

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
April 8, 2021**

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

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 March 2021 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the March 2021 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Community Presentations:**

**Solar Programs for DC Residents - Katya Botwinick, Energy Program Specialist, DC Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE); Jennifer Finegan, Outreach Coordinator, Grid Alternatives**

Katya Botwinick from the Department of Energy and Environment presented on the Solar for All program, a program established in 2016 aimed at bringing the benefits of solar energy to 100,000 low to moderate income DC families by 2032. Solar for All encompasses two programs, Single Family Solar and Community Solar; the Community Solar model allows residents to take advantage of solar energy and save on their electricity bills without needing access to a roof to install solar panels. DOE installs the solar offsite, which it has been doing on schools, hospitals, churches, office buildings, and apartment complexes. The offsite location means individuals do not need any installations on their personal properties and can benefit regardless of proximity to a solar installation. All individuals need to participate is a Pepco bill and can join independently without landlords and neighbors; there are no changes to service, only a cheaper electricity bill. This service will appear as a credit on electric bills and participants can save an estimated \$500 annually. The service is capped at 80% median income. There are three ways to apply: pre-approval letters, paper application, and online application, which can be found at [www.doe.dc.gov/solarforall](http://www.doe.dc.gov/solarforall). Interested individuals can also call (202) 299-5271 or email [solarforall\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:solarforall[at]dc.gov) or Ms. Botwinick directly at [katya.botwinick\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:katya.botwinick[at]dc.gov).

Jessica Finegan, Outreach Coordinator for GRID Alternatives, made a presentation about the non-profit installer working in partnership with DOEE. Ms. Finegan spoke about Solar Works DC, a program in conjunction with Solar for All, that is an income qualified no-cost solar installation and paid job training program. The 12-week training program includes virtual training, hands-on installation, and a \$10/hour stipend. There are three program cohorts a year; currently, the program is in the spring cohort and recruiting for fall. Interested individuals can email [solarworksdc\[at\]gridalternatives.org](mailto:solarworksdc[at]gridalternatives.org). Ms. Finegan also listed requirements for Single Family Solar, including owning a home, meeting a qualifying income, and having good roof condition, space, and limited shade. Similarly to Community Solar, participants will see an estimated \$500 annual savings; the program does not require information about credit scores, payments, liens, or have hidden costs. Individuals can apply online at [www.grid solar.org/sfa](http://www.grid solar.org/sfa) or contact the outreach team at [dcoutreach\[at\]gridalternatives.org](mailto:dcoutreach[at]gridalternatives.org) or call (866)921-4696 or (202) 602-0191. Ms. Finegan can be reached directly at [jfinegan\[at\]gridalternatives.com](mailto:jfinegan[at]gridalternatives.com) or (202) 602-0198.

### **Julie Patton Lawson, Director, Mayor's Office of the Clean City (MOCC)**

Julie Patton Lawson, Director, Mayor's Office of the Clean City, spoke about the role of the Office, which is to coordinate work across agencies in DC on trash specifically and also broader public realm issues. Ms. Lawson highlighted the "Adopt a Block" program which gives residents an opportunity to work together to clean up their neighborhoods. MOCC has listed COVID-19 safe cleanup protocols and provided community webinars on a wide range of topics. MOCC has several resources on rodent prevention and how rodents are related to trash. They have done inspections on alleys on H Street NE and Barracks Row SE, getting both DPW and DC Health to simultaneously enforce and abate trash and rodent-related issues. MOCC is also working on minimizing illegal dumping and pet waste and encourages residents to put in a 311 request if they see animal waste so MOCC can know where to do more outreach. They are also conducting a study on littering for the Cleaner Communities and Waterways project and are now in the analysis phase. Ms. Lawson will be following up with Commissioner Mike Soderman about repeated garbage truck collisions into a home on the 200 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE.

