

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Minutes
Miner Elementary School
January 10, 2013

Present: Commissioners Alberti, Holmes, Hysell, Mahmud, Nauden, Phillips-Gilbert, Ward, Williams

The meeting was convened at 7 PM

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda, Elections

Call to Order

The presence of a quorum was announced.

Minutes and Agenda

The minutes for December 2012 were approved by unanimous consent. The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Election

Mr. Holmes moved to adopt the Commission rules in the form they were adopted in 2012. That is the single two minute rule adopted at the December meeting. It avoids having the Chair being declared arbitrary when he/she declares the end of a Commissioner's time or that of a member of the public, and fixes a consequence for ignoring the rule. He also noted that the bylaws carry over from year to year and that if anyone wished to amend the bylaws, the specific language of the proposal must be announced one meeting in advance of a vote. The Standing Rules were adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. Holmes announced that the Commission would consider the nomination and election of its officers for 2013 in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and then Treasurer.

He then announced that he was about to move the adoption of a slate of officers and committee chairs, stating that a slate must be approved by two-thirds of those present and voting. He said that if the motion did not get two-thirds, each officer and chair would be individually elected.

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Hysell seconded a motion to elect a slate composed of Chair: David Holmes; Vice Chair: Omar Mahmud; Secretary: Gloria Nauden; Treasurer: Nick Alberti. And also committee chairs Adam Healy, Alcoholic Beverage Licensing; Elizabeth Nelson, Community Outreach; and Omar Mahmud, Transportation and Public Space.

Mr. Holmes noted that a Chair for the Economic Development and Zoning Committee will be elected at the next meeting. Additionally, he said, there has not been a desire to activate the Public Safety Committee because all Commissioners are experts in their own districts and have been intolerant of the direction of previous committees that seemed to focus on one or two districts over others.

Ms. Phillips-Gilbert said she objected to voting a slate. She said she had no objection to the individual candidates, which she would support, only to the process, which she feels violates democratic process and has the danger of being stuck with candidates who are not qualified or may collude on a vote in the future. The Commission approved the Officers and committee chairs by a vote of 7-1-0.

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Ms. Phillips-Gilbert seconded the nomination of the following members of the ANC's permanent committees:

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee: *Existing Members/Reappointments:* Adam Healy, Michael Herman, Ann Marie Koshuta, Katy Thomas; *New Appointments:* Roger Caruth, Christopher Seagle, Dave Oberting.

Community Outreach Committee: Elizabeth Nelson, Louis Barbash, Patricia Joseph, Jean Kohanek, Rosetta (Rose) Williams. Mr. Holmes requested that the agenda be amended to add Gladys Mack, former 6A Commissioner, and Maurice Cook, a former Committee member.

Economic Development and Zoning: Missy Boyer, Laura Gentile, Dan Golden, Michael Hoenig, Charmaine Josiah, Drew Ronneberg, Justin Thornton, Bao Vuong.

Transportation and Public Space: Omar Mahmud, DeLania Hardy, Jeff Fletcher, Benjamin Rosset, Todd Sloves.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Holmes offered a motion authorizing him to write the required notifications to the various appropriate offices of City government of the newly elected officers, committee chairs and membership. The authorization passed without objection.

Mr. Holmes offered a motion authorizing the writing of a check for \$25 to the ANC Security Fund. It passed without objection.

2. Community Presentation

Capitol Hill Parks- National Capitol Parks - East

Mr. Holmes introduced Superintendent Alex Romero and Dr. Joy Kinard, Central District Manager of National Capitol Parks East, and Lt. Mark Adamchick, US Park Police District One.

Lt. Adamchick began by talking about the dog off leash prohibition, which is enforced in every federal park. He said that it is \$45 for a first ticket, though he would rather speak with people than write tickets, but he was insistent that the parks have to be kept safe. A question was asked about a recent cell phone grab at Lincoln Park, and he said he didn't know, but they had a different reporting system for outside the park. He recommended calling 911 if there is an issue and no officers around, and they will forward problems to the correct agency. He also said they were implementing more patrol cars around the parks. Mr. Alberti suggested that it would be useful to have extra patrols during peak jogging and dog walking hours early in the morning and in the evenings. He thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Romero briefly described his District, saying that there are four federal parks in the area and he had been working with Councilmember Wells as chair of the committee with oversight over the parks. They are planning more activity in the parks this summer, particularly after work, and they are checking out the rules to see what is allowed—exercise classes, jazz, movies, wine and beer, dog-training workshops, etc.

