

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Zoom Meeting
March 11, 2021**

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

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

Commissioner Amber Gove called the meeting to order and announced the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC February 2021 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the March 2021 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

Community Presentations:

Andrew DeFrank, District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Community Engagement Specialist

DDOT Community Engagement Specialist Andrew DeFrank presented on a selection of DDOT's services and noted several 2020 accomplishments, including 131+ miles of paved roadway, a default set speed limit of 20 mph, the beginning of a new Ward 7 Circulator route and 6 miles of expanded bike infrastructure. Everett Lott took over as DDOT Director in 2020 after the previous director took a job in the Biden administration and is excited to continue progress in 2021. DDOT's response to Covid-19 included car-free lanes to improve bus travel times and reliability and the introduction of SlowStreets and Streateries. Current Ward 6 Projects include two categories of projects - Capital projects and Protected bike lane projects - the former being more intensive than the latter. Mr. DeFrank reviewed DDOT resources, programs and protocols including:

- moveDC; <https://movedc-dcgis.hub.arcgis.com> (moveDC, the city's long-range transportation plan). MoveDC's last update was in 2014 and DDOT is now looking for resident input on transportation priorities.
- DC311: www.311.dc.gov (for submitting service requests)
- a timeline for DDOT services
- the Pave DC website:
<https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=76784c82ddcb4fb798769138f27c0ed3> (for road, sidewalk, alley, and markings planned work - the "Paving Plan")
- the Traffic Safety Assessment process: <https://ddot.dc.gov/service/traffic-safety-assessment> (for directions around the TSA process). DDOT's preference is one block at a time for Traffic Assessment requests.

The goal for speed camera installation on the 13th block of H Street NE and curb extensions on several blocks of H Street NE is the end of March 2021. Mr. DeFrank will be contacting Commissioner Keya Chatterjee about DDOT's rationale in removing several points about protected bike lanes and bus lanes included in the initial moveDC recommendations from the recently updated version. Commissioner Gove requested continued alerting of paving as these are opportunities for other neighborhood roadwork. For further questions Mr. DeFrank can be reached at 202.603.4550 and [Andrew.defrank\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:Andrew.defrank[at]dc.gov).

Officer Reports:

1. The March 2021 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the 3 expenditures accrued in February: \$200.00 for meeting minutes (check #1962), \$765.89 for webmaster services (check #1963), and \$42.40 for a Zoom Meetings trial submission (check #1964). Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Phil Toomajian seconded the motion to add a disbursement of \$15.89 for a reimbursement to Commissioner Robb Dooling for a Zoom Meetings Pro subscription for additional Zoom features for 2/14-3/13. The motion passed 8-0. Commissioners Alcorn and Dooling will be communicating about upcoming monthly payments. Existing obligations total \$4,736.00 and include \$2,736.00 in issued checks not deposited (checks #1920, #1922, #1957, #1959, and #1961) and \$2,000.00 for November 2020's Ludlow-Taylor Grant (check #1965). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$29,336.14 and after these disbursements totaling \$1,024.18 and existing obligations of \$4,736.00, the closing uncommitted funds are \$23,575.96. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Alcorn provided a FY 2021 Budget Check-In, noting that the 2021 government fiscal year began on October 1, 2020 and ANC 6A made a budget on the same day. OANC had notified ANC6A in August 2020 that ANC6A would be eligible to receive up to \$21,782.24 funding for FY2021 and ANC 6A authorized a budget of \$23,941.08, equaling 109% of the expected 2021 allotment. As it was clear that in-person meetings would not be happening in the beginning of 2021, several line items, such as printing charges and security guard payments, were removed from the budget. To date, ANC 6A has not received any allotments from OANC, and while there is no reason to believe the Commission will not receive these funds, the ANC is currently spending out of its capital funds. Commissioner Alcorn cautioned that it is beneficial to have capital funds set aside and that it is unclear what future meeting expenditures the Commission will need, such as extra webinar features or translation services. At this point halfway through the fiscal year, ANC 6A has spent 64% of its nearly \$24,000.00 budget, which would leave the Commission with roughly \$15,000 at the end of September. At a rate of \$1,975.00 per meeting, this would allow for seven months of meetings without receiving the OANC allotment. Commissioner Alcorn noted that ANC 6A included a higher than usual budget of \$5,000.00 for grants in FY 2021 which have been fully committed to Eliot-Hine PTO and Ludlow-Taylor, and there is no more budget for grants as the budget currently stands. As no OANC allotments have been received this fiscal year. The Commission will be taking a closer look at the budget again in June 2021 and hopes to have more knowledge on in-person meetings and 2022 budget allocations.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach

1. The February 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 22nd, 2021 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

1. The January 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to ANC 6A ABRA licensees via mail to physical addresses and/or e-mail regarding recent amendments to ANC 6A's template settlement agreements as well as ANC 6A's intent to cease enforcement of anti-loitering provisions in existing settlement agreements, and further authorize expenditure up to \$150.00 for the costs of paper, printing, and postage. Committee Co-Chair Mark Samberg offered a friendly amendment

of making best efforts to minimize costs through physically delivering and emailing these letters and the motion passed as amended 8-0.

