

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Regular Business Meeting  
Miner Elementary School  
May 8, 2014**

**Present:** Commissioners Nick Alberti, Andrew Hysell, Omar Mahmud, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Calvin Ward

**Absent:** Commissioners Gloria Nauden, Jay Williams

The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm.

**1. Agenda**

The following additions to the agenda were proposed: under Community Outreach Committee, add the nomination of new committee members.

Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert raised the issue of placing Single Member District (SMD) Reports earlier in the meeting to inform the community of news of interest. Mr. Alberti said that it was important to first consider matters presented by ANC committees as they are often time sensitive and are the core business of the ANC.

**Motion:** Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert moved/Mr. Ward seconded a motion to place SMD reports at the top of the ANC agenda. The motion failed 1-2-1, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert in favor, Mr. Alberti and Mr. Mahmud opposed, and Mr. Ward abstaining (Mr. Hysell was absent for vote). The agenda, as amended, was agreed to without objection.

**2. Minutes**

The April 2014 minutes were agreed to without objection.

**3. Community Comment**

David Holmes

Mr. Alberti announced that Mr. Holmes had resigned two weeks previously, and thanked him for his service, saying he had been an extraordinary chair and his counsel would be missed. Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert added that she appreciated all the information he had provided. Mr. Mahmud said how much he appreciated working with Mr. Holmes and Mr. Ward spoke about how he and the community will miss him.

**4. Community Presentation**

Clean Rivers Project - DC Water

Ms. Andrea Williams and Mr. Chris White of DC Water presented the agency's plans for a major project now being undertaken to replace waste/storm water tunnels along the Anacostia River, extending from RFK Stadium to the Blue Plains Treatment Plant. The project, which will be completed in 2017, will create a cleaner river with greatly reduced overflow of untreated water into the Anacostia. More information is available from [Andrea.Williams@dcwater.com](mailto:Andrea.Williams@dcwater.com).

**5. Officers' Reports**

Chair

Mr. Alberti reported that speakers at the June ANC meeting would include Mr. Josh Kern, receiver of the Options Charter School.

Mr. Alberti announced that a special election would be held a future ANC meeting to file the seat vacated by former Commissioner Holmes if more than one person qualifies as a candidate.

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Alberti presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that the opening balance in the checking account was \$16,970.07 and the savings account balance was 13,718.26. There was an interest payment of \$0.23 to the savings account. There were disbursements of \$180.00 to Roberta Weiner for transcription of the April 2014 ANC minutes (Check #1647); \$194.60 for FedEx Office for April 2014 statement (Check #1648); \$200.00 to Irene Dworakowski for the April 2014 agenda package (Check #1649); \$126.12 to the DC Treasurer for Security Services for May 2014 (Check #1650), leaving a balance of \$16,329.45 in the checking account, and \$13,718.49 in the savings account.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion to accept the disbursements. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert abstaining.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion passed without objection.

### Quarterly Report

Mr. Alberti said that the Quarterly Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded acceptance of the Quarterly Report for January-March 2014. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert abstaining.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **Community Outreach**

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion that the full ANC approve the Committee's recommendation to provide a grant of \$300.00 to the Eliot-Hine Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for outdoor classroom picnic tables. The motion passed 5-0-0, unanimously.

**Motion:** Mr. Ward moved/Mr. Alberti seconded the nomination of Veronica Holman to become a member of the Community Outreach Committee. The nomination passed unanimously.

Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert nominated/Mr. Alberti seconded the nomination of Shirley Worthy to become a member of the Community Outreach Committee. The nomination passed unanimously.

