

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
June 9, 2022**

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Brian Alcorn, Keya Chatterjee, Sondra Philips-Gilbert, Laura Gentile, and Phil Toomajian. Commissioners Robb Dooling and Mike Soderman were 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 Laura Gentile amended her new business item to include the creation of a second Google group to serve solely as a community forum. The minutes for the ANC May 2022 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the June 2022 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent with Commissioner Gentile's update.

Community Presentations:

Shared Responsibility for Our Urban Tree Canopy - Alexander Grieve, Urban Forester, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

Urban Forester Alexander Grieve presented on the Urban Forestry department of DDOT, noting that they manage about 180,000 street and park trees in the city; this involves removing, planting, and pruning these trees. There are 25 Urban Foresters like Mr. Grieve in the city and all can be reached through 311, which is the preferred method of contact so community members can leave detailed comments. There are four requests community members can put in for Urban Forestry: planting (happens in October-April), pruning, removal, and inspection (highest priority request). Mr. Grieve cautioned that trees uprooting sidewalks are not Urban Forestry's domain, and citizens should direct their request to Sidewalks in 311. Likewise, trees in alleys are also not managed by Urban Forestry. Urban Forestry is expanding and updating public tree boxes and encourages community members to plant in them, as long as the plants are not food. Mr. Grieve can be reached at Alexander.grieve[at]dc.gov and (202) 368-3322, and shared the following resources for more information:

[Cityworks Workorders | Cityworks Workorders | Open Data DC](https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/DCGIS::cityworks-workorders/explore?location=38.857134%2C-77.181373%2C12.00)

[Cityworks Workorders | Cityworks Workorders | Open Data DC](https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/DCGIS::cityworks-workorders/explore?location=38.857134%2C-77.181373%2C12.00)

[Urban Forestry Street Trees | Urban Forestry Street Trees | Open Data DC](https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/DCGIS::urban-forestry-street-trees/explore?location=38.904126%2C-77.011668%2C12.70)

[Urban Forestry Street Trees | Urban Forestry Street Trees | Open Data DC](https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/DCGIS::urban-forestry-street-trees/explore?location=38.904126%2C-77.011668%2C12.70)

[DDOT Urban Forestry \(arcgis.com\) \(https://ddot-urban-forestry-dcgis.hub.arcgis.com/\)](https://ddot-urban-forestry-dcgis.hub.arcgis.com/)

[Home - Casey Trees \(https://caseytrees.org/\)](https://caseytrees.org/)

Introduction and Status of Vacant Properties in ANC 6A - Isaac Boateng, Ward 6 Account Manager, Office of the Director, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)

DCRA Interim Ward 6 Account Manager Isaac Boateng manages Wards 3 and 6, noting that in general DCRA protects the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of DC residents and businesses by ensuring code compliance and regulating businesses. DCRA issues construction permits and runs inspections. Currently, DCRA's customer satisfaction is trending at 86% for 2022 and they have performed more than 5,000 inspections with shorter turnaround time for permitting. Mr. Boateng noted that DCRA responds to all inquiries within three business days

and encourages community members to use the live chat feature on the DCRA website , as well as Scout (<https://scout.dkra.dc.gov/login>) to stay informed on DC construction and inspection data. Enforcement of vacant properties is a complaint-based system - DCRA receives a complaint, then inspects the property, notifying the property owner and potentially classifying the property as vacant or blighted with the Office of Tax and Revenue resulting in a higher tax for the property. If a property is deemed vacant, DCRA inspects the outside of the property but does not have the authority to go inside. Many concerns, such as rodents and taxes, are handled by DOH and OTR rather than DCRA. Mr. Boateng will be coming back to a later meeting for a deeper dive into certain properties: 1219 K Street NE, 1000 C Street NE, 1223 Duncan Place NE, 410 11th Street NE, and 408 11th Street NE. In the meantime, he provided these resources:

[Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Vacant Property Inspection Request \(kustomer.help\) \(https://dcra.kustomer.help/contact/vacant-property-inspection-BkyNeYleO\)](https://dcra.kustomer.help/contact/vacant-property-inspection-BkyNeYleO)

[DCRA KB Housing Inspection Request \(kustomer.help\) \(https://dcra-sandbox.kustomer.help/contact/housing-inspection-and-property-maintenance-request-form-S1fWFjFDO?themeld=623891b8666158341a9ac2d6&status=draft\)](https://dcra-sandbox.kustomer.help/contact/housing-inspection-and-property-maintenance-request-form-S1fWFjFDO?themeld=623891b8666158341a9ac2d6&status=draft)

