

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
February 10, 2022**

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

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

Commissioner Amber Gove called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC January 2022 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the February 2022 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Community Presentations:**

**Ward 6 Redistricting Task Force process and timeline - Ivan Frishberg, Chair and Gottlieb Simon and Brian Pate, members**

Ivan Frishberg, Chair of the Ward 6 Redistricting Task Force and former ANC6B Commissioner, reviewed the redistricting process, noting the growth within Ward 6. Equal representation remains a top priority, as well as an average SMD size of 1,900-2,100 members. The Task Force must deliver recommendations to Councilmember Charles Allen, who in turn delivers the recommendations to the DC Redistricting Committee after which they get voted on by the full Council. The Task Force will accept public comment on recommendations and are trying to keep changes to a minimum. Task Force members Gottlieb Simon and Brian Pate asked for any public input on issues that might come up during the redistricting process and noted that half of the SMDs in 6A are the right size while half are over, mainly 6A01, 6A03, 6A04 and 6A05, whose boundaries will be negotiated. Mr. Simon requested specific input on whether Lincoln Park should be split between two SMDs in ANC A and ANC B; ANC 6A Commissioner feedback was mixed. Commissioner Keya Chatterjee requested that, to minimize logistical and operational difficulties, no more than two ANCs exist in areas of future projects such as H Street. Commissioner Brian Alcorn continued to wonder about the viability of a cross-ANC between Wards 6 and 7, which Councilmember Allen is open to based on practicality and community interest. Community members can find more information at [charlesallenward6.com/2022\\_ward\\_6\\_anc](http://charlesallenward6.com/2022_ward_6_anc) or can send an email to [ward6redistrictingtaskforce\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ward6redistrictingtaskforce[at]gmail.com).

**Ward 7 Redistricting Task Force process and timeline - Tamara Blair, Co-Chair and Brian Alcorn, member**

Tamara Blair, Co-Chair of the Ward 7 Redistricting Task Force, mentioned that the Task Force will hold three listening sessions with the community to be able to review submitted maps; February 16 is next with a focus on ANC 7B and ANC 7F, and the next tentatively scheduled the week of February 27. After these, there will be two Task Force-specific meetings in which the Task Force will review all input and maps. The Task Force consists of 19 members, most of whom are not past or present ANC Officers but rather interested community members. Ms. Blair anticipates that several SMD boundaries will change on both sides of the river as many of them are either below or above the target 2,000 members. Community member Necothia Bowens Robinson was disappointed to not have received any communication about the formation of the Task Force, though it did go out, and is looking forward to continued community engagement, especially in-person as several residents do not have internet access.

Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert was not selected to be on the Task Force and hopes the Task Force moves forward with transparency and fairness. The Community can reach Ms. Blair at 7F07[at]anc.dc.gov.

### **Consent Agenda**

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

#### **Community Outreach Committee (COC)**

- ANC6A approve a grant of \$1,500.00 dollars to Eastern High School for exercise equipment.

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

- ANC 6A protest the application of The McKenzie Group, LLC t/a Ocean Lounge, at 1220 H St. NE (ABRA #114106) for a Class C Tavern License unless a Settlement Agreement is finalized prior to the protest deadline and that the Co-Chairs of the Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee as well as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ANC be authorized to represent the ANC in this matter.

#### **Transportation and Public Space**

- ANC 6A send a letter to the DC Department of Transportation in support of traffic calming at the intersection of 13th and D Streets NE and in the 1300 block of D Street NE.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support for the March 26, 2022 Rock and Roll Half Marathon and 5K and request that race organizers improve communication and clean-up and communicate an 'open streets' time period following the race for use by residents walking and biking.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support for DC Council to approve the MetroforDC Amendment Act of 2021 (B24-0429) and authorize the ANC Chair, Vice Chair or TPS Chair to testify before the DC Council on behalf of the ANC.

