

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Zoom Meeting  
May 14, 2026**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove, Stephen Kolb, Roberta Shapiro, Morgan Conley, and Scott Burger were present. Commissioner Kimberley Butler was absent.

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

Commissioner Amber Gove called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. Commissioner Stephen Kolb moved and Commissioner Morgan Conley seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the minutes for the ANC April 2026 meeting. The motion passed 5-0 and the minutes were accepted subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary. Commissioner Roberta Shapiro moved and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion of the freezing of over \$3M of funding for arts programs which particularly impacts Atlas Performing Arts Center. The motion passed 5-0. The agenda for the May 2026 meeting as amended was accepted by unanimous consent.

The community received meeting notice via listservs, the Hill Rag, ANC website, X, and Facebook.

#### **Community Presentations**

**Vacant and Blighted Properties: Frank Z. Bessenyei and Brandon Wells, Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO); Dennis Corkery, Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG); Keith Parsons, Department of Buildings (DOB)**

Keith Parsons from DOB reviewed the role of DOB within the vacant and blighted property process, noting that DOB is the party that identifies the property in question as either vacant or blighted and has the power to correct violations. The process usually starts with a complaint that is filed with DOB, which any community member can submit through [www.dob.dc.gov](http://www.dob.dc.gov) by filing a vacant or blighted property inspection request. Anonymous complaints are allowed, but Mr. Parsons recommends against them as DOB cannot share process updates with anonymous complaints. When DOB inspectors go to a property, they determine whether anybody is actually living in the property day-to-day or using the property day-to-day in a business manner. A 'blighted' classification is more dependent on the physical condition of the property - if the exterior structure of a property is deteriorating, it is probably blighted; signs include holes in the roof, breaking down foundation or eaves, graffiti, and broken windows. There is no partial occupancy, so even if one unit in a 700-unit building is occupied, the entire building is considered occupied. Vacant tax rates are 5% while blighted are 10%; tax bills are sent twice a year and anyone interested can view the DOB public dashboard to see whether properties have been marked as vacant or blighted and if DOB is aligned with OTR. There are several exemptions, such as for construction or hardship, and the timelines for many of these exemptions have recently increased.

Mr. Frank Bessenyei from OTR reviewed how often DOB and OTR systems communicate with each other, stating that communications happen Mondays-Fridays and are through an automated system. Once the tax rate recalculates and updates automatically, the system will generate a corrected tax bill. Mr. Bessenyei also clarified that tax changes to the vacant property at 529 12<sup>th</sup> Street will be retroactive after an audit in November.

Dennis Corkery from OAG shared OAG's involvement in the process, noting that 'nuisance' properties (one's housing drugs, firearms, or prostitution) are legally different from vacant and blighted ones, but they often are very similar. OAG can only go after property owners, so cases in which property owners are absent present a challenge. OAG can act under the False Claims Act, which goes into effect when someone knowingly submits something fraudulent to the government about their property; then OAG can seek penalties up to three times the value of the tax that should have been paid. 1000 C Street NE is an example of this, where the property owner had been submitting endless fraudulent exemption requests and OAG is currently working with US Marshals to execute a writ against the property.

### **Consent Agenda:**

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

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

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to Councilmember Charles Allen requesting the renaming of the alley at D Street NE and Kingsman Field and Dog Park between 13th Street NE and Tennessee Avenue NE be officially named "Electric Alley". This is its historical name from the early 1900's when the field was a car barn.
- ANC 6A provide a letter of support to DPR for Duilio Passariello's DPR arts grant application for Lovejoy Park with the contingency that we get written confirmation that this design would not be in conflict with the overall renovation of the park by DPR.
- ANC 6A send a comment letter on DDOT NOI 26-69-MESD - Safety Treatment at Bladensburg Road NE between Benning Road and Neal Street NE.

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

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to HPRB for an application to build a 2-story garage at 1341 A Street NE (Square 1035, Lot 803) (HP 26-214). (No special exception or variance is requested. Applicant has received two letters of neighborhood support.)

### **Officer Reports:**

1. Commissioner Kolb moved and Commissioner Conley seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The May 2026 Treasurer's report submitted by Commissioner Shapiro reviewed the April opening and closing balances reported by OANC, which were \$29,853.69 and \$29,007.50, respectively. The difference reflects distributions for administrative and notetaking services and credits by OANC of \$1,253.25 for previously canceled checks (#s 10, 25, and 26) which had been lost by USPS. The motion passed 6-0.
2. Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Conley seconded the motion that ANC 6A amend the signature cards for the ANC6A account at National Capital Bank such that only ANC 6A officers, currently Amber Gove, Roberta Shapiro, Steve Kolb and Scott Burger, will appear on the signature cards. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

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

1. The April 2026 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
2. The committee recommended and Commissioner Kolb seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the grant application for Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School PTO in the amount of \$1,981.00 for support of Phase 2 of their community garden rebuild. Hannah Zlotnick, PTO representative for Ludlow-Taylor, stated that the organization appreciates the

Commission's longstanding support of the community garden. The organization creates community education and engages local businesses about the garden. Commissioner Shapiro noted that this is almost two thirds of the Commission's \$3K grant budget for the year and is a substantial amount given the typical grant amount is around \$1K. The motion was approved 5-0.

3. No meeting in May 2026. Next meeting: 7:00 pm, June 22, 2026 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday).

