

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
WebEx Meeting
January 14th, 2021

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Phil Toomajian, Brian Alcorn, Mike Soderman, Sondra Philips-Gilbert, Robb Dooling, Keya Chatterjee, and Laura Gentile.

The meeting convened virtually via WebEx at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Amber Gove called the meeting to order and announced the presence of a quorum.

Community Presentations

Inauguration Public Safety Update - Commander Morgan Kane, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) First District

Commander Morgan Kane presented on the upcoming inauguration which has been declared a National Security Event (NSE) given the Capitol riots on January 6, 2021. MPD, in conjunction with the Secret Service who currently have jurisdiction, have taken significant security precautions and closed several streets in downtown DC, which usually does not happen until the day before the inauguration. Eleven metro stations will close on January 15, 2021 with an additional two closures on January 16, 2021; the Mayor has announced a State of Emergency through January 21, 2021 and thousands of National Guard members have been called upon. Commander Kane noted that MPD is fully activated and all officers have been called back from leave and are on 12-hour shifts. MPD's crime prevention mission remains unchanged and all officers not on civil disturbance units for the inauguration will be patrolling communities. All DC Airbnb reservations and special event permits have been canceled. Citizens are urged to stay attentive to all suspicious activities, specifically to individuals who cannot get into hotels and are staying in their cars in parking garages. Commander Kane urged community members to follow MPD on Twitter and Facebook for updates and also to text 888-777 with code "INAUG 2021" for live updates.

Eastern High School (EHS) - Sah Brown, Principal; Regina McClure, NAF Director, Eastern Academy of Health Sciences; and Elizabeth Braganza, IB Coordinator

Eastern High School Principal Sah Brown shared a snapshot of the school's Term 3 reopening plan which involved three meetings of a team of interested stakeholders and a staff, parent, and student survey. 31% of survey respondents indicated interest in returning to school in-person; DCPS recommended inviting 25% of the student population back for in-person learning. Special groups not thriving in a virtual environment were prioritized - English language learners, students with special needs, students experiencing homelessness, etc. Seniors off-track for graduation and 9th graders off-track for promotion were prioritized as well. For these groups of prioritized students, there are two approaches to in-person learning: "CARE" (canvas, academics, and real engagement), where students are logging in from a classroom under adult supervision, and "Student Support", where students can come in for in-person office hours with teachers or librarians. 196 students out of the 735-student body will be invited back and virtual opportunities still exist for students who prefer this. The 196 are grouped into cohorts of 11 students and each cohort comes in one day a week. The staffing model - 23 WTU teachers and social workers - will be coming back with students and of those 23, 8 volunteered. These 23 staff members should be receiving vaccinations in the next three weeks before this in-person plan begins on February 1, 2021.

Regina McClure and Elizabeth Braganza spoke about special opportunities at EHS, specifically about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs which have been running at Eastern since 2017 and the new Eastern to Pre-IB Diploma Cohort (EPIC) Program. The EPIC Program serves students looking to be challenged and want to be ready to take college-level coursework in 11th and 12th grades. Programming includes special guests from an array of career fields every Tuesday, virtual field trips, and partnerships from nonprofits for hands-on exploration and experimentation. EHS also offers a NAF Academy of Health Sciences during which students take a unique, project-based additional honors medical class relevant to students' career interests. Students are required to do a paid internship with local hospitals, take a professional skills course, and develop their resumes. Finally, EHS offers an accredited EMT Program. There are 155 students in the academy this year, up from 95 last year. Anybody interested in learning more or partnering with these programs, please email [elizabeth.braganza\[at\]k12.dc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.braganza@k12.dc.gov) and [regina.mcclure\[at\]k12.dc.gov](mailto:regina.mcclure@k12.dc.gov).

Organizational Actions

1. Commissioner Phil Toomajian moved and Commissioner Brian Alcorn seconded the motion to adopt the Commission Rules; the motion passed 8-0.
2. Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion to elect officers as follows: Chair Amber Gove, Vice Chair Keya Chatterjee, Secretary Laura Gentile, and Treasurer Brian Alcorn. The motion passed 8-0.
3. Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert seconded the motion to elect members and leaders of the permanent Committees for 2021. *Economic Development and Zoning Committee* - Brad Greenfield (Chair), Jake Joyce, Tim Drake, Nick Alberti, Michael Cushman, Sam DeLuca, Daniel McPhetters. *Transportation and Public Space Committee* - Marc Brumer (Chair), Jeff Fletcher, Caitlin Rogger, Maura Dundon, Hassan Christian, Andrew Burnett, Shaun Lynch. *Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee* - Mark Samburg (Co-Chair), Nick Alberti (Co-Chair). *Community Outreach Committee* - Roni Hollmon (Chair), Gladys Mack, Stephany Thangavelu, Marc Friend, Jason Gresh, Sarah Bell. The motion passed 8-0.
4. Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion to adopt a schedule of monthly meetings, on the second Thursday of each month, for 2021 (except August): February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, September 9, October 14, November 10 (2nd Wednesday), and December 9. The motion passed 8-0.
5. Commissioner Toomajian moved 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 8-0.
6. The minutes for the ANC December 2020 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the January 2021 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports

