

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
WebEx Meeting  
June 11, 2020**

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Phil Toomajian, Mike Soderman, Ruth Ann Hudson, Brian Alcorn, Stephanie Zimny, Marie-Claire Brown and Sondra Philips-Gilbert (joined at 7:40 pm but did not participate in voting).

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

Chairwoman Amber Gove called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

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

**Officer Reports**

1. The June 2020 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the two expenditures accrued in May: \$465.89 for webmaster services (Check 1934) and \$200.00 for meeting minutes (check 1935). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$26,484.82 and after these two disbursements totaling \$665.89 the closing uncommitted funds are \$25,818.93. The savings account opened at \$100.02, gained one penny of interest, and closed at \$100.03. As the fiscal year end is upcoming at the end of September 2020, Commissioner Alcorn expects to have the potential adoption of the commission's fiscal year 2021 budget item as an agenda item in the September 2020 agenda and is accepting input from Commissioners and community on a draft budget for July's ANC6A meeting. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

**New Business**

1. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown seconded that ANC 6A approve a grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Serve Your City/Ward-6 Mutual Aid Network to purchase: 1. refrigeration unit for food storage at distribution sites, 2. disposable masks and supplies for making reusable masks, 3. electronic devices to assist students with distance learning, and 4. to print culturally-sensitive public health materials. This matter has been expedited given its urgency and timeliness. Serve Your City's Hannah Blumenfeld and Sig Cohen presented the grant proposal, noting that their efforts are a volunteer campaign and a collaborative effort to serve underserved members of the community. Community members can call a hotline (202-683-9962), email ([ward6mutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:ward6mutualaid@gmail.com)), or fill out a form on [www.serveyourcitydc.org](http://www.serveyourcitydc.org) to request aid. All partners are using a Google spreadsheet to track data. The motion passed 7-0.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Mike Soderman seconded that ANC 6A send a letter of support to Mr. Clifford Dixon, Permit Expeditor regarding permits for excavation (EX1900033), foundation (FD1900021) and building (B1905590) that would allow work by the Eliot-Hine Middle School construction team for extended work hours from 6:00 am to 2:00 am Monday through Saturday **for interior work only** in order to expedite completion of the building in time for the new school year. Extending work hours would allow for better social distancing and a second shift of workers. Commissioner Alcorn did an immediate survey of the neighboring residents and found that several are opposed to extending construction hours as the construction is loud, disruptive, and inconvenient for

residential parking. Camilo Sanin (project coordinator for DCPS for Eliot-Hine) and Erin Mignano (project manager for Turner Construction) are aware of the issues and have measures in place to reduce the negative impact on residents, including limited delivery hours and locations and designated parking spaces for construction workers separate from residential parking. Commissioner Gove proposed and Commissioner Phil Toomajian seconded an amendment to the letter to update the extended hours to 12:00 midnight instead of 2:00 am and to include a timeframe of no later than the end of September 2020. The vote on the amended motion passed 6-1 with Commissioner Alcorn opposing.

3. **Suggested Motion:** Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded that ANC 6A authorize \$500.00 to be placed in the budget for printing of materials related to public purposes, and if there is a need to increase this amount, the Commission can do so any time between now and the end of the fiscal year 2019-20. The authorization is requested based on the Commission's by-laws which state that "No expenditure of any amount shall be made without the specific authorization of the Commission." These funds would be through September 2020 and are a collective pool rather than for each individual Commissioner. Adding these funds would update the printing budget, predominantly used on agenda printing; savings on this due to virtual meetings are about \$800.00 to date. Commissioner Toomajian proposed and Commissioner Alcorn seconded a friendly amendment that it be noted that the \$500.00 is to be shared among Commissioners and a report back on utilization of these funds be presented in coming meetings of ANC 6A. The amended motion passed 7-0.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

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

1. The May 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT (now that automated traffic enforcement is in their purview) requesting that they consider a list of locations for speed and/or red-light cameras. The recommendation passed 7-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 15, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) via WebEx.

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The May 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 6A amend its settlement agreement with Callister Technology and Entertainment, LLC, t/a Duffy's Irish Pub at 1016 H Street NE (ABRA# 111076) to permit amplified sounds in the summer garden until 11:30 pm Sunday through Thursday evenings and 12:30 am on Friday and Saturday evenings and the evenings before federal and District of Columbia holidays. The motion passed 7-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 16, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) via WebEx.