### **Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis (ABC)**

1. No report. ABC did not meet in April 2026.
2. Update on application for cannabis retailer license for Hit LLC, d/b/a DC Dank, 712 15th Street NE (ABRA-135138). The Committee reached out to ABCA to conduct another measurement to determine whether the site was eligible to host a cannabis retailer due to the distance to Miner Elementary School. ABCA concluded that the distance was within 400 feet, which under current DC law, is too short a distance for a cannabis retailer to be permitted to operate. The placard was rescinded, which is subject to appeal by the applicant. There is no action needed at this time but seemingly a cannabis retailer will not be able to operate at this location.
3. Commissioner Gove moved that ANC 6A approve a settlement agreement for 618 Productions, d/b/a Transmission, 1353 H Street NE (ABRA-133331) that includes the following change to the standing template settlement agreement in paragraph 2.1.3: "Close sidewalk cafes and/or summer gardens by 2:00 am Sunday through Thursday evenings and by 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages must end at that time and the patio must be cleared of all patrons and staff." (The template reads "11:00 pm Sunday through Thursday" and "12:00 am on Friday and Saturday".) Neighbors have raised concerns about and opposition to noise at the late hour and Commissioners are wary that this would set a precedent for nearby establishments to extend their hours as well. The area in question is an open rooftop. The motion failed with a 0-5 vote. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Scott Burger seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the settlement agreement but keep the standard hours. The motion passed 5-0.
4. Update on settlement agreement negotiations with Allure Lounge, LLC, 711 H Street NE (ABRA-108303). At a prior meeting, the Commission had voted to protest the application subject to approval or a settlement agreement; the Committee has not been able to be in touch with the applicant. There is a roll call hearing for protest on Monday and the Committee will continue efforts to negotiate.
5. Commissioner Gove recommended and Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A authorize the ABC Committee Chair to enter into a settlement agreement with Della Barba Pizza, 1382 East Capitol St NE that is consistent with ANC 6A's template alcohol settlement agreement after ABCA formally issues a placard notice for the establishment. Commissioners noted that the owner, Joey Della Barba, has been a great neighbor. The motion passed 5-0.
6. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 26, 2026 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

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

1. The April 2026 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
2. Commissioner recommended and Commissioner seconded the motion that 6A send a letter of support to H Street Main Street in their pursuit of a grant from the DC Commission on

Arts and the Humanities. (This motion passed unanimously but Commissioner Shapiro requested that it be placed on the regular agenda so that Mr. Anwar Saleem of H Street Main Street could discuss it with the ANC.) H Street Main Street Director Anwar Saleem reviewed the \$125,000 grant, which will create 140 aluminum light pole banners, 18 wrapped traffic control boxes, six large scale murals, and potentially install pedestrian art. Commissioner Shapiro believes there are larger problems that need addressing on H Street and noted that there are other beautification processes planned for the corridor which might remove this grant's updates. Mr. Saleem noted that H Street Main Street is working and meeting with DDOT and other agencies. Commissioner Gove added a friendly amendment that the ANC's support is contingent on H Street Main Street sharing any updates throughout the process with the Commission and ANC 6A residents. The motion passed as amended 3-2; Commissioners Shapiro and Kolb opposed.

3. Commissioner recommended and Commissioner Conley seconded the motion that ANC 6A pass a resolution in support of WMATA's previously published Metrorail expansion options through ANC 6A and encourages district agencies, WMATA, and stakeholders in areas surrounding the proposed rail segment to begin exploring potential funding and partnership models. The motion passed 5-0.
4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 18, 2026 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

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

1. The April 2026 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
2. No meeting in May. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 17, 2026 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

#### **New Business:**

- Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a resolution to the Board of Elections requesting they confirm the election results for Ben Hammer, 6A06 and certify the results through publishing notice in the DC Register. (NOTE: After publication, the Commissioner can be sworn in as early as noon on the day following publication and will be sworn in and eligible to vote in time for ANC 6A's June 2026 meeting.) The motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Burger moved and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A authorize the ABC committee to renegotiate existing settlement agreements to remove restrictions on pub crawls when requested by establishments whose existing settlement agreements contain this clause. The motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Kolb seconded the motion that ANC6A (in collaboration with 6B) send a letter to DC Council requesting they allocate resources and direct DDOT to revisit plans for 11th Street SE (between I and M Streets SE) and reiterating 6A's previous support for safety improvements and safe connections for all road users between Lincoln Park and the future 11th Street Bridge Park. The motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Burger seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DC Council/Mayor requesting restoration of \$6M to WMATA funds to support better bus service. The motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Conley seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to the Council, the mayor, and the CFO in opposition to the freezing of over \$3M of funding for arts programs which particularly impacts Atlas Performing Arts Center. The motion passed 5-0.

**Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) is trying to get DGS to have a meeting to use the allocated funds for Sherwood repairs. The Commissioner is proud of the community for placing 24 mosquito zapping pots placed around the area.

Commissioner Kolb (6A07) had nothing to add; 6A07 is very quiet.

Commissioner Conley (6A05) had no updates.

Commissioner Burger (6A01) had no updates.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) encouraged attendance for free ice cream at the Capitol Candy Jar and the bike ride this weekend.

**Community Comment**

Mr. Eric Salmi from Councilmember Allen's office provided an update, noting that the public hearing portion for agency budgets concluded and soon committees will be recommending and voting to make changes to the agencies under their purview. There will be two votes before the council, the first of which is on June 9, 2026. Councilmember Allen has also worked on a bill that bans utility fees in common areas of apartment buildings; the bill passed unanimously on first vote and will be voted on again on June 9, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.