Dr. Kinard spoke particularly about Lincoln Park and said that the Lincoln movie and the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation had inspired a lot of activities in Lincoln Park, and it's being sought out by groups to do public service. Because of the popularity of Lincoln, the Lincoln statue in the park was made the cover of the January issue of the Sentinel, the Park Service magazine. She mentioned specifically that Delta Sigma Theta, celebrating its 100th

anniversary was planning a clean-up day of service accompanied by NPS personnel. She pointed out that NPS personnel were good neighbors in the community. She said they could be reached at nps.gov.

She also announced that in the spring construction will begin on the Capitol Hill walkway project, a project to repair the walkways in Lincoln Park. They will return to the ANC with more details.

3. Community Comments

Raphael Marshall spoke as a representative of DPR, and said there are two rec centers in 6A - Sherwood and Rosedale, and urged people to check them out and take advantage of them.

Brittney Wright of the Mayor's Office said that she and Chris Fitzgerald were available to help residents with their problems and could be reached at dc.gov.

Jessica, a neighbor, said that her garage had been broken into that evening and it was not the first time.

Malia Salim of DC Streetcar announced that there is a new issue of their newsletter with a construction schedule for the next several months.

Another neighbor said he had been robbed four times, and mentioned that he lived across the street from the 12th/C NE murder site, and asked what more can be done.

Gene Fisher, who works for Councilmember Orange, said that he encourages people to attend their PSA meetings. He said at the last meeting of PSA 107 had only 18 people in attendance. He said that people should go to the meetings because it's an opportunity to let the police know of community concerns. He said the police don't conduct the meetings; the attendees set the agenda with their concerns. Mr. Holmes added that that's where the police interact with the community, and said that PSA 104 meets at Sherwood Rec Center the second Tuesday of the month.

4. Officers' Reports

Chair

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Alberti presented the Treasurer's Report for January. He reported that the opening balance in the checking account was \$15,025.78 and the savings account balance was \$13,714.63. There was an interest payment to the savings account of \$.23. There were disbursements of \$3,815 to Capital Community News & Fagon Guide for Hill Rag ads (Check #1581); \$180 to Roberta Weiner for November 2012 transcription of ANC minutes (Check #1582); \$200 to Heather Schoell for the December 2012 agenda package (Check #1583); and \$524 to FedEx Office for December 21, 2012 statement (Check #1584); leaving a balance of \$10,06.76 in the checking account, and \$13,71.85 in the savings account.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Williams seconded a motion to approve the disbursements. The disbursements were agreed to by unanimous consent.

The Treasurer's Report was agreed to by unanimous consent.

Quarterly Report

Mr. Alberti presented the Quarterly Report for the 1st Quarter of FY 13. He noted that it had been circulated to the Commissioners for comment. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion to accept the Quarterly Report for the 1st Quarter of FY 13. It was accepted by unanimous consent.

5. Community Presentation

Mr. Holmes introduced City Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, who had been invited to talk about crime, attracting a very large crowd of neighbors. First District Commander Hickson was also present.

Mr. Mendelson began by talking about his work on the Judiciary Committee writing a gun law for the District that could withstand constitutional scrutiny and a domestic violence law. In response to a question from Mr. Holmes about why he had not approved an increase in force levels for the police department, he said that the police department contract expired two years ago but management and the FOP do not get along, and there's another problem: officers hired in the late '80's are retiring, but attrition is under 16 a month, and the Council found out that hiring had stopped because, due to bad budgeting, there's no budget for longevity pay and there's no money for hiring. The force is now down to 3700 and should be just under 3900. Added to that, there a lot of new "hot spots," such as Chinatown, that increase the need. He said that the Council will move forward, but the Mayor's proposal had appeared without explanation, and it requires discussion and negotiation, which, he said, will take place.

Mr. Hysell asked why, if more officers are to be hired in a year or two, the process can't be **speeded wants a steady stream of officers. And 360 is the maximum they can hire now.**

Mr. Mahmud said that people are frustrated "out of their heads" and that leads to a feeling of dysfunction in the City, and asked what reassurances Chairman Mendelson could provide. Mr. Mendelson said the needed response comes from the Executive, but he can say there's been a substantial drop in crime.

