

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
March 14, 2024

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee, Robb Dooling, Roberta Shapiro, and Mike Velasquez were present. Commissioners Dave Wethington and Steve Moilanen were absent.

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

Commissioner Keya Chatterjee called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC February 2024 meeting were accepted and the agenda for the March 2024 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

Community Presentations

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Charles Allen led an annual check-in as we head into budget season, reviewing some actions happening in the Council and community. Public safety continues to be a priority and this week the Council signed into law the Secure DC Act. The Council continues a two-pronged approach to public safety, trying to both prevent crime and hold perpetrators accountable. One of the items in the Act will close a loophole in the current interpretation of carjacking prosecution laws, broadening the definition of a carjacking. The Act also mandates “shooting reviews” to take place not just by law enforcement but by community partners in a broad cross section of government; these reviews are common in areas of diminishing violent crime. Other provisions of the Act include drug free zones and pretrial detention. The Councilmember also shared updates on the H Street Alliance, noting that about 250 neighbors have volunteered; the group has broken up into three working groups: public safety, public space improvements, and small business support. The group as a whole will meet quarterly with the working groups meeting intermittently. Councilmember Allen supports and would like to work with the ANC and DDOT on a dedicated transit lane for streetcars and buses; a community-wide meeting with DDOT to share ideas and concerns is being planned. A few days ago, there was a hearing related to illegal gifting shops along H Street corridor; several are in the process of getting licenses but a gap in legislation did not allow enforcement by ABCA. There is currently an exemption that allows a cannabis retailer to open across from certain schools, and the Council is focused on addressing inconsistencies such as these. Over 1,200 people signed on to a letter supporting a nuanced look from BZA on Pacci’s near Lincoln Park; the official decision will come April 10, 2024. Scheduling is in the midst for a community meeting on designs and plans for Kingsman Dog Park; construction and improvements are slated to happen this fall. The Healthy Homes legislation that assists low-income homes to electrify is up for a vote on Tuesday. There were oversight hearings in which several constituents pushed DDOT for sidewalk maintenance and this continues to be a priority for the Councilmember, as does traffic and pedestrian safety around areas like Lincoln Park. Tomorrow is the

anniversary of the Rock Creek Parkway crash that killed three people, which was a devastating incident that illuminated multiple failures of the DMV and courts. The STEER Act will enhance the effectiveness of automated traffic enforcement systems, especially for out of state drivers. A different committee oversees DPW, which is in charge of staffing for booting vehicles. The mayor will soon be releasing next year's budget, which will be tight and difficult decisions will have to be made. Last year, more workers were hired and wages increased, and \$200M needs to be allocated to metro maintenance. DC's downtown continues to suffer as property values and tax revenues decrease. The Councilmember will, as usual, hold a budget town hall for community input. One member of the House of Representatives was seeking to eliminate automated traffic enforcement ticketing, but the Councilmember doubts this would move forward. 11 out of 13 Councilmembers are in opposition to Project Pipes, which would cost ratepayers millions of dollars when it would be significantly cheaper to repair the pipes and lower income neighbors would be unequally bearing the costs. The CFO refinanced several capital bonds for the city, allowing for the \$500M to potentially keep a rejuvenated Capitol One Arena downtown. There are new 'drug free zone' flyers posted around the city referencing Title 4 of the Controlled Substances Act and they are very vague and unclear; these are part of the Secure DC Act and aimed at illegal drugs but need further clarification. For any questions, neighbors can reach the Councilmember at [callen\[at\]dccouncil.gov](mailto:callen[at]dccouncil.gov).

Consent Agenda:

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Community Outreach (COC)

- ANC 6A approve a grant to Celebrate Capitol Hill, Inc. in the amount of \$1,370.00 for the purpose of engaging neighborhood youth in beautifying activities/public art.

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for: Request for a Special Exception pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201.1 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the rear yard and lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 207.1 and Subtitle E § 210.1 to construct a two-story rear addition to an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 1432 F Street NE (BZA #21071) in the RF-1 zone.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for: Request for a Special Exception pursuant to Subtitle E § 207.5, 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 207.4, and pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 210.1 to construct a third story and rear addition to an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 808 I Street NE (BZA #21084) in the RF-1 zone.

