

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Miner Elementary School  
April 14, 2016**

**Present:** Commissioners Phil Toomajian (Chair), Matt Levy, J. Omar Mahmud, Patrick Malone, Sondra-Phillips-Gilbert, Mike Soderman, Calvin Ward, Stephanie Zimny

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

The minutes for the ANC March 2016 meeting and the agenda for the April 2016 meeting were accepted without changes or objection.

**Community Presentations**

H Street Connection Redevelopment - Emily Strunk, Rappaport Co. and Nick Finelli, WC Smith  
Ms. Strunk and Mr. Finelli provided an update on the progress of the H Street Connection Redevelopment Project. Building demolition is scheduled to begin in June 2016. No date certain has been scheduled for the initiation of construction, but once started, the project should be completed in roughly twenty-eight (28) months. The first community construction meeting is will be scheduled to take place by June 2016. The developer advised that a website providing information to the public on the progress of the project on a monthly basis is currently under development. Neighbors interested in signing up for regular email updates should contact Commissioner Omar Mahmud or Chairman Phil Toomajian.

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Fifth District Commander William Fitzgerald  
Commander Fitzgerald advised that he meets with First District Commander Robert Contee twice a week, due to the overlap in boundary lines between these two districts. There has been a thirty-four percent (34%) increase in the officers deployed in the Fifth District. The Fifth District officers will be directed to put emphasis on decreasing violent crimes. MPD cameras will be placed in several "hot spots" where activity is most frequent. Increased presence by MPD officers will be observed in and around these areas as well. In response to community concerns, the Fifth District will also be assign officers to playground and recreation centers during the daytime hours during the summer. In response to questions raised by the Commissioners, Commander Fitzgerald offered detailed information regarding whom or which city agency should be contacted for follow-up. As in a prior meeting with MPD First District Commander Contee, Fifth District Commander Fitzgerald concurred with the Commissioners regarding the benefits to the community in having MPD Bicycle Patrol Officers in the Fifth District.

Sean Moore, DC Streetcar Outreach Public Engagement Manager

Mr. Moore advised that streetcar operations began on February 25, 2016, and that over 36,000 patrons have used the service. Five (5) of six (6) cars are in operation with the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) car pending repairs. The streetcar transportation service will be free to the public for the first six (6) months of operation. Mr. Moore further advised that the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) will be holding a meeting for public comment on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm regarding the East Capitol Street Bridge Rehabilitation.

**Officer Reports**

Chairman Toomajian mentioned the Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers Spring Cleanup will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2016, from 9:00am - 12:00 pm, at the Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street, NE.

Vice Chairman Mahmud advised of a DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) public meeting regarding the Florida Avenue Project.

#### **Treasurer's Report.**

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny presented the Treasurer's Report. The opening balance in the checking account was \$15,650.29, with a forwarding balance of \$6227.93. There were disbursements of \$450.00 to Irene Dworakowski (Check 1738) for agenda/web master services; \$200.00 for March 2016 minutes; (Check 1739); \$311.00--\$183.60 (Feb.) and \$127.50 (March)(Check 1740) to FedEx; \$768.15 (Check 1741) for Sign Language Services;\$20.76 (Check 1742); travel for Phil Toomajian (ABC Board meeting); \$300.00 (Check 1743) Ludlow-Taylor PTO grant; leaving a balance of \$13,600.38, in the checking account and \$13,721.47, including a \$.024 interest deposit in the savings account. A Petty Cash Summary was included in the report showing a forwarding balance of \$25.00. The report was accepted without objection.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Community Outreach Committee (COC)**

No report. The COC Committee did not meet in March 2016.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 25, 2016 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday).

##### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)**

The March 2016 ABL Committee Report was accepted without objection.

**Motion:** Chairman Toomajian moved and Commissioner Mahmud seconded a motion that the ANC authorize a protest of the license renewal of Da Luft (1242 H Street NE), if the ABL Committee votes in favor of a protest at its April 19, 2016 meeting. The motion passed (8-0).