### **Officer Reports:**

1. The April 2021 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the four expenditures accrued in March: \$15.89 for Zoom Pro Trial (check #1966), \$200.00 for meeting minutes (check #1967), \$765.89 for webmaster services (check #1968), and \$58.29 for Zoom Pro & Meetings Trial (check #1969). Existing obligations include \$550.00 in checks issued not deposited (checks #1920, #1922) and \$4,015.07 in checks deposited (checks #1957, #1959, #1961, #1962-1966). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$29,336.14 and after these disbursements totaling \$1,040.07 and existing obligations of \$4,565.07, the closing uncommitted funds are \$23,731. 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 Alcorn made the following adjustments to the 2021 Q2 report due to bugs in a new spreadsheet sent by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC): "Balance Forward Checking" should read \$34,641.95; "Total Funds Available During Quarter" should read \$34,641.95; "Error, Check Ledger" should read \$29,845.10. The 2021 Q2 report was adopted as adjusted by unanimous consent.
3. OANC would like ANC 6A to re-approve the FY 2021 Q1 report due to the new spreadsheets. There are the following adjustments: "Forward Checking" should read \$34,243.80; "Total Funds Available During Quarter" should read \$45,214.92; line #4 should read \$2,077.19; line #7 should read \$1,631.78; "Error, Check Ledger" should read \$34,641.95; total disbursements remain \$10,572.97. The FY 2021 Q1 report was re-adopted as adjusted by unanimous consent.
4. OANC stated the following technical note: "ANC 6A's 2020 Q3 and Q4 reports were revised because a software error. The new opening balance for the fiscal year 2020 Q3 report will be changed to \$17,110.97 and the ending balance will be changed to \$36,138.52. Similarly the new opening balance for the fiscal year 2020 Q4 report will be changed to \$38,138.52 and the ending balance will be changed to \$34,323.80. will be changed to. We are not asking you to vote on these."

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Community Outreach**

1. No report. COC did not meet in March 2021.

2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 26, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The March 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 27, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday).

### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The March 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) opposing the issuance of permits for the installation of the small cells in Rosedale until more information is received about the process for selecting locations and the safety of 5G small cell infrastructure and requesting that DDOT contact ANCs prior to issuing permits. The motion passed 7-0.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of Public Space Permit Application #361713 for the replacement of a retaining wall at 424 11th Street NE. The retaining wall in question is 46" high and not fully safe and secure. The motion passed 6-0-1; Commissioner Robb Dooling abstained.
4. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A pass a resolution in support of extending the DC Streetcar to Benning Road NE and for requisite funding in the FY 2022 budget. Commissioner Alcorn added a friendly amendment noting that the exact extended location will be the Benning Road Metro station. The motion passed 7-0.
5. Committee Chair Marc Brumer announced that he will be moving out of ANC 6A after the May 2021 TPS meeting and will ensure a smooth transition to a new Chair.
6. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 19, 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday).

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. The March 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Philips-Gilbert seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of conditional support to the Zoning Commission (ZC) for a requested modification of consequence (modify number of balconies on eastern façade) for 1701 H Street, NE (ZC 15-31A) on condition that the additional units that are going to be proffered with the 7th floor addition be made 30% AMI, or substituted with the same number of units at 30% AMI.

The proposed modification would elevate the building wall along Benning Road by 9 ft, allowing for 10 extra additional units and increasing the IZ commitment accordingly by four units, including two two-bedroom units, all at 50% AMI. This increases the total set aside for IZ units from 8% to 10%, 65% of which are at 50% AMI. Though the EDZ request were to set aside these units at 30% AMI, this is not economically viable for the developer. There are administrative challenges of offering 30% AMI units as they are not a part of the IZ program through DCDHC. The Committee amended the motion to read: ANC 6A support is conditional on the new units that are to be added as part of this modification be made available at 30% median family income through the affordable dwelling unit (ADU) program, or that an equal number of units elsewhere in the building be made available at 30% MFI (median family income). The motion passed as amended passed 7-0.

