergency Management Task Force.

Mr. Holmes said he is doing his best to get "bump cross" access for cars during the race. Mr. Alberti said he commended the organizers of the race for cleaning up after the race every year. Mr. Holmes said he always approved this race, while opposing the National Marathon.

The motion passed unanimously.

C Street NE Streetscape

Ms. Veenendaal-Selck proposed that the ANC send a letter to DDOT asking for action on the C St. streetscape that's supposed to be happening in her SMD. Mr. Holmes said that he had spoken with Councilmember Wells to start pushing forward with the project. He said that his big concern is that the project does not push traffic northward. **Motion:** Ms. Veenendaal-Selck moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to send a letter to DDOT urging it to move forward with its work on the C St. streetscape. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Ms. Mack abstaining.

8. Economic Development and Zoning Committee

1337 Maryland Avenue NE

Drew Ronneberg, the Committee Chair, reported that the ED&Z committee recommended that the ANC oppose the request for a use variance for a 3-unit apartment building for the reasons outlined in the committee report. **Motion:** The committee moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a recommendation that the full ANC write a letter to the BZA opposing the granting of a variance. The Commission voted 7-0 to accept the Committee recommendation.

1400 Maryland Ave. NE

Drew Ronneberg, the Committee Chair, reported that the ED&Z committee recommended that the ANC oppose the applicant's request for a public space permit for the reasons outlined in the Committee report.

Motion: The Committee moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion that the full ANC accept the recommendation of the Committee that it oppose the Public Space application because:

1. The proposed layout fails to close the median strip per the BA order.
2. The applicant has not yet provided circulation plans.
3. Circulation would be recommended as a one-way traffic pattern in which card would enter the site from Maryland Avenue and exit on 14th St.
4. The owner has a poor reputation with the community based on past behavior.

And the ANC should write a letter to the BZA/PSC opposing the application. Dr. Ronneberg asked to amend the motion to say that the plans should reflect the existing conditions at the site. The amendment was accepted by unanimous consent. Mr. Hysell said the 14th Pl. Neighborhood

Association had the signatures of 40 people in opposition to the station. The requirement of the BZA Order to fill the median should be met due to the safety issue identified by DDOT.

Mr. Holmes pointed out that the current plan will not work and it presents a hazard at 14th and Maryland for those moving west and south at 14th and Maryland.

Further, the Committee recommends that an ANC representative (Ronneberg, Holmes, Hysell, former Commissioner Schultheiss, or Mahmud) represent the ANC in front of the Public Space Committee. The motion passed 7-0.

9. New Business

Contract Renewals

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Hysell seconded a motion to renew the contract of Roberta Weiner to take and transcribe ANC minutes and of Heather Schoell to prepare the monthly agenda package. He said the services they provide are well worth the money. He asked for an allocation of up to \$200 a month for each contract. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Voluntary Agreement with Central, 1200 H Street NE

Mr. Healy said this VA was another one that had a placeholder protest on it, and the owner had signed a voluntary agreement that was basically the standard VA, and said the owner was more than willing to live with the ANC's patio hours. **Motion:** Mr. Healy moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to approve the VA and license for Central, 1200 H Street NE. The motion passed 6-0-1, with Mr. Alberti not voting.

Nomination of Nancy Metzger

Mr. Holmes asked the ANC to support the nomination of Nancy Metzger to the Historic Preservation Review Board, saying that she is the Capitol Hill expert on historic preservation. He said the only problem with her taking the position is that the ANC won't be able to consult with her any longer. Dr. Ronneberg said she played a crucial role in the solution to the design of the H Street Connection, and it's going to be a great addition to HPRB. Ms. Nelson said that at least there'll be someone there who understands the unique problems of the Hill. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion that the ANC send a letter of support to the relevant members of the City Council supporting the nomination of Nancy Metzger to the Historic Preservation Review Board. The motion passed without objection.

1310 East Capitol Street

Mr. Alberti reported that in June the ANC did not support a request for a raze permit for a garage at 1310 East Capitol Street. HBRB followed, the decision being based that it was pretty much a case of demolition by neglect. The applicant has appealed to the Mayor's Agent for relief. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to authorize Mr. Alberti to represent the ANC in this matter. The motion passed 7-0, unanimously.

1402-1406 H Street NE

There is a raze notice pending for 1402-1406 H St. NE. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Ms. Mack seconded a motion to authorize Mr. Holmes or Dr. Ronneberg to represent the ANC at HPRB for the hearing on the raze notice. Mr. Holmes said there is no alternative but to move forward. He said he understands the dilemma and would hate to see the buildings demolished, but there's not even an outline of a position for the ANC. What is the Commission authorizing its representatives to do?

Dr. Ronneberg said that the buildings are across from the Argonaut. The owners own other properties, and say they understand the implications of what they're doing. And while the

buildings were built in 1900 or 1910, they were shoddy even for the standards of the time. He said he needed to get them to his Committee. He said he would like to engage them, but it's fairly tricky. The ANC's response is due in 30 days which, brings it to the beginning of February. Mr. Hysell suggested that the ANC ask to have the hearing postponed. Dr. Ronneberg said that it's a good idea, particularly because they're building a matter-of-right building. Mr. Holmes withdrew the original motion. **Motion:** Mr. Healy moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion that the ANC oppose the raze permit for 1402-1406 H St. NE on the grounds that it has had insufficient time to consider the application until February 9, unless it appears to be in the best interest of the community. Further, Commissioners Holmes and Ronneberg are authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in this matter. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

10. Community Comments

Funds for Eastern High School

Mr. Holmes brought up the fact that Eastern High School is supposed to receive funds from the developers of the project across the street from the school—there was supposed to be \$125,000 worth of work, and \$17,000 to resurface the basketball court. The average age of the books at Eastern is 1964, and they have no band instruments. He said he has been in touch with ANC 6B to do something about it. Mr. Alberti mentioned that the check for its library books had been delivered to Eliot-Hine.

Overlay Expanded

Mr. Ronneberg noted that the in response to a request from the ANC, the H Street Overlay has been expanded. Mr. Hysell added that Peter May had been a strong proponent and had been helpful.

Effort on Gas Station Will Have No Impact

Mr. Mahmud said that the ANC's efforts with Public Space will have no impact on the gas station issue because it can still proceed. Mr. Hysell added that the PSC is not considering 1400 Maryland Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.