

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Miner Elementary School  
January 9, 2020**

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair) Phil Toomajian (Vice Chair), Mike Soderman, Ruth Ann Hudson, Brian Alcorn, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert and Stephanie Zimny. Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown was absent.

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

Chairwoman Amber Gove called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

### **Organizational Actions**

1. Commissioner Gove motioned to adopt the Commission Rules. The motion passed 7-0/7.
2. Commissioner Gove motioned and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion to elect officers; Amber Gove as Chair, Phil Toomajian as Vice Chair, Mike Soderman as Secretary and Brian Alcorn as Treasurer. The motion passed 7-0/7.
3. Commissioner Gove motioned and Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion to elect members and leaders of the permanent Committees for 2020:
  - Economic Development and Zoning Committee - Brad Greenfield (Chair), Jake Joyce, Missy Boyette, Nick Alberti, Michael Cushman
  - Transportation and Public Safety Committee - Elizabeth Nelson (Co-Chair), Todd Sloves (Co-Chair), Jeff Fletcher, Marc Brumer, Caitlin Rogger, Maura Dundon, Amanda Morgan, Hassan Christian.
  - Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee- Mark Samburg (Co-Chair), Nick Alberti (Co-Chair), Roger Caruth, Michael Herman, Justin Rzepka.
  - Community Outreach Committee- Roni Hollmon (Chair), Gladys Mack, Stephany Thangavelu, Alan Chargin.The motion passed 7-0/7.
4. Commissioner Gove motioned and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion to adopt a schedule of monthly meetings, on the second Thursday of each month, for 2020 (except August): February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10. The motion passed 7-0/7.
5. Commissioner Gove motioned and Commissioner Alcorn seconded the motion to participate in and to authorize the Treasurer to write a \$25.00 check to participate in the ANC Security Fund. The motion passed 7-0/7.

The minutes for the ANC December 2019 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the December 2019 meeting was adopted by unanimous consent.

### **Community Presentations**

#### **MPD Update**

Captain Pulliam of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) First District (1D) asked for any information regarding a recent shooting between two vehicles on H Street NE. Those with information can call [202-727-9099](tel:202-727-9099). He also reminded the ANC about the DC government Crime Camera rebate program offering up to \$500 for a private residence and up to \$750 for a business toward the purchase and installation of a street-facing security camera. These cameras are helpful for solving a variety of crimes but in particular are useful when tracking down package thieves. Captain Pulliam's number is 202-731-0431.

Captain Pulliam told Commissioner Alcorn that he would follow up regarding a robbery on the 1500 block of East Capitol Street NE.

Sergeant Rice of MPD Fifth District (5D) covers 15th to 19th Streets between C Street and Benning Road NE within ANC6A. He shared 5D's most recent pressing concern has been gun violence. On New Year's Eve, his units recovered 6 illegal firearms as well as an additional 2 guns within the past week. Sgt. Rice mentioned the security camera rebate program as well emphasizing how useful the footage from these cameras can be in solving crimes.

Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert requested that a foot-patrol unit be stationed near the corner of 17th Street and Benning Road NE. Sgt. Rice explained that that area is an overlap between 1 and 5D and can sometimes be challenging to staff and patrol. He shared that there are regular patrols in police cars and that MPD receives approximately 3-5 calls to that area a night meaning there is regular police presence. Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert also pointed out repeated and obvious marijuana use around 16th Street and Benning Road NE. Sgt. Rice responded that drug enforcement is difficult in marked cars and that MPD tends to target dealers instead of users. MPD does have agents patrolling in unmarked vehicles specifically targeting the distribution of illegal drugs.

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny asked Sgt. Rice to comment on the recent increase in gun violence in DC. He explained that MPD has a crime suppression team looking for suspicious activity and that MPD is tracking the sound of gunshots to more accurately record data on gun activity. They also keep tabs on neighborhood and gang related feuds.

Commissioner Gove asked if MPD has a standard action plan for notifying schools and recreation centers of nearby gun violence. Sgt. Rice was not aware of any standard plan other than communication through each school's resource officer. Commissioner Gove also inquired about traffic enforcement stating she has not seen as much enforcement as she feels is necessary. Sgt. Rice explained that around 10% of the officers on each shift are typically assigned just to traffic enforcement.