1. The January 2021 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Alcorn reviewed the 4 expenditures accrued in December: \$200.00 for meeting minutes (check #1955), \$765.89 for webmaster services (check #1956), \$25.00 for the Security Fund (check #1957) and \$15.00 (check TBD) for a trial Zoom account. The opening uncommitted funds available were \$38,153.31 and after these disbursements totaling \$1,005.89 and existing obligations of \$10,385.39 in checks to be deposited, the closing uncommitted funds are \$26,762.03. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent without objection.
2. The 2021 Q1 Quarterly Report was approved by unanimous consent without objection.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach

1. The December 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 25th, 2021 (4th Monday - might be rescheduled to not conflict with TPS meeting)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

1. The December 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Alcorn seconded the motion to table the Committee's recommendation that ANC 6A approve the revised template settlement agreements as reflected in the ABL's December 2020 meeting package . This is not a time sensitive matter and the Committee's proposed changes were not included in the agenda package; this matter will be raised again in a later meeting. The motion to table passed 8-0.
3. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Keya Chatterjee seconded the motion to table the Committee's recommendation that ANC 6A determine whether to remove from template settlement agreements language requiring establishments to ask loiterers to move away from premises and authorize the co-chairs of the ABL to make any corresponding changes required. The Committee's proposed changes were not included in the agenda package; this will be raised again in a later meeting. The motion to table passed 8-0
4. Commissioner Gove bundled the following Committee recommendation with previous recommendations and tabled it by unanimous consent: that ANC 6A authorize the co-chairs of the ABL to make additional non-substantive changes to the template settlement agreements as needed.
5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 26th, 2021 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space

1. The December 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent .
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support for Public Space Permit Application #363655 - Modernization of Goding Elementary School - subject to the following conditions prior to its meeting on January 14, 2021:
 - The design team meet with the FoodPrints lead at School within School (SWS) and the SWS SIT to discuss the public space plans in detail; and
 - The design team strongly consider eliminating the proposed traffic circle in favor of expanding the FoodPrints garden space and/or the natural space available on the site.Commissioner Toomajian proposed an amendment to the letter to include a request for continuance of the public space hearing and the motion as amended passed 8-0.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC6A send a letter of support to DDOT to accompany the Traffic Safety Assessment Request for the 1300 block of North Carolina NE and 1300 block of A Street NE, including the possible consideration of speed humps as a traffic calming option. Residents of this area requested these safety changes due to previous incidents and vehicular damage. The motion passed 8-0.
4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 25th, 2021 (4th Monday; usually 3rd Monday, might be rescheduling to not conflict with COC meeting)

Economic Development and Zoning

1. The December 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent .

Old Business

1. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Alcorn seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception from the minimum vehicle parking requirements of Subtitle C § 701.5 to convert an existing, detached, two-story, carriage house to a principal dwelling unit at 1608 East Capitol Street, NE (BZA Case #20393) in the RF-1 Zone, with the caveats that the applicant make best efforts to get letters of support from 1600, 1606, 1608, 1610 and 1612 East Capitol Street, NE, 1, 3, 5, and 7 16th Street NE, and the dwelling across the alley from 1608 East Capitol Street, NE, that the owner stipulate in the lease that residents are not allowed to park in the alley, that a no parking sign be posted on the building, and that the developer reach an accommodation with the neighbor on the window that is in the stairwell looking onto the property at 1608 East Capitol. No letters from neighbors have been received yet and the BZA hearing is on March 3, 2021. The motion failed with a 0-8 vote. Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion to table this motion until the February 2021 ANC 6A meeting. The motion to table passed 8-0.

New Business

2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Mike Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to HPO for historic review of a new two-story accessory structure/garage with a green roof at 229 8th Street, NE (HPA 21- 091), with the caveats that the owner make best efforts to get letters of support from the immediate neighbors, and that the project be revised to remove the parapet wall. Two letters of neighborly support were received. The motion passed 8-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, January 20th, 2021 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

1. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Alcorn seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to Mr. Clifford Dixon, Permit Expeditor regarding permits for excavation (EX1900033), foundation (FD1900021) and building (B1905590) that would allow work by the Eliot-Hine Middle School construction team from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm on the following holidays in 2021 to ensure the ability to meet the construction schedule:
 - January 18, 2021: MLK Day
 - February 15, 2021: Presidents' Day
 - April 16, 2021: DC Emancipation DayCommissioner Alcorn requested that the letter also include a request to ensure the construction crews be cognizant of resident parking during construction. The motion passed 8-0.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the establishment of the ANC 6A Ad Hoc By Laws Review Committee and the appointment of Laura Gentile, Chair; Members: Marie Claire Brown (SMD01), Kris Garrity (SMD01), Mike Soderman (ANC03), Nick Alberti (SMD04), Kathryn Griffith (SMD05), Madeline Gitomer (SMD06), Marc Friend (SMD07), Mark Samburg (SMD07), David Holmes (SMD03), and Veronica Hollmon (SMD08) to the Committee. The motion passed 8-0.
3. Commissioner Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A sign a letter to Mayor Bowser encouraging an appointee to the Public Service Commission who supports consumer protection, solar energy and climate action. There is a DC block with several weeks of unaddressed gas outages and coupled with a proposed detrimental rate increase by Pepco; this directly affects community members. The letter is written by a 6A01 resident who owns a solar company. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Commissioner Philips-Gilbert abstaining.

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert (6A07) was recently interviewed by NBC's Cory Smith about ANC 6A and community concerns. On December 23, 2020, the Rosedale holiday food basket giveaway served 92 families and the Commissioner thanked sponsors and participating community members.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) has been in contact with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) regarding an uptick of violent crime in the community and urges community members to be vigilant.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) submitted Traffic Safety Assessments (TSAs) for 14th and C Streets NE and the 300 - 500 blocks of 13th Street NE. She has also received concerns about a house on 15th Street that appears to be vacant and is working on responding to the notices of vermin and trash.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) noted that several people with Nazi and Confederate memorabilia were seen staying in Airbnbs and other locations in her SMD and has been working with Airbnb to make sure all reservations in this area are canceled. The Commissioner is working on the gas outages on 13th Street NE and has received many concerns about safety on H Street. She noted that there have been 2 accidents on 9th Street and Florida Avenue NE. Finally, she reported that there are trash dumping issues leading to tension between neighbors, specifically on 9th and 10th Streets NE and working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) for clarity.

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) noted a large influx of coach buses used by the military around the D.C. Armory and, in response to constituent requests, is looking into clarifying anti-idling and parking rules.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) helped set up a Google group for ANC 6A and encourages community members to join or reach out to him with any related questions. He submitted a request for a Stop sign on 14th and G Streets NE and is working on submitting another TSA for E Street and Tennessee Avenue NE, where there was a crash in November after DDOT rejected a Stop sign application. There have been three accidents on H Street NE and Commissioner Dooling is putting together a letter to DDOT from community members and local small businesses asking for specific safety measures.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) has heard and shares tremendous concern about the Capitol riots and ongoing concern about the Inauguration. He expressed gratitude for Commissioner Chatterjee for tackling the Airbnb cancellations and to Commissioner Dooling for creating the ANC6A Google group. He noted that the H Street Safety Project is ongoing and slow progress is being made.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) thanked outgoing officers for their service and provided an update on the Eliot-Hine Middle School grant, noting that the food pantry is already bearing fruit and has supported the Rosedale community. Eliot-Hine PTO has raised nearly \$7,000. Finally, there is a new crosswalk going in at 13th Street and North Carolina Avenue NE.

Community Comments

Naomi Mitchell, Councilmember Charles Allen's Community Outreach Coordinator, echoed concerns and anxiety about the Capitol riots and commended Councilmember Allen for participating in the initiative of canceling and barring Airbnb reservations in the area. Police and Secret Service are carefully scrutinizing any surrounding hotel reservations. Ms. Mitchell encouraged community members to reach out to the Councilmember's office with any questions and to utilize the anonymous tip line 50411 to leave a message. Finally, newly elected Councilmembers and ANC Commissioners were sworn in January 2, 2021. As usual, Councilmember Allen plans to visit each of the Ward 6 ANC meetings in the coming months and will be scheduling one-on-one time with Commissioners.

MOCRS Ward 6 representative Isamar Vaquero gave an update on vaccine appointments that occurred at the beginning of the week; all 6,700 appointments have been filled and residents are encouraged to sign up on www.vaccinate.dc.gov to receive notifications that more appointments/vaccinations are available. DC has called on upon Operation Warp Speed to receive more vaccines. In regard to the Inauguration - Mayor Bowser is asking all residents to stay home and the state of emergency has been extended through January 2021. Residents can sign up for inauguration updates by texting "INAUG2021" to 888-777. On January 15, 2021 at 6:00 am, parking garages in restricted zones will be blocked off and any vehicles in these zones after 6:00 am will have to remain there until after the inauguration. Businesses in restricted zones that need to receive deliveries must go through forthcoming offsite screening processes; proof of essential work will need to be provided to enter restricted zones. Finally, ANC commissioners are asked to join the Mayor's office for a 4:30 pm call on January 15, 2021 about emergency preparedness situational awareness.

COC Committee Member Marc Friend is hoping for updates on the H Street restroom initiative, encourages COC Facebook page usage, supports ANC6A meetings moving to Zoom, and urges MPD to wear masks when they patrol communities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.