

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
WebEx Meeting  
May 14, 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 Amber Gove called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

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

**Officer Reports**

1. Approve Treasurer's Report: The May 2020 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the two expenses and one credit accrued in April. The expenses totaled \$665.89 and were \$465.89 (check # 1932) for webmaster services and \$200 (check 1933) for April meeting minute. The DC Government allotment in the amount of \$5,445.56 was credited. Beginning balance was \$24,728.88 and closing funds available and uncommitted are \$28,933.55 after these disbursements and credit. The savings account accrued one cent of interest bringing the balance from \$100.01 to \$100.02. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The 2020 Q2 Quarterly Report was approved by unanimous consent; Commissioner Alcorn noted that he worked with the bank to have the listed fraudulent transactions reversed.

**Old Business**

1. Commissioner Mike Soderman moved and Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson seconded that ANC6A send a letter requesting a stop work order from DCRA for 201 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE (800 Constitution Ave NE) - HPA 19-104. Permits obtained are contradictory to what the Historical Preservation Society had mandated in 2019 - that the entrance remain on 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE. The Commission last voted to take no action on this; the staff report was never filed at the office of preservation and the permit was issued in error for 8<sup>th</sup> Street, not Constitution Avenue NE. The motion passed 8-0.

**New Business**

1. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert seconded that ANC6A send a letter to DDOT to request that DDOT pursue sidewalk extensions on blocks near essential businesses, including restaurants to allow for safe outdoor seating. Additional requests for extended sidewalks for safely distanced pedestrian activity and specific blocks need to be deliberated with DDOT, and this will be mentioned in the letter. These areas will allow residents, deliveries, and emergency vehicles to travel as they normally do and will largely consist of cones and signs that neighbors can monitor; Commissioner Gove noted that these measures are already in place across the country (Seattle) and in DC (Adams Morgan). It was requested that DDOT attend the next Transportation and Public Space and ANC 6A Meetings. The motion passed 8-0.
2. Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded that ANC6A approve the appointment of Jason Gresh to the Community Outreach Committee. Mr. Gresh has

been curious about the Committee, has attended meetings and is excited to work on the committee. The motion passed 8-0.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. The April 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown moved and Commissioner Philips-Gilbert seconded a motion to table the recommendation that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for special exceptions under the residential conversion requirements of Subtitle U § 320.2, for a special exception under the penthouse height requirements of Subtitle C § 1500.1, and to permit a trellis that does not conform with the side building wall setbacks required pursuant to C-1502.1(C)(1), to construct two three-story buildings with penthouses at 909 and 911 I Street, NE (BZA Number BZA-TMP1070) in the RF-1 Zone, on condition that the applicant make best efforts to get letters of support from the neighbors at 823, 825 and 827 9th Street, NE, that the applicant remove the trellises from the roof deck, remove the side balconies, move the planned solar panels to the back of the roof, and make the back of the roof deck inaccessible. The architect noted that the trellis and solar panels were removed and drainage issues and all other comments were addressed. No negative response was received from neighbors. The applicant will resend an email with images for further review by the Commissioners. The vote to table the recommendation passed 8-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 20, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. No report. Committee did not meet in April 2020.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 19, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) via WebEx

#### **Community Outreach**

1. No report. Committee did not meet in April 2020.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 18, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday; usually 4<sup>th</sup> Monday) via WebEx

#### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. No report. Committee did not meet in April 2020.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 18, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) via WebEx

#### **Community Presentations**

##### **Commander Morgan Kane, First District, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)**

Commander Kane reviewed recent incidents, namely burglaries and arson, and police response on H Street NE and in the Fifth District. These crimes, as well as car theft, are proving to be the most common incidents during the pandemic and Commander Kane asked that businesses remove goods from store windows and civilians remove any valuables from vehicles and not leave cars idling with keys in the ignition. MPD is also aware of concern about traffic and speeding, and though officers had temporarily been given discretion during the pandemic about what to respond to, more officers are being assigned to traffic. Commander Kane emphasized that officers in the MPD are continuing to come to work and respond to community needs - people should not be wary of calling 911 during the pandemic if necessary. MPD has expanded their telephone reporting unit to reduce in-person contact but continue to respond to serious crimes in real-time, as well as educating people that are not practicing social distancing in public. MPD is also keeping a keen eye out for domestic violence but has not seen an increase in instances. Overall, the District is down 10% in crime and have decreased the previous increase in violent crime. There are more homicides in 2020

(8) than in 2019 with half of those occurring inside. All homicides except one in Southwest DC are either closed cases or have known suspects.

**Captain Jerome Merrill, Fifth District, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)**

Captain Merrill spoke to known narcotics-related problems in the Fifth District and asked to let him know if anyone notices a decrease in police presence. The Crime and Narcotics divisions have intervened and there are constant patrols and increased officer presence and complaints have decreased, though he knows that Eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) Place and D Street NE is still an issue. If residents see something that is not an emergency, they should call 311 as that captures data.

**Preetha Iyengar, MD, Medical Officer, Division of Epidemiology Disease Surveillance & Investigation, DC Department of Health (DOH)**

Dr. Iyengar gave an update on coronavirus in DC; there are 6,736 cases, increasing by 143 cases per day, and we are continuing to track confirmed positive cases by the RPTCR test. We have seen a 2 day increase in hospital bed use and ventilator use and need to look at longer trends to assess what this means. There is a 3 day decrease in reported deaths, which could mean community mitigation efforts are starting to be effective. DC's peak was around April 24, 2020. Ward 4 has the highest infection rate with Ward 3 experiencing the lowest; there is more transmission in the Columbia Heights and Brentwood Areas, where there are more essential workers and public transportation usage. Congregate housing, and Hispanic and African American communities are also disproportionately affected. At the beginning of the pandemic, 22% of cases were due to travel whereas now that number is only about 2%, showing that there is widespread local infection. DC is currently in Phase 0 of reopening, and Phase 1 will come when there is a sustained 14-day decrease in community spread and 3 day decrease in transmission rate. Phase 1 will see staggered reopening of institutions, continued social distancing and teleworking, while Phase 2 will reopen schools and nonessential businesses with more moderate social distancing protocols. Phase 3 will be a full reopening. The city capacity for testing symptomatic people will need to increase, as will aggressive contact tracing. Dr. Iyengar also reviewed alternate care sites built in the city including the Convention Center and hopes the curve will continue to trend downward.

**DC Reopen - Tyler Williams, Ward 6 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services**

Ms. Williams spoke to the reopening process and noted that while the public health emergency was extended through June 8, 2020. The Mayor's office put together a Reopen committee, made up of eleven teams, to lead the city's reopening in a new, more resilient normal. Forty local retailers were selected to pilot a program through a waiver application and provide data to examine city reopening. There are 10 public testing sites maintained in DC and a hotline for residents that are homebound to request food and nonessential items (1-888-349-8323). Several grocery stores that have dedicated hours for senior shoppers and the District has received approval for use of SNAP benefits on Amazon. The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) will continue operating virtually until a close date of May 29, 2020. The DC Board of Elections is urging all citizens to request absentee ballots for primary and special elections, which can be done on dcdob.org or by downloading the Vote for DC app. Ms. Williams closed by saying that three parks are closed to vehicular traffic to allow for safe walking outside, small business recovery microgrant program recipients were notified of their awards, and masks continue to be essential in indoor public spaces.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.