3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Keya Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of conditional support to BZA for a special exception from the lot occupancy restrictions of Subtitle E § 304.1, the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4, and the rooftop and upper floor restrictions of Subtitle E § 206.1 to construct a new three-story with cellar and roof deck, rear addition to an existing, two-story with cellar, semi-detached, principal dwelling unit in the RF-1 Zone at 211 13th Street, NE (BZA #20450), on condition that the applicant make best efforts to get letters of support from 209 C Street, 230 Tennessee Avenue and 1305 C Street, NE. The requested letters of support have been received. The motion passed 7-0.
4. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of conditional support to HPO for the renovation of an existing single family row home with a rear and second floor addition in the Capitol Hill Historic District relief at 17 9th Street, NE (HPO #21-254), on condition that the applicant make best efforts to get letters of support from 15 and 19 9th Street, NE. One letter of support has been received. The motion passed 7-0.
5. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1; and the alley centerline setback requirements of Subtitle E § 5004.1 to construct a third story addition and roof deck, to an existing two-story flat, and a second story addition to an accessory detached garage in the RF-1 Zone at 308 11th Street, NE (BZA Case #20382).

Several neighbors are opposed and raised concerns over privacy issues - neighbors being able to see into their bedroom and bathroom windows. Commissioner Soderman noted that the Hawthorne apartment building on 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE is a large apartment building with balconies and windows that also face neighboring bedroom and bathroom windows in question. Committee Chair Brad Greenfield offered additional language to be added to the letter to include the removal of the Juliette balcony, changing to casement windows, and frosting on the windows on the alley side and consideration of additional electronic frosting on other windows. The motion passed 7-0.

6. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 21, 2021 (3rd Wednesday)

#### **Ad Hoc By Laws Committee**

1. No report. BLC did not meet in March 2021.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 22, 2021 (4th Monday).

#### **New Business**

1. Commissioner Dooling moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve a Resolution regarding ANC 6A support for funding the DC Office for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing in DC's FY2022 budget. The purpose of the new office is to advance the civil rights of these communities and it is key to note that this was already unanimously passed by DC Council and signed into law by Mayor Bowser in October 2020, so now it just needs funding. The funding would be up to \$800,000 for the first year; 36 other states already have a similar Office. The motion passed 7-0.
2. Commissioner Dooling moved and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the amendment of the ANC 6A FY21 budget to reallocate unused resources from the FedEx and DCPS security line items in the amount of \$2,255.00 to grants (\$1,870.00) and ZoomPro (\$385.00). The motion passed 7-0.
3. Commissioner Gentile moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve a letter to DDOT requesting installation of speed humps in the 1400 block of

Duncan Street NE (TSA #20-00287735). There is a serious, ongoing problem of vehicles going more than twice the limit; DDOT posted 20 mph signs that have been ignored. The motion passed 7-0.

### **Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) noted the tragic murder of Julius Hayes on the 300 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and has been in touch with Councilmember Allen and MPD who say the case is under investigation. He has also been in touch with neighbors at 18<sup>th</sup> and D Streets, planning engagement with Councilmember Allen and staff on several resident concerns. There was an accident at the intersection of Constitution Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street recently between a vehicle and a motorcycle and neighbors remain concerned about traffic safety at this intersection. They are working with DDOT on a traffic safety assessment and hopefully a stop sign installation. Contractors are working on 15<sup>th</sup> Street from East Capitol Street to North Carolina Avenue NE to narrow down to one travel lane. Neighbors at the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and North Carolina Avenue NE have expressed concerns about parking contraction and this issue has been raised to DDOT. Capital Square Bar and Grill at 1500 East Capitol Street has posted its ABRA placard.