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 19, 2016 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

##### **Transportation and Public Space Committee (TPS)**

No report. The TPS Committee did not meet in March 2016.

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 18, 2016 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

##### **Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)**

The March 2016 EDZ Committee report was accepted without objection.

Mr. Felipe Serpa and Ms. Meredith Moldenhauer of Valor Development addressed the Commissioners regarding proposed development of 1603-1625 Benning Road NE.

**Recommendation:** The Committee made a recommendation that the ANC write a letter to the board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in support of the requested special exceptions by 920 H LLC, pursuant to 11 DCMR section 3103.2, for variances from the lot occupancy requirements under section 1324.4, the off-street parking requirements under section 2101.1, and the parking space requirements under section 2115.1, to allow the construction of a mixed-use

building with a restaurant and nine residential units in the HS-R/C-2-A District at 920-922 H Street NE (Square 933, Lots 57 and 803) with the following restrictions: continuation of exterior façade materials along the side of the building; residential parking restrictions; complete a shadow study prior to the April 2016 ANC 6A meeting to prove that there is no adverse effect on neighboring sites; the developer provide a transit subsidy; seek alternative parking options for residents; and reach out to neighbors.

**Motion:** Chairman Toomajian moved and Commissioner Mahmud seconded the motion that the above-referenced recommendation be tabled pending further discussion and review by the Commission's Economic Development and Zoning of the developer's plan to seek a density bonus for preserving the historic facade. The developer agreed to postpone BZA review of the project until June, so that the ANC may provide input at that time. The motion passed (8-0).

Next meeting - 7:00 pm, April 20, 2016 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday).

#### **New Business:**

Mr. David Holmes gave an overview of the issues raised as a result of the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DDOE) Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the Benning Road Pepco Plant. Mr. Holmes suggested that ANC 6A forward a letter to the DDOE requesting an additional public comment period based on the DDOE's Draft Remedial Investigation Report.

**Motion:** Chairman Toomajian moved and Commissioner Ward seconded a motion that ANC 6A send a letter to the DDOE requesting that the Benning Road Pepco Plant RI/FS public comment period be extended. The motion passed (8-0).

#### **Single Member District Reports**

Commissioner Calvin Ward (6A08) advised that construction of the new playground at Twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) and C Streets NE should be completed by the end of spring. He encouraged those present to spread the word about Capitol Hill Little League Baseball. There will be a neighborhood walk-through with the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) specifically targeting Nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) Street between D and E Streets NE.

Commissioner Mike Soderman (6A03) spoke about the positive response of MPD to community residents raising issues about crime and shared that he will be preparing traffic calming requests for Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) and Massachusetts Avenue NE, and the 200<sup>th</sup> block of Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Street NE.

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny (6A06) mentioned plans to hold a community gathering at the Pursuit Wine Bar at a date yet to be determined, and ongoing efforts to implement a language immersion program at the Miner Elementary School. Commissioner Zimny advised that Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen has indicated his support for this effort.

Commissioner Sondra Phillips Gilbert (6A07) advised of a recent public safety walk in the Rosedale community with the Deputy Mayor Keven Donohue, MPD Fifth District Commander Fitzgerald, and others. There was a tour of the Monument Academy with concerned community residents.

Vice Chairman Mahmud (6A01) mentioned that community residents should be aggressive in reporting suspicious or criminal activity to MPD, and that residents should be persistent

contacting DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) regarding nightclub noise.

Chairman Toomajian (6A02) indicated that the Ludlow-Taylor playground will be closed until scheduled renovations have been completed.

Commissioner Matt Levy (6A04) mentioned pending traffic calming requests. He spoke briefly about Maury Elementary School expansion plans. There was a neighborhood walk-through with one of Mayor Bowser's Ward 6 Outreach Specialists, Rachel Mariman and a recent alley cleanup at Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) Street, NE.

Commissioner Patrick Malone (6A05) spoke about the effectiveness and responsiveness of Rachel Mariman, one of two Ward 6 Outreach Specialists. Commissioner Malone also mentioned that congratulations are in order for former EDZ Committee member Dan Golden who recently became a father.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.