3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 23, 2021 (4th Tuesday).

Transportation and Public Space

1. The February 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that TPS 6A and 6C Committees recommend to their respective ANCs that ANC 6A and 6C send a joint letter to DDOT requesting a comprehensive review of safety and traffic concerns on H Street NE from North Capitol to 15th Street NE. The Commissions have received valuable and informative input from H Street businesses and Mr. Chaffin. The motion passed 8-0.
3. Commissioner Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A co-sign a letter with ANC 6C to Mayor Bowser, the DC Council, DDOT, and DCOP regarding solutions for H Street NE. This will be the start of a long and slow process and ANC 6A is welcoming community input at any time.
4. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A designate ANC 6A Chair Amber Gove, or another Commissioner authorized by the Chair, to provide testimony on behalf of ANC 6A at the March 23, 2021 DC Council roundtable "Transportation in the District After the Pandemic". Commissioner Gove will circulate the testimony to the Commission for input; the testimony will focus on Build Back Better opportunities and how we can support transportation for all residents to get to their areas of employment. Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert noted that Commissioners should be testifying on behalf of their SMDs rather than on behalf of ANC 6A to avoid any misrepresentation. Commissioner Chatterjee offered a friendly amendment of authorizing Commissioner Gove to provide testimony given that the rest of the Commissioners have opportunity to review and approve the testimony in question. The motion passed as amended 6-1-1 with Commissioner Philips-Gilbert opposed and Commissioner Gove abstaining.
5. Commissioner Mike Soderman moved and Commissioner Phil Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting an extension on the review date for Public Space Permit Application #361713 for 424 11th Street NE, replacement of retaining wall, until after the April 8, 2021 ANC meeting, to provide adequate time for public notice and review. TPS does not meet until March 15, 2021 and DDOT's deadline for recommendation is April 8, 2021. The motion passed 8-0.
6. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 15th, 2021 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning

1. The February 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to BZA opposing the Application for a special exception pursuant to subtitles E § 205.5, 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4, to construct a two-story with basement addition to an existing, nonconforming, two-story with basement, principal dwelling unit at 1637 D Street, NE (BZA Case #20414) in the RF-1 Zone. The motion failed 3-4-1; Commissioners Soderman, Alcorn, Gentile, and Philips-Gilbert opposed and Commissioner Gove abstained.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of conditional support to BZA for a special exception for constructing a second dwelling unit at 135 13th Street, NE (BZA Case #20471) in the RF-1 Zone with the

caveat that the owners make best efforts to get a letter of support from 1326 North Carolina Avenue NE. The motion passed 8-0.

4. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of conditional support to BZA for a special exception under the new building development requirements of Subtitle H § 910.1 and an Area Variance from the loading berth requirements of Subtitle C § 901.1 to permit the construction of a new mixed-use residential building at 1101 H Street, NE (BZA Case #20455) in the NC-17 zone with the caveat that the trash management and traffic management plan be provided before the March 2021 ANC 6A meeting, the trash management plan is responsive to the neighborhood's concerns, that there be Resident Parking Permit (RPP) restrictions added to the condo bylaws and sales documents and that the plans include 39 indoor bike parking spaces and the 8 outdoor bike parking spaces. Commissioner Chatterjee noted that the building is meeting only minimal Inclusionary Zoning requirements for affordable housing and a majority of the units are at 80% median income with only one unit at 50% median income. The developer is not in a position to offer further IZ units and this is unrelated to the sought-after special exception. The conditions laid out by the EDZ have been addressed by the applicants and the letter will be updated to reflect this. The motion passed 6-2; Commissioners Chatterjee and Dooling opposed.
5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 17th, 2021 (3rd Wednesday)

Ad Hoc By Laws Committee

1. The February 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent. The first Committee meeting reviewed the bylaws of the ANC, last updated in 2013, and bylaws of other ANCs for reference. The Committee is working on edits before their next meeting, which will be posted for community comment and review before going to the ANC for approval.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 25, 2021 (4th Monday)

New Business

1. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC6A send a letter to WMATA expressing support for the continued operation of bus transit, particularly lines used by transit-dependent neighbors and residents of 6A and Ward 6. The motion passed 8-0.

Single Member District (SMD) reports

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) has had some public safety concerns in his SMD and expects to have a meeting with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) captains in the coming week. He expects the potential operator of a restaurant/bar on East Capitol Street to come before ABL to discuss their plans. Commissioner Alcorn thanked DC Congresswoman Eleanor Norton and Commissioner Gove for working on a letter to General Walker about idling buses for the National Guard at RFK. Finally, the Commissioner had noticed some sidewalk improvements by DDOT and looks forward to the 1500-1800 blocks of D Street NE and the 300 block of 18th Place NE getting sidewalk refreshes during the week of March 15, 2021.