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

1. The May 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 17, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) via WebEx.

#### **Community Outreach**

1. The May 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 22, 2020 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) via WebEx.

## **Community Presentations**

### **Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education - FY 21 Budget Update**

Deputy Mayor Paul Kihn offered insight into the Mayor's 2020-21 budget, the focus of which was HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Equity). The budget overall is \$16.7 billion, \$8.5 billion of which are local funds. COVID-19 presented many challenges to the budget and though the District is fortunate to have been on strong financial footing, the impact of the pandemic highlighted many issues in the education sphere, such as the Digital Divide. DCPS is working to resolve this, but there is much work left to do as WiFi, hotspots, and devices are purchased for families. Next year will be a "hybrid" model of schooling, with as much in-person learning as possible coupled with virtual learning. Going back to school will be done very carefully and in phases. Deputy Mayor Kihn's team is currently analyzing a large family engagement survey that was concluded on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and had representation of 23,000 students across the District; early findings were that families value consistency and stability. Deputy Mayor Kihn reviewed education-specific highlights of the budget, including a 3% increase in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula and no change in local school budgets. The Ward 6 education highlights included \$6 million for Eliot-Hine renovations, a new child development center and expanded pre-k seats at Miner, \$48 million to complete Banneker High School in Shaw, \$74 million invested in facilities for new infant and toddler seats across the city. On the health and safety front, the budget includes \$11 million+ for ADA enhancements at municipal facilities and \$25 million in public infrastructure support for improvements at Howard University Hospital. Housing remains a priority for this administration and there is \$100 million in the housing production trust fund as well as \$79 million for rehabilitation of the DC housing portfolio and investment in new communities. There is \$1.1 million in the budget for capital improvements to the Eastern Market building, an overall \$467 million allocated to street, sidewalk, and alley repair, a \$56 million investment in road and bike lane improvement, and \$113 million allocated to extend the DC street car to Benning Road. The Deputy Mayor concluded the budget overview noting that there will be no impact on the number of grants offered for after school programs as these remain crucial to underserved families and students. In addition, a partnership with Springboard Collaborative will provide literacy tutoring to 1,000 elementary school students and DCPS has prioritized summer programming for students with IEPs.

Deputy Mayor Kihn also spoke to the first amendment demonstrations happening around the District in response to George Floyd's murder and longstanding systemic injustice, stating that Americans and DC residents are demanding meaningful and lasting change. He joins Mayor Bowser in condemning racism and police brutality and notes that the city has a duty to ensure that DC is rebuilt in a more equitable and vibrant way, in part through the public education system.

### **Dr. Jessica Sutter - Ward 6 State Board of Education Representative**

Dr. Jessica Sutter reviewed what the State Board of Education (SBOE) is and what they do: SBOE is a 9-member elected body (1 from each ward, 1 at large and 2 student representatives) and is a policy-approving and advising board having no control over budget or local school systems. Currently SBOE is working on the COVID-19 education situation, hearing community concerns and testifying at hearings about those needs. Dr. Sutter believes a more holistic approach in education is necessary, and as we rebuild the education system mid- and post-COVID-19, a comprehensive plan with antiracist measures in schools and curricula will be necessary for all students to feel safe, cared for, and seen. She mentioned particularly that social studies standards are outdated (written in 2006) and inconsistent. The standards need

to be more culturally responsive: there is very little Latinx history in social studies curricula though the DC Latinx population has drastically grown since 2006; the way black history is taught is not from an antiracist perspective; and more civic engagement and depth is needed in younger grades. Due to these concerns, SBOE is establishing an advisory committee to review and offer amendments to the current standards; the process will hopefully be reviewed by all relevant parties and completed by 2022. Dr. Sutter fielded questions about the school reopening process, noting that SBOE has no authority in this area, though she is seeing clear desire among Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in the District for coordination. She urges any constituents to contact her with comments as the SBOE gives input to various decision makers; there are multiple components, including childcare, teacher health and availability, and neighboring jurisdictions' schedules to consider. The priority of in-person learning should be on younger children and students whose learning has been most interrupted due to lack of resources. There are two offices inside the SBOE - the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Student Advocate, both of which are direct family-facing entities and are great resources for parents and students