### **Washington Gas Repairs along Maryland Avenue NE - Apera Nwora, Washington Gas Project Pipes**

Apera Nwora, the Public Affairs Manager of ProjectPipes, spoke to questions and concerns from the community regarding the massive construction project currently taking place along Maryland Avenue NE. This project, which includes simultaneous work done by DDOT, Pepco and Washington Gas, will add new lighting, new bike lanes, improved pedestrian crossing as well as updated infrastructure below street level to Maryland Avenue NE. Washington Gas is taking the opportunity, while other construction is underway, to install new and more reliable piping along the corridor. Ms. Nwora explained that, due to the logistics and timing of three large-scale, overlapping projects, some of the asphalt patches recently laid by Washington Gas are considered temporary as they will be replaced when one of the other phases of construction passes through. She asked that anyone with concerns contact her via the e-mail address [project\\_pipes@washgas.com](mailto:project_pipes@washgas.com) with a detailed description of the situation and photos if possible. She shared that her goal is to respond to these concerns and questions within 24 hours and to have the problem resolved within 3 days if she is able. General information about the Maryland Avenue NE Project can be found by visiting [marylandavesafety.org](http://marylandavesafety.org).

### **Officer Reports**

1. Disbursements totaled \$2,622.81: \$465.89 to Irene Dworakowski (check 1899) for agenda/webmaster services; \$200.00 (check 1900) for the December 2019 Minutes; \$163.77 (check 1901) for FedEx; \$150.00 to the DC Treasurer (check 1902) for Miner Elementary Security 1/2020, \$518.00 (check 1903) to Capitol Community News, \$1,000.00 (check 1904) to Miner Elementary School PTO, \$25.00 (check 1905) for the ANC Security Fund and two checks for ACH Payments totaling \$100.00 and \$0.15 respectively. There is a balance of \$14,637.42 in the checking account. There is a balance of \$13,734.00 after an interest payment of \$.23 in the savings account. The report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Quarterly Financial Report for FY20 Q1 showed the checking account with an ending balance of \$10,879.07 after a receipt of \$18,431.28 for the District Allotment and disbursements totaling \$8,427.70; \$3,496.00 for communication, \$482.30 for office supplies, equipment and printing, \$1000.00 for grants, \$2,193.69 for the purchase of services and \$1,265.71 for other. The savings account has a balance of \$13,734.00. The report was approved by unanimous consent.
3. Commissioner Alcorn motioned and Commissioner Zimny seconded the motion to close ANC6A's existing accounts with Bank of America and transfer all ANC6A to National Capital Bank (316 Pennsylvania Ave SE). Commissioner Alcorn explained that Bank of America is no longer offering cost advantageous banking services. He also shared support for this change from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. The motion passed 7-0.

### **Community Outreach**

1. The December 2019 Committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 27, 2020 (4th Monday)

Roni Hollman announced that the February Community Outreach Committee meeting will be held on the second Monday on the month, February 10, 2020, to accommodate the attendance of Gottlieb Simon, the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to answer questions and offer advice regarding community grants.

### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)**

1. No Report. Committee did not meet in December 2019.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 21, 2020 (3rd Tuesday)

### **Transportation and Public Space (TPS)**

1. The December 2019 Committee Report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson seconded the recommendation that ANC 6A send a letter to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency ([HSEMA](#)) in support of the 2020 Rock N' Roll Marathon assuming the course route and times remain unchanged from last year. Diane Romo-Thomas, Director of Community Relations for The Greater Washington Sports Alliance, confirmed the route is unchanged for the 2020 race. The recommendation passed 7-0/7.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the recommendation that ANC 6A send a letter to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) requesting attention to the eleven items on the priority list. The recommendation passed 7-0/7.
4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 27, 2020 (4th Monday, usually 3rd Monday)

### **Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)**

1. The December 2019 Committee report was approved by unanimous consent.

2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the recommendation that ANC 6A send a letter of opposition to BZA for an application, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, for special exceptions under the residential conversion requirements of Subtitle U § 320.2, under Subtitle C § 1504 from the penthouse setback requirements of Subtitle C § 1502.1, and under Subtitle C § 703.2 from the minimum parking requirements of Subtitle C § 701.5, to permit the construction of a fourth apartment and the installation of new rooftop mechanical equipment, in an existing three-unit apartment house at 653 8th Street NE/ 807 G Street NE (BZA #20190) in the RF-1 Zone, based on the fact that there would be fewer than 900~~250~~ square feet on the lot per unit.

