

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
WebEx Meeting
April 9, 2020**

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

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

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

The minutes for the ANC March 2020 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the April 2020 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent without changes or objection.

Officer Reports

1. The April 2020 Treasurer's report by Brian Alcorn reviewed the 8 expenses accrued in March totaling \$1,767.86: \$465.89 to Irene Dworakowski (check 1928) for webmaster and agenda services; \$200.00 (check 1929) for the March 2020 meeting minutes; \$253.87, \$283.50, and \$90.01 (checks 1930, 1931, and 1932, respectively) for various FedEx printing costs; and \$176.50, \$183.50, and \$159.50 (checks 1933, 1934, and 1935, respectively) for re-issue of uncashed checks 1844, 1848, and 1861, respectively, for previously incurred FedEx printing costs. Beginning balance was \$22,515.01 and closing funds available and uncommitted are \$20,747.15 after these disbursements. The savings account accrued one cent of interest bringing the balance from \$100.00 to \$100.01. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Approval of the 2020 Q2 Quarterly Report was postponed to a future meeting due to the health emergency.

New Business

1. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC6A send a letter to the Zoning Administrator requesting expedited review for a revised permit (to be submitted) for Eliot-Hine Middle School that reduces on-site parking in exchange for building athletic fields that allow for onsite hosting of sport activities. The motion passed 7-0.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion that ANC6A send a letter of support to DDOT for Councilmember Charles Allen's proposal requesting COVID-19 related street closures to allow for safe use by pedestrians and cyclists. Commissioner Gove cited that this has been successful in nearby counties and there are specific measures in place in Councilmember Allen's proposal to ensure the continued practicing and encouragement of social distancing. The motion passed 7-0.

Standing Committee Reports

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

1. No report. Committee did not meet in March 2020.
2. Commissioner Zimny moved and Commissioner Toomajian seconded that ANC6A support the application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License for Mozzarella DC LLC, d/b/a Mozzarella (1300 H Street NE) and approve the Settlement Agreement between ANC6A and Mozzarella. Committee Co-Chair Nick Alberti noted that Mozzarella will be

pushing back by one hour the evening hours in which they will be cleaning outside their establishment. The motion passed 7-0.

3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 19, 2020 (3rd Tuesday)

Community Outreach

1. No report. Committee did not meet in March 2020.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 18, 2020 (3rd Monday; usually 4th Monday)

Transportation and Public Space

1. No report. Committee did not meet in March 2020.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 18, 2020 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning

1. No report. Committee did not meet in March 2020.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 15, 2020 via WebEx (3rd Wednesday)

Community Presentations

Jeff Marootian, Director, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

Jeff Marootian shared that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is continuing to focus on executing their projects in a timely manner; 2019 was a banner year with a number of accomplishments and signage and marking improvements and DDOT is aiming for another successful year in 2020. In response to an email sent by Commissioner Toomajian outlining many suggestions for the improvement of H Street NE, Director Marootian noted that he and his team will be performing a formal analysis in the coming months, sorting the suggestions and making a list of reasonable, attainable projects including those that are long term and are more complicated to implement. He and his team share the concern of making H Street safer and have solicited and received feedback from many H Street neighbors; their collective goal is fewer accidents, injuries, and deaths. Director Marootian promised to also follow up with Commissioner Toomajian about the challenges of removing inner city buses from H Street NE and noted there is a team dedicated to bus infrastructure. DDOT is looking for more proactive solutions than the reactive ones they currently have in place and are consistently looking at improving streetcar service and addressing double parking concerns; they are looking to expand streetcar service on Benning Road NE. Director Marootian noted that construction season for speed humps started the week of March 30, 2020 and that Andrew DeFrank, will be following up directly with Commissioner Soderman on speed bump questions. In response to questions about the Mayor's budget cuts, he noted that DDOT has several funding sources from local to federal and is always looking at budget and capacity to execute on projects. DDOT is looking for the Mayor to release the new budget in the coming weeks to make sure that all projects are on task and capacity for ongoing and future projects will be available. He noted that it is still DDOT's intention to put out an RFP for work on C St NE; projects on Florida and New York Avenues NE will continue. He noted that encouraging widespread use of WMATA services will be an upcoming challenge for DDOT.

Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Allen noted that he has been working around the clock to address the COVID-19 crisis and is having daily conferences with the Mayor to address issues. Two pieces of legislation have passed to help renters and the 56,000+ residents that applied for unemployment insurance. The city has invested in unemployment insurance and has a strong base to make these payments, but it also must start thinking about how to sustain these payments and what recovery will look like. The city was in strong financial standing when the

crisis hit and the “rainy day fund” combined with government support should be enough to sustain the city for the time being. The city issued an eviction moratorium and rent freeze for the period of public emergency. Councilmember Allen is working towards a new unemployment system and on solutions to help local businesses including a \$25M fund offering microgrants to small businesses and nonprofits. Simultaneously, the city needs an education recovery plan, recognizing that schools will likely not reopen this school season, though the Mayor has yet to announce this. He also noted that, though a testing facility opened in UMC in Ward 8, the city needs more accessible testing facilities that do not require residents to have a vehicle to get to them. He recognizes that COVID-19 has especially devastated minority and underprivileged communities, making accessible testing facilities all the more necessary. There are projects in place to help, specifically food banks and DC Central Kitchen’s distribution of fresh food. A list of food-related resources is available at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/food>. Jails and prisons are also finding it difficult to cope with the infectious disease and are implementing more aggressive screening and quarantining procedures as well as making sure staff has protective equipment. People receiving misdemeanors are receiving citations in an effort to minimize mobility in jails and prisons are allowing for the early and compassionate release of eligible prisoners; those released need adequate healthcare and housing. Councilmember Allen cited many DMV deadline extensions such as the REAL ID requirement and invited anyone with DMV issues such as license expiration to contact him directly. Finally, he noted that the financial impact of this crisis will be major and, while the Mayor has put together a recovery and planning process, it will take substantial ideas and sacrifices for the District to recover.

Single Member District Reports

All Commissioners echoed the same sentiments: gratitude for our community, encouragement of community donations, volunteering, and giving, the importance of staying at home and social distancing, hope that the crisis will end soon, and positive surprise at the relatively smooth operation of the Commission’s first virtual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.