Officer Reports:

1. The March 2024 Treasurer's report features four expenditures accrued in February: \$88.78 for meeting supplies, \$58.29 for Zoom Premium meeting, \$250 for notetaking, and \$771.19 for webmaster services (checks #2093-#2096, respectively). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$32,339.55. After accounts payable totaling \$3,615.81 the closing available checking balance is \$28,723.74. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05, and petty cash remained at \$25. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Amber Gove moved and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the Fiscal Year 2024 1st Quarter report. The motion passed 5-0.
3. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the amended Fiscal Year 2023 4th Quarter report. The motion passed 4-0-1; Commissioner Mike Velasquez abstained.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

1. The February 2024 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting: March 25, 2024 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis (ABC)

1. No report. ABC did not meet in February 2024.
2. The January 2024 committee report will be reviewed in the April meeting.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 26, 2024 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The February 2024 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 18, 2024 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. The February 2024 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Roberta Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for: Request an Area Variance pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002 from the lot dimension requirements of Subtitle E § 202.1 to construct two new, attached, three-story with basements, principal dwelling units at 257 Warren Street NE (BZA #21085) in the RF-1 zone, with the caveat that the developers make best efforts to get letters of support from neighbors. The proposal is to take three narrow lots (11 ft each) and combine them into two larger ones (almost 17 ft each). The intention is to build a three-story with basement home on each lot. The immediately adjoining neighbor has provided a letter of support. 15 additional letters were sent out to property owners that view the lot and no comments have been received. The motion passed 5-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 20, 2024 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

1. Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Velasquez seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve Becca Beuthe (6A03) as a member of the Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ) Committee. The motion passed 5-0.
2. Commissioner Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve Patrick Bloomstine (6A01) as a member of the Transportation and Public Space Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

Commission Business

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Gove (6A04) announced an effort to name DC's SMDs. It was a busy month and the Commissioner, as always, recommends attending the MPD Citizen's Advisory Council meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. There is an initiative for a new hub site for staffing from several DC agencies and police for community members to come ask questions; this has been successful in Chinatown and potentially could be explored for the next budget season. Neighbors can use 50411 to submit anonymous requests to the police. <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/citizens-advisory-councils-cac>

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) is supportive of the idea of a hub for DC agencies and police. The Commissioner spoke in front of the Committee about cannabis licensing and is trying to get DGS and DPR to respond about a plan for Sherwood improvements. One of the traffic safety inputs had resulted in a study and recommendation for a speed bump between 10th and 11th Streets. The real issue is the intersection of 10th and F Streets, but this is a good start. The Commissioner will be following up on sidewalk safety and continues to receive a lot of community input on the subject.

Commissioner Velasquez (6A02) noted the public restroom demonstration project that DC is pursuing and has received mixed opinions from community members. The Commissioner spoke to MPD officers about the new drug free zone and their support of a public restroom. This weekend is the H Street Oral History Festival by Mosaic at Atlas Performing Arts Center.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) supports public restrooms and transit-only lanes and does not want to make perfect the enemy of good; the ANC has supported these for quite a while. There are several abandoned vehicles, especially in the Linden Court alley, and there has been no response from DPW. Maketto will soon expand into the alley and the neighborhood is excited to support this.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) received a notice of intent for speed bumps on 12th Street between H Street and Florida Avenue. There is a study to add another signal on West Virginia Avenue. There is an excellent movie showing at E Street Cinema, Perfect Days, and it is a love story to public toilets and low stress biking routes in Tokyo; the Commissioner highly recommends it.

Community Comment

Ms. Jen DeMayo from Councilmember Allen's office mentioned the upcoming Ward 6 Spring Clean on April 6, 2024 - sign up here:

https://www.charlesallenward6.com/the_2024_great_ward_6_spring_clean. The Office will be hosting a few major locations, but the entire community is invited to participate.

MOCRS Jake Stolzenberg passed along the desire for a hub on H Street and has been visiting about once a week. Mr. Stolzenberg recommends a walk with the DDOT Director on 9th Street above Lincoln Park. <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B25-0345>

JoAnn Sparacino noted that St. Peter's Church has a Care for God's Creation committee and would like to support the Spring Clean. She would like more information on other environmental protection efforts and will connect with Ms. DeMayo.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.