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert (6A07) thanked Charles Allen and Naomi Mitchell for reaching out last month to help get a group of people vaccinated and is looking to get more neighbors registered and vaccinated. She wants to get one or two days dedicated just for Rosedale community to get vaccinated since the 20002 zip code is designated as “under-vaccinated”. She is looking to meet with the Mayor’s core team about 16<sup>th</sup> and E Streets and 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Benning Road NE, which are locations of chronic problems and need several organizations’ attention and assistance.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) is hosting outdoor office hours on 4/10 at the Northeast Corner of H Street Farmer’s Market between 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and encourages residents to come by with concerns. 14<sup>th</sup> and G Street NE just received highly visible, newly painted crosswalks and he has requested similar crosswalks in other neighborhood crosswalks. Miner Elementary School Principal Jackson is leaving at the end of the school year; DCPS will host a virtual meeting on May 6, 2021 with details forthcoming.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) participated in very nice neighborhood-wide cleanup on March 20, 2021 and would like to do an ANC-wide event.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) mentioned constituents’ home that has been run into by garbage trucks multiple times and is continuing to work with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to get this resolved. There are currently three small cell deployments on Constitution Avenue between 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, C Street between 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, and on C Street between 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Streets NE. He noted a continued uptick in crime and has been working with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) on increased patrols. There are traffic calming measures coming for the 100, 200, and 300 blocks of 10<sup>th</sup> Street; he thanked the Ward 6 DDOT liaison for helping this to happen.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) enjoyed her participation in the March 20, 2021 cleanup. On the same day there was a large explosion on 13<sup>th</sup> and I Streets NE which turned out to be a Pepco gas switch that took out most of the sidewalk. The DC Public Service Commission (PSC) feel confident there will not be further explosions. There is chronic illegal dumping on between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets on West Virginia Avenue NE; DPW wants to do a trial of a new

point of collection. She urged residents to call 311 if you see trash lids with holes in them to prevent further vermin problems - replacement lids are free as they constitute a repair. She has submitted traffic safety assessments (TSA) for I Street and West Virginia Avenue, Wiley Street, and 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE. She thanked Marc Brumer for his efforts with HIPS in an effort to get a dedicated spot in front of the building.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) mentioned the deadly crash on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and C Streets NE, which resulted in the death of Bryan Johnson, and the murder of Julius Hayes and urged the ANC to continue addressing traffic and gun violence to minimize further tragedy. The DDOT C Street project has a new website ([www.cstne.com](http://www.cstne.com)); she encouraged residents to visit the website and share their opinions. She reminded constituents that, as DCPS expands in-person school and more children walk on the streets and sidewalks, they should be careful around crosswalks and corners, ensure that hedges are trimmed, and make any other effort to maximize visibility. The 1300 block of A Street NE was selected for the Petal Porch Parade route and the Commissioner encouraged residents to come see the decorations.

### **Community Comments**

Naomi Mitchell from Councilmember Allen's office noted that the DC Council is on recess during the week of April 13, 2021. Councilmember Allen introduced legislation to create affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access across all of DC, noticing that internet is just as essential as electricity and clean water and many residents are struggling to afford it. The DC Police Reform Commission has issued its report; it can be viewed at [www.dcpolicereform.com](http://www.dcpolicereform.com). Budget hearings will be considerably delayed this year, as will the census data and redistricting. All residents should pre-register for vaccinations as everyone will be eligible soon and mass vaccination centers will be opening soon.

Steven Ruder, a constituent that lives on the 200 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE, expressed concern on the restriping of the street in front of their house; while they appreciate the safety concerns of the corner, DDOT's plan would remove more than half of the parking spaces on the street and, in their opinion, not resolve any safety issues. Neighbor Sunny Petzinger echoed the same concerns. Commissioners Gove and Alcorn explained the long-running interactions with DDOT that ANC 6A has had about this intersection, **and that the ANC will continue pushing for an all-way stop at this location.** Commissioner Chatterjee noted a similar problem with an intersection in SMD01 and learned that the reason DDOT can avoid putting in all-way stop signs has to do with how certain streets are classified - as "local" or "collectors" streets.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.