### **Transportation and Public Space**

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion that the full ANC approve the Committee's recommendation that a letter be sent to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) asking that DDOT consider the installation of a traffic signal at Maryland Avenue and Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE independent of the ongoing Maryland Avenue project. The motion passed 5-0-0.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion that the full ANC approve the Committee's recommendation to send a letter to Jim Sebastian at DDOT recommending the location of the promised new Capital Bikeshare station, originally slated for Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) and H Streets NE, be placed at Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street and Maryland Avenue NE (E Street). The motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

### Pocket Parks

This is a series of resolutions raised in hope of mitigating a long-standing problem with DDOT's management of the small triangular green spaces (pocket parks) that are contributing features of the L'Enfant plan. Most of them are federally owned, though managed by the District, and many are within the Capitol Hill Historic District. DDOT has had a mixed record in terms of maintenance.

Alice Kelly, from DDOT, attended the meeting and presented a recently adopted policy for defining and maintaining these public spaces.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion recommending that the full ANC send a letter to DDOT asking it to correct its characterization of Reservation 266 (a federally owned pocket park) as 'public parking' because: 1) the term properly applies only to the city-owned property between the actual street curb and the property lines drawn out in the L'Enfant Plan, and 2) if the application of this designation is extended to other similar parcels, it will result in greatly diminished public utility of pocket parks throughout the District. Mr. Mahmud offered a friendly amendment to acknowledge that the recent DDOT policy was welcome and a step in the right direction. The amendment was accepted and the original motion, as amended, passed 4-1-0, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert in opposition.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion that the ANC send a letter to Councilmember Mary Cheh, recommending that: 1) all pocket parks and Reservations be transferred to DPR, along with associated funding, as DPR has better capacity to manage them in the public interest as publicly available recreational space. Maintaining large an inventory of publicly available green space is critical as the District's population expands, and 2) asking that she urge DDOT to reconsider its position with regard to its designation of pocket parks as public parking, and to issue regulations providing for public notice and comment. The motion passed 4-1-0, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert in opposition.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion that the ANC send a letter to the DC City Council requesting that they craft legislation to declare that pocket parks and Federal Reservations are public space and may never be considered as public parking and that no changes to the landscaping or hardscaping by individuals that would affect public use or access may be approved without public input including consultation with the ANCs. Further, a board similar to HPRB should be established to review such cases to ensure a fair and transparent process. The motion passed 4-1-0, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert in opposition.

**Motion:** The Committee moved/Mr. Mahmud seconded a motion to recommend that the ANC oppose HPA 14-310 (an application from the owners of 147 Tennessee Ave NE to fence in a portion of Reservation 266) on the grounds that the proposal is inconsistent with Section 2 of the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 (DC Official Code § 6-1101) because: 1) a fence subdividing the space will further detract from the historic appearance of Reservation 266, as it was originally a single expanse, and 2) more importantly, the fence would prevent public access.

The applicants for HPA 14-310 presented the basis for their request. Neighbors presented the reasons for their opposition.

The motion passed 4-1-0, with Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert in opposition.

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

The report of the Committee was accepted without objection.

### 819 D Street NE

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Williams seconded a motion that the full ANC accept the Committee's recommendation and send a letter to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB)

in support of HPA 14-180, which seeks design approval for the conversion of a church and two adjoining row houses at 819 D Street NE into a 30-unit residential development, provided that the developer incorporate HPRB's pending comments into its design prior to the HPRB hearing. The motion passed 5-0-0, unanimously.

#### 1511 A Street NE

**Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Ward seconded a motion to recommend that the ANC write a letter to the Zoning Administrator advising him that the building plans provided by the developer for 1511 A Street NE at minimum do not appear to accurately depict the grade and curb level, which will affect the calculation of FAR and building height, and advising of additional issues related to the preparation of the plans. The motion passed 5-0-0.

### **7. Single Member District Reports**

Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert reported that:

- the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) and the Zoning Administrator will conduct the ANC Commissioner training that she supported before the BZA;
- she had a walking tour with Commander Porter of MPD; and
- she and Mr. Ward had a joint SMD meeting that was very successful and they were planning to do it again.

She also reported that she was able to take a group of her constituents to meet US Senator Harry Reid and take a Senate tour.

Mr. Ward thanked Mrs. Phillips-Gilbert for putting in a lot of work on their joint SMD meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.