EDZ Committee Member Nick Alberti, speaking on behalf of the Committee, explained that when the BZA is deciding on an application for special exception, they consider whether the project is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the zoning code. This building is in a RF1 zone, which is intended to maintain moderate density such as that in a residential neighborhood. The Committee felt the building would therefore fall below standards set for the RF1 zone given that the addition would lower the lot area per unit to approximately 280 sq. ft., well below the 900 sq. ft. per lot unit required by the zoning code.

The architect for this project, countered that the zoning code, 3012H that the EDZ Committee was referring to was incorrectly listed online and that the standard of 900 sq. ft. per unit does not apply to this location. ~~Instead~~instead this property falls under 11U301.2H ~~which~~ill allows for a special exception. Commissioner Toomajian asked why the architect felt this property was already conforming to the zoning code; the architect explained that the structure was built before 2015 predating this section of zoning code.

Commissioner Toomajian then asked if the owner had collected letters of support from adjacent neighbors. The owner had support from some but not all; most notably absent was a letter of support from the neighbor immediately adjacent. Based on the plans shared by the architect, some Commissioners were concerned that this new construction may dramatically decrease the neighbor's access to sunlight. The project architect assured the Commissioners that the neighbor's windows are set too far back to be shaded by the proposed renovation. Commissioner Toomajian asked if the owner could undergo a more thorough shade study and provide data at the next ANC meeting.

The project architect explained that, due to a delay with the Board of Zoning Authority (BZA), the project hearing will likely be postponed until early March 2020. Due to this extended timeline, Commissioner Toomajian offered a friendly amendment stating ANC6A does not object to the new rooftop mechanical equipment and installation of a railing and that it will reconsider the case at the February 2020 ANC 6A meeting if the BZA case is postponed. The amendment also allowed for the Chair to hold back the letter if necessary. The amended recommendation passed 7-0.

3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the recommendation that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for an application, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9, for a special exception to permit a penthouse not permitted pursuant to C-1500.4 (X-901.2), to permit a penthouse that does not conform with the side building wall and open court setbacks required pursuant to C-1`502.1(c)(1)(A) and C-1502.1(c)(5)(X-901.2) and to permit a guardrail that does not conform with the side

building wall setbacks required pursuant to C1502.1(C)(1)(A)(C-1504.1 and X-901.2) at 906 11th Street NE (BZA #20229). The recommendation passed 7/0.

4. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the recommendation that ANC6A submit changes to the DC Comprehensive Plan to create a development zone around the Arboretum, to update the Comprehensive Plan to address all micro-mobility technologies, including scooters, and the Comprehensive Plan be updated to maximize the use of the RFK stadium site to benefit the community as a whole.

Commissioner Gove shared a recent e-mail from the Capitol Hill Village (CHV) with a number of suggested edits to the Comprehensive Plan. Since ANC submissions are not due until February 14, 2020 and another ANC meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2020, Commissioner Gove recommended tabling this recommendation to give more time for the TPS and EDZ Committees to review the CHV comments and to submit suggested changes to ANC6A. The recommendation was tabled.

5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 15, 2020 (3rd Wednesday)

### **New Business**

1. Commissioner Hudson moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC6A send a letter of support for pedestrian safety measures enacted by MPD Special Operations Division and Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) in the 800-1000 blocks ~~s~~ of East Capitol Street on October 31, 2019 (Halloween). The motion passed 7-0.
2. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert seconded the motion requesting ANC approval of a Public Space Construction Permit ~~application~~ ~~aplicaion~~ #335468 at 800-814 Block of 13<sup>th</sup> Street NE through the 1200-1299 block of Wylie Street NE. The motion passed 7-0.
3. Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert motioned and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC send a letter requesting DDOT install a speed hump on the 1600 block of F Street NE. The motion passed 7-0.

### **Single Member District Reports**

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) noted that DCRA has been identifying illegal construction around his SMD and hanging notices on residents' houses alerting them that they have 60 days to remove said construction.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) shared that DDOT has been responsive in removing and relocating a utility pole that was installed in an egress on 9th and C Streets NE.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) is still working to have crosswalks and streets properly striped and painted by DDOT.

Commissioner Zimny (6A06) reminded residents to look into the camera rebate program through the DC government.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert (6A07) reported that sidewalks on Rosedale Street NE between 16-17th Streets are being redone. The Commissioner also invited her fellow commissioners to join her for Monument Academy's celebration of their charter renewal. She also shared that she will be attending the release of Mayor Bowser's 2020 Accountability Report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.