

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Miner Elementary School
March 14, 2019**

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

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

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

The minutes for the ANC February 2019 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the March 2019 meeting was accepted without changes or objection.

Community Presentations

Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember

Councilmember Charles Allen addressed the ANC, made announcements and provided updates regarding the activities of the Council and his office. He was re-appointed as Chair of the Council's Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and is currently Vice-Chair of the Transportation Planning Board, a regional transportation network, after serving as Chair of that body last year. The Council has finished their series of oversight hearings for each agency of the District government. He announced that Mayor Bowser will release her proposed budget in the following week and encouraged residents to participate in subsequent budgetary hearings or contact his office to provide community feedback. The Ward 6 Budget Town Hall is currently in planning stages and expected to occur around the third week of April 2019 which will provide an open forum for residents to discuss budget priorities.

He spoke about newly confirmed District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Chancellor Lewis Ferebee and mentioned that one of the first items the Chancellor wants to pursue is the creation of a technology equity plan. There is no roll-out plan or budget for this at this time but Councilmember Allen stated that this is a priority for the Chancellor as he explores new investment strategies to address inequitable access to technology in our public schools.

Councilmember Allen will introduce the Public School Transparency Act to address the issue of a lack of data, or poor data, about how tax dollars are being spent in schools.

He went on to discuss Vision Zero, the safety initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities; and holding those accountable whose work is to ensure pedestrian safety. There has been an increase in pedestrian deaths in the District; he is optimistic that the new budget will increase investment in Vision Zero.

Councilmember Allen spoke of the middle school modernization effort; Jefferson Middle School in SW and Eliot-Hine Middle School are now under construction after previously being behind schedule. He mentioned the new playgrounds that are slated for Miner Elementary School, and Tyler Elementary School in SE this summer and is confident that these projects will be completed on time.

The Commissioners asked questions relating to traffic safety and the need for greater enforcement of traffic laws by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), concerns over

traffic issues on H Street NE and how to put pressure on District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to address unsafe intersections.

Councilmember Allen noted that there can be tension between enforcing traffic laws in terms of safety and doing so without bias ; while overall traffic “stops” have been reduced, he does want to see greater enforcement when it comes to vehicles in bike lanes and crosswalks or vehicles speeding through neighborhoods.

He went on to say that he believes that the metrics that DDOT uses to evaluate intersections and potential changes is flawed, for example, “near miss” data is not collected. He said he would like to start from a position of safety and have all intersections begin as all-way stops, and have DDOT justify why they should not be; currently, it is the opposite, with community members and ANCs having to make the case for all-way stops.

Councilmember Allen announced that he is advocating for a “Crosswalk-palooza” to address missing, deteriorated crosswalks and bike lanes across the neighborhood, the lack of which place pedestrians at risk. He said to look out for a call for volunteers should DDOT not address the missing crosswalks.

He answered questions from the community members regarding alley clean ups, the potential for crosswalk technology innovations, issues with ride-share systems such as Waze sending outside traffic through the community and enforcement of traffic laws for commercial trucks.

Officer Reports

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny presented the Treasurer’s Report for February 2019. There were disbursements totaling \$2,175.50: \$450.00 to Irene Dworakowski (Check 1854) for agenda/web master services; \$200.00 (Check 1862) for the February 2019 minutes; \$159.50 (Check 1861) for FedEx printing; \$1,000.00 (Check 1863) for the Ludlow Taylor Grant, leaving a balance of \$1,166.05 in the checking account. There is a balance of \$13,794.65, including a \$0.22 interest deposit, in the savings account. The February 2019 report was approved by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Zimny also presented the FY19 First (1st) Quarter Financial Report. There were disbursements totaling \$2,129.50, and an ending balance of \$4,577.55 in the checking account. The FY19 1st Quarter report was approved by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach Committee (COC)

1. The February 2019 was accepted by unanimous consent.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 28, 2019 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

1. No report. The Committee did not meet in February 2019.
2. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert moved and Commissioner Phil Toomajian seconded the motion to appoint Mark Samburg as co-chair of the ABL Committee. The motion passed 8-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 19, 2019 (3rd Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The February 2019 report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson seconded the motion to send a letter of support to the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) for the 2019 Capitol Hill Classic race (May 19), which benefits the Capitol Hill Cluster Schools. The motion passed 8-0.
3. The Committee moved and Commissioner Mike Soderman seconded the motion to send a letter to DDOT identifying high-priority areas with traffic/pedestrian safety issues, as follows:
 - a. 0-400 blocks of 15th Street NE
 - b. Intersection of East Capitol Street, Massachusetts Avenue and 11th Street NE
 - c. 0-400 blocks of 17th Street NE
 - d. 0-400 blocks of 10th Street NE
 - e. Intersection of 10th and East Capitol Streets NE
 - f. 19th Street and Constitution Avenue NE
 - g. 8th and D Streets NE
 - h. 8th and G Streets NE
 - i. 8th and F Streets NE
 - j. 100-400 blocks of Tennessee Avenue NE
 - k. 14th and G Streets NE

The motion passed 8-0.

4. The Committee moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion to send a request to the DDOT to establish a Daytime School Parking Zone for Maury Elementary School with boundaries identical to the Maury Elementary School boundary zone; hours of operation from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; permits provided only to District Government employees working at the Maury site. The request would be conditional on approval of the variance request by DCPS/DGS to reduce on-site parking below the minimum 21 spaces required by zoning regulations, commitment by DCPS/DGS to convert a portion of the planned parking lot to play space and conversion of the west side of the 200 block of Twelfth (12th) Place NE to Resident Only Parking.