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

- ANC 6A support the request for special exception zoning relief under Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 902.1 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1, and special exception zoning relief under Subtitle E § 5201, Subtitle E § 205.5, and Subtitle X § 902.1 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4 to construct a rear deck to an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 905 L Street NE (BZA #20606).

### **Officer Reports:**

1. The February 2022 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Alcorn reviewed the 3 expenditures accrued in January: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Pro/Webinar, (Checks #2005, #2006, #2007, respectively). The ANC had \$1,007.47 in uncashed checks (Checks #1996, #1999, #2002, #2003, #2004) and \$250 in cashed checks. The opening uncommitted funds available were \$29,012.48 and after these disbursements totaling \$1,074.18 and cashed and uncashed checks, the closing available checking balance is \$26,680.83. \$1,500 will be deducted from this amount for the approved grant to Eastern High School. 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. Commissioner Gove requested that the Commission review the FY22 budget at its February 2022 meeting to see whether there could be more money for grants since the Commission can meet virtually at least until September 2022. Commissioner Alcorn will also be inquiring about what happens to the budget if some funds must be allocated to a new

ANC. Commissioner Laura Gentile requested that a small sum of money be allocated for website updates.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Community Outreach**

1. The January 2022 committee report was approved by unanimous consent .
2. Ms. Roni Hollmon provided insight to the approved grant to Eastern High School, which is for exercise equipment for the gym.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 28, 2022 (4th Monday)

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The January 2022 committee report was approved by unanimous consent .
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A write a letter of support for the Stipulated License application of The McKenzie Group, LLC t/a Ocean Lounge in the event that a Settlement Agreement is finalized prior to the protest deadline. Ocean Lounge did not have a prior settlement agreement and there was a police fact-finding hearing about an issue near Ocean Lounge right after the ABL meeting. Commissioner Chatterjee noted that it has been a very difficult time for small businesses and many of the programs created to help them expire within one year, and it has been two years of the pandemic. Pamela McKenzie from Ocean Lounge spoke about the incident at the center of the fact-finding hearing, which was a shooting on the street Ocean Lounge is located on, but not directly related to Ocean Lounge. Ocean Lounge did not have outdoor cameras at the time of the incident due to previous vandalism but has since installed new ones, both inside and outside. Ms. McKenzie is committed to fast trash removal, noise reduction, and other measures to positively impact the community. The motion passed 5-1-1; Commissioner Alcorn opposed and Commissioner Mike Soderman abstained.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 22, 2022 (4th Tuesday)

#### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The January 2022 committee report was approved by unanimous consent .
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of an installation of a speed camera in 1300 block of H Street NE, as well as other prior ANC 6A requests for speed cameras. The Commission narrowed down the list to include the 1300 block of H Street NE for westbound drivers, 1300 block of C Street NE, the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> blocks of East Capitol Street NE, 200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE, the 800 and 900 blocks of Maryland Avenue NE, and the 800 block of Massachusetts Avenue NE. The motion passed 7-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 24, 2022 (4th Thursday; usually 3rd Monday)

#### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. The January 2022 committee report was approved by unanimous consent .
2. Verbal Report - Joint ANC 6A/B/C Planning And Zoning Committee Meeting With Office Of The Attorney General (OAG) Land Use Section. ANC6A/B/C held a meeting on January 26, 2022 with the Office of Attorney General's Land Use Unit, which recently changed its mission and will provide training to ANCs on the IZ Plus Program as well as advice and consultation on land use needs.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, February 16, 2022 (3rd Wednesday)

#### **Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) is pleased to serve on the Ward 7 Redistricting Task Force and urges community members to participate in upcoming discussions. Commissioner Alcorn reminded the residents of the 300 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE that they have the opportunity for free replacement of their DC Water service line. DDOT's public space administration team swiftly responded to a question about permit status of construction on the 1600 block of East Capitol Street. The Commissioner has an email distribution list; interested residents can reach out to [6A08\[at\]anc.dc.gov](mailto:6A08[at]anc.dc.gov) to be added to the list.