#### **Captain Michael Pulliam - Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), District One**

Captain Michael Pulliam noted that MPD is one of the most progressive police departments in the nation and distinguished MPD from the police in recent news. Captain Pulliam does not feel that some of the recent bills and discussions in the DC Council characterize MPD and wants any constituent with honest feedback on MPD to email [justice@dccouncil.us](mailto:justice@dccouncil.us) in time for budget hearings the week of June 14, 2020. Captain Pulliam recognizes that while the role of the police has expanded over the last twenty years, they are not necessarily the best professionals to handle several issues including homelessness and mental health - emergencies for which the police is often called in. However, police and fire departments are on call 24/7 while better trained professionals in these fields typically work business hours. In response to safety concerns regarding recent presence of the National Guard, Captain Pulliam noted that there was very little coordination with local police departments and more National Guard presence and action occurred than was required.

#### **Jamal Jordan - Public Affairs Manager, Pepco**

Jamal Jordan introduced the Reduce Energy Use DC campaign and encouraged everyone to take steps to reduce energy; for more information, visit [www.reduceenergyusedc.com](http://www.reduceenergyusedc.com).

ANC6A is happy to accommodate Ronald L. Lester and David Holmes at a future meeting as they were on the agenda to speak about Anacostia River Cleanup but did not attend this meeting.

#### **Single Member District (SMD) Reports**

All Commissioners are appreciative of the dedication and training of the MPD.

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) has been working with residents between D Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Place NE about potential illegal activity and getting feedback from residents near Eliot-Hine about the construction.

Commissioner Brown (6A01) warned everyone that an item stolen from Engine 10 would allow for any door to be open and advises that everyone be extra vigilant about safety and security. There have been several safety incidents on her block - due to three levels of uneven sidewalk, seniors have taken serious falls and it is time to repair the sidewalks. Additionally, it is time to start reopening businesses to keep H Street vibrant.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) is working with DCRA related to ambiguity on 201 8<sup>th</sup> Street development. He is also working diligently to ensure that we are checking in on seniors and others in the community and making sure they have everything they need as temperatures rise.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) announced that Sherwood Recreational Park is partially reopened and the Mayor has announced that all streets and residential areas between 12<sup>th</sup> and K Streets will be “slow streets” (15 mph). He has been in touch with MPD’s Commander Morgan Kane who is concerned about the proposed defunding of MPD and wants to bring attention to an email from Councilmember Allen sounding like he is seriously considering defunding MPD. Commissioner Toomajian does not agree with defunding MPD and does not believe it would bring about more safety.

Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson (6A05) echoed concerns of bringing students back to school and the general feelings of anxiety around the pandemic.

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny (6A06) announced that she and Commissioner Philips-Gilbert, in conjunction with MPD and representatives of City Council’s office are organizing a virtual walk, date TBD. She noted that schools are still providing food and accepting donations and that a lot of bulk dumping (mattresses, construction debris) has occurred in her SMD. In many cases residents report the dumping and DPW closes the case without removing the garbage, so residents reporting a 311 issue should be as specific as possible. Finally, Commissioner Zimny encouraged everyone to take advantage of the rebate program for security cameras offered by the District.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) is participating in the public art process and selection input at Eliot-Hine. There is a “Story of Our Schools” installation going in and the selection committee is soliciting input from any Eliot or Hine alumni from 1940 -1970. She is excited about the Slow Streets Initiative and is hopeful that the installation will happen this summer, hopefully quicker with signs and cones. She encouraged restaurants on H Street NE to learn more about new “Streateries” programs and for everyone to continue submitting grant applications.

#### **Additional Items**

##### **Naomi Mitchell - Community Liaison, Office of Councilmember Charles Allen**

Naomi Mitchell noted that while it is agreed that DC has great policemen, there is pressure to put out emergency legislation with certain inclusions such as the barring of chokeholds. There will be an opportunity to weigh in on police oversight and funding and nothing is final yet.

Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC6A send a letter to Councilmember Allen’s and the Mayor’s offices in support of continued funding of training and service of the MPD. Commissioner Gove proposed and Commissioner Brown seconded a friendly amendment to focus funding on mental health service. The amended motion passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.