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert (6A07) testified before Councilmember Robert White on the oversight hearing on government operations and facilities on March 8, 2021. She acknowledged the Urban Farm Program Land Lease Program noting that the Rosedale community selected Apogee Farm and will begin preparing the farm site this year. She Keith Anderson, Director of the DC Department of General Services (DGS), for amending the Urban Farm Land Lease Bill of 2019 to include many forms of farming such as hydroponics. If there

are areas in residents' communities that would make good farm sites, the Commissioner urges them to let DGS and DOEE know.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) has witnessed an uptick in crime and is working on having a conversation with the MPD captain of her SMD. MPD has increased patrols in response to the increase in crime. The Commissioner noted that package theft from porches is an ongoing issue and perpetrators are following delivery trucks in attempts to steal packages. Finally, she is encouraging residents to participate in mayor's citywide cleaning initiative on March 20, 2021.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) has received several reports of shootings and car racing around 16th and F Streets NE. At least 1 stop sign has been knocked down; DDOT has put up a temporary sign. Neighbors are extremely concerned and the Commissioner hopes to work with Commissioner Philips-Gilbert and communicate with the property manager of the apartment building on 16th and F Streets NE as this has been a longstanding problem. He noted that it is extremely worrisome that ANC 6A has not received its quarterly allotment from OANC when grants need to be given and hopes to work with other Commissioners to resolve this.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) mentioned the new registration opportunity for vaccinations and encouraged all residents to sign up, especially those in priority zip codes. Residents can register here at www.vaccinate.dc.gov. A number of Commissioners have heard concern from H Street NE businesses about crime and nighttime burglaries; there is footage of someone breaking into several establishments last week.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) is urging residents to participate in the March 20, 2021 clean city event and participated in a focus group on the matter. She has also noticed an uptick in speeding, carjacking, and thefts and reiterated how crucial it is for ANC 6A to receive its allotment from OANC so the resources can flow through to the community. She thanked the Commission for its letter to the PSC and noted several other gas line-related issues other issues related to gas lines. A number of gas lines are being vented or flooded resulting in community members not having gas for cooking or heating for several days; she suspects this is a more widespread issue. Finally, the Commissioner recognized Jen DeMayo from Councilmember Charles Allen's office for a very fast response to an alley paving email.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) provided a letter of support to Apogee Farm and thanked Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's staff for the letter on idling buses. The Capitol plaza on the east side has many idling vehicles and Congresswoman Norton has issued press releases to restrict idling in this area. She noted the day, 3/11, or "311 day" and praised the responsiveness of all 311 responders, whether on Twitter, by phone, or on the app. Thanks to 311 the last of the discarded Christmas trees were removed from the community. The Commissioner noted that the food pantry at Eliot-Hine Middle School is slated to start soon and there should be an event in springtime. She thanked Commissioner Dooling for his work on the Google Group and encouraged residents to join the group for ANC updates and awareness (<https://groups.google.com/g/anc-6a>). Finally, Commissioner Gove clarified that ANC 6A is committed to expediently receiving funds from OANC and revising its-budget.

Community Comments

Naomi Mitchell, Councilmember Charles Allen's Community Outreach Coordinator, shared that Councilmember Allen has asked for 20003, at least the Hill East portion of it, to be a priority

zip code for vaccine distribution. If anyone 65+ registers before midnight on March 11, 2021, they are highly likely to get an appointment call the next morning. Parking enforcement around schools will pick up again and the selection of Chief of MPD is presently happening. All redistricting decisions will be pushed due to the later gathering of the census. At Mr. Allen's request, the Ward 6 Committee, made up of former ANC commissioners, will be weighing in during the selection process. Mr. Allen is involved in discussions regarding the removal of the Capitol fence and on retaining the National Guard and the fences for an extended period of time (at least 60 days).

Tiffany Barnard-Davidson introduced www.dontfencethecapitol.com, launched following the petition that Alison Cunningham started which now has 30k+ signatures. The grassroots organization initially paid for 150 yard signs and raised \$2,000.00 in 36 hours on a GoFundMe, receiving 250 additional signs. The organization will be passing the signs out at Eastern Market on March 13, 2021 between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Ms. Barnard-Davidson urged non-DC residents to write to their representatives in opposition to the fence. ANC 6B has sent a general letter in opposition to the fence and Ms. Barnard-Davidson proposes that ANC 6A send a letter; she will work with Commissioner Gove and other Commissioners on the letter to be considered at a future ANC 6A meeting agenda. If residents would like a sign, please contact Ms. Barnard-Davidson at tiffanybdavidson@gmail.com.

Several community members criticized the ANC 6A's process and transparency regarding grant funding.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.