The Commissioners discussed various aspects of this motion. TPS Committee Chair Elizabeth Nelson provided background and data to explain how the Committee came to the recommendation, including that there are approximately 30 cars in the current lot on average; the conversion of a portion of parking to green space would only take away about 8 spaces and the benefit to students is significant. Data surveys revealed that there are more than enough open parking spaces throughout the Maury enrollment boundary during the daytime to accommodate this proposed solution. Commissioner Phil Toomajian asked if using the Maury boundary is perhaps too expansive since employees would be unlikely to park 10 blocks away from the school. He asked if it would make more sense to make the boundary smaller. Ms. Nelson stated that this was considered but the Committee did not think it was fair to disadvantage residents that live closest to the school. She also pointed out that the maximum number of school employees that would utilize the school parking zone is only about 30 so the impact overall is relatively insignificant. Principal Helena Payne Chauvenet was in attendance, and stated that most staff do drive, and most arrive between 7:30 am - 8:00 am, and most depart around 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

It was noted that creating a tighter boundary may cause confusion and create enforcement issues. Commissioner Soderman stated that other blocks nearest to the school may also need a similar accommodation to Twelfth (12th) Place NE but can evaluate the need on a case by case basis. Ms. Nelson also confirmed that eligible Maury staff would receive distinct parking permits; what they would specifically look like is yet to be determined.

The motion passed 8-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 18, 2019 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. No report. The Committee did not meet in February 2019.

Old Business

2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion to send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception under the inclusionary zoning lot dimension requirements of Subtitle E § 201.1, to subdivide the existing lot and construct three (3) new, attached flats in the RF-1 Zone at 1511 - 1515 A Street NE (BZA #19913), on the conditions that the developer make best efforts to obtain letters of support from neighbors at 1507, 1509, and 1515 A Street NE, revise the final design to include consistent massing with design of the cornices, that the developer conduct a shadow study and that the current owner withdraws the appeal currently pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings related to prior zoning of the property.

The Commissioners voiced concerns that while the owner has now satisfied all conditions of the EDZ, there is no guarantee that the current design plan will be the one that ultimately is executed. Commissioner Brian Alcorn noted that community support is contingent on the current design plan. It was decided that the letter needed to contain stronger language that conveys the sentiment of the ANC regarding the plans for the property. Commissioner Soderman suggested the ANC specifically include a statement in the letter that support is contingent on the current plan before the ANC, dated September 29, 2018. Commissioner Alcorn also suggested the inclusion that no further zoning relief would be supported for this project, in addition to locking in a minimum number of parking spaces (the developer has promised 7, the minimum needed for support is 6).

Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded an amendment to the motion to edit the current letter to include specific contingencies as discussed (commitment to current design plans, no further zoning relief, height maximums, parking, etc.) for ANC support.

The amendment to the motion passed 8-0.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 20, 2019 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

1. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert moved and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion to send a letter of support to MADDOX ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS INC for their permit application #324283 to extend eight driveways through public space to allow access to the alley in lots located in rear of 410-417 Seventeenth (17th) Street NE.

The developer was present and distributed a driveway entrance/public space plan. The project is on Seventeenth (17th) Street NE between D Street NE and C Street NE and described the project: the first phase of the project is complete - of the proposed total 26 units, 18 three-story units with solar power that are street-facing have been completed. The second phase of the projects comprises of 8 townhouse units behind the first phase; unlike the other units, these are alley lots which is why the second phase was referred to DDOT's Public Space Committee for entrance permits due to the unique circumstance. Instead of paving the entire alley, the developer would like to construct driveways through public space to connect to the alley.

Commissioner Soderman asked why this issue was not first going through the Transportation and Public Space (TPS) Committee of the ANC. The developer stated that they are slated to go before the Public Space Committee on March 28, 2019, so timing is an issue.

Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Brown seconded an amendment to the motion that the applicant join ANC6A to request a continuance from the Public Space Committee until at least April 12, 2019 to give the developer time to go before the TPS Committee so it can be properly discussed.

The amendment to the motion passed 8-0.

Single Member District Reports

Commissioner Mike Soderman (6A03) announced that Watkins Elementary School will be doing their annual "I Have a Dream" speech activity at the Lincoln Memorial at 1:00 pm on March 15, 2019, a tradition that the school has had for over 18 years.

Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown (6A01) reported that two additional suspects were arrested in the shooting that occurred on January 27, 2019 inside the Quara Restaurant on H Street NE.

Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert (6A07) testified at a Department of General Services (DGS) hearing on the urban farming process on February 28, 2019. She reported that on March 4, 2019, the Washington City Paper wrote an article on the DGS urban farming selection of proposals from Ward 6 (Apogee Farms) and Ward 4. She announced that Amazing Love Health Services will publish an article in April 2019 on the urban farming project in the Rosedale community and its positive impact on the community's most vulnerable residents. She also met with the Office of the Attorney General and the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) 5th District to discuss safety and security concerns of residents.

Since ANC6A must vacate Miner Elementary School promptly at 9:00 pm, the remaining commissioners ceded their time for single member district reporting and the ANC was unable to take community comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.