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert (6A07) attended the Ward 7 redistricting committee meeting. There is still a lot of discussion about the homeless encampment at 18<sup>th</sup> and D Streets; the Commissioner sent pictures to MOCR Kevin Pham last week remarking that it looks more like storage than a homeless encampment. The Commissioner believes there need to be further policy guidelines on what is considered to be a homeless encampment as many community members are complaining.

Commissioner Robb Dooling (6A06) had a fantastic DDOT walk with Will Handsfield and several neighbors along the 1400 block of Maryland Avenue NE ; older and disabled residents were able to apply for handicap accessible parking permits from DDOT as well as note necessary signage changes. The Commissioner also spoke about the potential of a future bike lane to the Arboretum and how this would tie into the DDOT Bladensburg Road project. After a recent meeting about H Street safety, Councilmember Allen agreed to participate in a walk on Monday, February 28, 2022 which all community members are invited to. The Commissioner has an email distribution list; interested residents can reach out to [robb.dooling\[at\]anc.dc.gov](mailto:robb.dooling[at]anc.dc.gov) to be added.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) reported a group of neighbors trying to revitalize Friends of Kingman Dog Park group, whose goal is to improve the park and dissuade dog owners from unleashing their dogs on the fields. On March 9, 2022, the Commissioner will be joining Commissioner Allen for a Kingman Park site visit to see what improvements can be made. The Commissioner noted speeding at 15<sup>th</sup> and C and D Streets, and, like several other Commissioners, has a community email distribution list; interested residents can reach her at [6a05\[at\]anc.dc.gov](mailto:6a05[at]anc.dc.gov) to be added.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) collaborated with Commissioner Gentile on testimony submitted to the DC Committee for Youth, Parks and Recreation, which entailed requests for maintenance and improvements at Kingman Dog Park. The Commissioner encourages residents to submit 311 requests, noting that an alley between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Place and C Street and North Carolina Avenue NE is finally on the paving schedule. The Commissioner has been participating on the school parking zone committee, and will be at Maury Elementary School for community cleanup on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) participated in a community walk with Councilmember Allen, the Mayor's MOCR, DPW, and the DDOT MOCR on the 200 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and had success in getting a smaller garbage truck to service the alley. They also noted an apartment building with an inadequate number of trash and recycling receptacles.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) reported a lot of gas outages and thanks Jen DeMayo and Councilmember Allen for dealing with this. The outages happen for weeks at a time and happened last winter for months at a time. The Commissioner is planning to testify at the Public Service Commission oversight hearing on the need to provide funding for people to

electrify their homes for stable heating and cooking. The Commissioner is grateful to the Commission for weighing in on the Havana building; the situation has not improved; there were 149 MPD calls over a 12-month period to this location. Both DPW and DCRA have fined the building.

### **Community Comments**

Jasmine Coilton, the new MOCR for ANC 6A, 6B, and 6C, introduced herself and will be assisting with traffic concerns, the homeless encampments, and the Havana.

Jen DeMayo of Councilmember Allen's office noted that the office is in oversight hearings and a budget for 2023 will soon follow. The Councilmember is participating in a walk along H Street the morning of February 28, 2022; if residents have individual concerns about hot spots, they can reach out to [jdemayo\[at\]dccouncil.us](mailto:jdemayo@dccouncil.us).

Community member Alison Schwartz is a Maury parent who noted that DCPS school budgets have been released and she has great concerns about the budget since Maury comes in at the very bottom with the least per pupil spending of all elementary schools in the city. Maury is expected to increase its student population and four third grade classrooms will have to combine into three due to lack of funding for teacher salaries. Ms. Schwartz would like the ANC to support the community request to increase funding.

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert shared a Black History Month moment. The book and documentary, "Storming Caesar's Palace" is a story that features the Commissioner's mother about a group of women that marched on the Las Vegas, Nevada strip in protest of poverty. The documentary is streaming in February.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.