Gloria Nauden said she's been robbed four times in the last year, and her question is whether there's a correlation between education and crime. Mr. Mendelson said there is a correlation between truancy and crime that should be looked at.

A neighbor suggested (to applause) that security cameras be deployed, a suggestion echoed by others. Other suggestions included signs in buses and increased foot patrols.

6. Committee Reports

Community Outreach Committee

The report of the committee was accepted without objection.

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing

The report of the committee was accepted without objection

Transportation and Public Space Committee

This is a request for support for the Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA) Tour de Fat bicycle parade on June 1, prior to an event at Yards Park. Mr. Holmes said that the event affects two SMDs—03 and 04. Neither commissioner has an objection as the time that the street will be

blocked is minimal, there will be police control of traffic, and it has the feel of a short entertaining parade.

Nelle Pierson, WABA Outreach Coordinator, said that last year they used the Anacostia River Trail, but this year they wanted to use the streets. The event at Yards Park will have arts and a bike festival with Fat Tire beer, the sponsoring organization. A question was asked about whether there are rules for bikes on streets, and was told there are very clear laws. WABA educates both bikers and drivers, but has no power to enforce them. **Motion:** Mr. Mahmud moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to send a letter to HESMA supporting the Tour de Fat on June 1. The motion passed 8-0-0.

The committee's report was accepted without objection.

Economic Development and Zoning Committee

901 H Street NE

This is a request for support of a two-year Zoning Commission extension for the PUD for the H Street Connection at 901 H Street NE. The ANC has been working closely with the developer for three years and they are asking for the extension—which is required after two years—because of a combination of complexities with the leases of the existing tenants, and a still unsettled financing situation. No changes will be made to the project. **Motion:** The committee moved/Mr. Holmes seconded a motion that the full ANC accept the committee's recommendation to support the request of Parcel Seven Associates (Rappaport developers) for a two year extension of their PUD for 901 H Street NE. The motion passed 8-0.

1425 North Carolina Avenue NE

This is a request for support of a BZA application for an area variance from the lot occupancy requirements to build a deck. According to Mr. Holmes, the committee members felt the deck, which would take up 94% of the lot—more than 20% more than the ANC would usually approve—is too large, with no compelling hardship for the increased size. They felt also that the proposed height of 7' is just too high. The committee voted to oppose the variance, and suggested that the applicant and their architect redesign the deck within the legal parameters. **Motion:** The committee moved/Mr. Holmes seconded a motion that the full ANC accept the committee recommendation and oppose the request for support for a variance for lot occupancy at 1425 North Carolina Ave. NE. The motion passed 8-0.

7. New Business

Fever Bar and Lounge

This is another voluntary agreement for Fever Bar and Lounge that was returned by ABRA for modifications. The changes are the same that have been made in other agreements, and the Commission has voted to modify its basic VA to incorporate the changes. **Motion:** The committee moved/Mr. Hysell seconded a motion to accept the changes proposed by ABRA to the VA negotiated between the ANC and Fever Bar and Lounge. The motion passed 7-0-1, with Mr. Alberti not voting.

Rock and Roll Hotel

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Hysell seconded a motion to support the request by the Rock and Roll Hotel for extended hours during the Inaugural weekend. The motion passed 6-0-2 with Mr. Alberti and Mr. Mahmud not voting.

8. Single Member District Reports

Sondra Phillips -Gilbert said she wanted to thank her former ANC representative, Gladys Mack, Pilgrim AME Church, our own community baseball legend, Ms. Mamie “Peanut” Johnson, and the entire friends and neighbors of the Rosedale community for electing her to serve them. She also thanked Pilgrim AME Church and the Rosedale Grassroots Organization for providing Christmas gifts and clothing for 21 toddlers at the Tyler House whose parents care incarcerated.

Andrew Hysell thanked Adam Healy for his outstanding service to the Commission through the ABL Committee.

Nick Alberti said that a tape recorder had been ordered to record ANC meetings.

Calvin Ward said thank you to the community for electing him.

9. Final Comments

Sondra Phillips Gilbert said she would like to have a microphone as well as a recorder so people can hear wherever they may sit in the room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.