[DCRA KB Basic Business License Rental Housing Inspection Request \(kustomer.help\) \(https://dcra-sandbox.kustomer.help/contact/basic-business-license-inspection-request-H1dJOrpwu?themeld=623891b8666158341a9ac2d6&status=draft\)](https://dcra-sandbox.kustomer.help/contact/basic-business-license-inspection-request-H1dJOrpwu?themeld=623891b8666158341a9ac2d6&status=draft)

[DCRA KB Illegal Construction Inspection Request Form \(kustomer.help\) \(https://dcra-sandbox.kustomer.help/contact/illegal-construction-inspection-request-form-Bk2u_CFlD?themeld=623891b8666158341a9ac2d6&status=draft\)](https://dcra-sandbox.kustomer.help/contact/illegal-construction-inspection-request-form-Bk2u_CFlD?themeld=623891b8666158341a9ac2d6&status=draft)

Consent Agenda

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Transportation and Public Space:

- ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT reiterating its previous requests for traffic calming measures on H Street NE and requesting their implementation by February 1, 2023, including a westbound speed camera on the 1300 block; sidewalk extensions/bulb-outs at 14th Street, 10th Street, 8th Street, and 6th Street; a midblock crosswalk in the 1300 block of H Street NE; and a red painted bus-only lane similar to other installations.
- ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT supporting the project to increase safety on 17th Street and 19th Street for all users, and provide the opportunity for ANC 6B and ANC 7D to join the letter.
- ANC 6A send a letter to each DC Council Member in support of the Safe Routes to School proposed legislation. In particular, the ANC supports the bill's requirement to install vertical safety features in proximity to schools, given DDOT's recent refusal to install raised crosswalks near Maury Elementary on 13th Street NE.
- ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT urging coordination between the annual repaving projects and the installation of speed humps/speed tables, including a list of currently open TSIs on blocks scheduled for repaving.

Economic Development and Zoning:

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for special exception zoning relief pursuant to Subtitle H § 910, Subtitle H § 1202, and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle H § 904.1, special exception zoning relief pursuant to Subtitle H § 910, Subtitle H § 1202, and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle H § 905.1, and an area variance pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002 from the design

requirements of Subtitle H § 909.1(f) at 1252 H Street NE (BZA Case #20742). BZA Case scheduled for 6/22/2022.

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for special exception zoning relief pursuant to Subtitle C § 703.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the minimum vehicle parking requirements of Subtitle C § 701 to construct a front, rear, and third floor addition with penthouse, and to convert to a mixed-use, nine-unit apartment house with first floor retail, an existing, attached, six-unit, two-story with cellar, mixed use building at 1447 Maryland Avenue NE (BZA Case #20731) in the NC-14 zone on condition that the developer make best efforts to get letters of recommendation from the neighbors at 1489, 1445, 1443 and 1439 Maryland Avenue and 712 15th Street NE. BZA Case scheduled for 7/06/2022.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to HPRB for historic review of the construction of a rear addition at 1320 North Carolina Avenue NE (HPRB Case #22-325) on condition that the owner make best efforts to get letters of support from the immediate adjacent neighbors.

Officer Reports:

1. The June 2022 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the three expenditures accrued in May: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250.00 for notetaking, and \$58.29 for Zoom Pro/Webinar (Checks #2020 - #2022, respectively). The ANC had \$1,661.36 in uncashed checks (Checks #2012, #2014, #2016, #2017, and #2019) and \$616.58 in cashed checks. The opening uncommitted funds available were \$24,137.16 and after these disbursements totaling \$1,074.18 and cashed and uncashed checks, the closing available checking balance is \$20,785.04. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05. Petty cash remained at \$25.00. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Alcorn provided an update on Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) allotments, reporting that the slow rate of receiving allotments is due to increased scrutiny for grant approval and documentation. On May 17, 2022, OANC advised that ANC 6A is cleared to receive the Q1 and Q2 2022 allotments and asked for additional documentation on existing grants.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach

1. The May 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the Ludlow Taylor Elementary School Food Print grant for \$2,500 dollars. Erin Johnston from the grants program at Ludlow Taylor represented the school, noting that the grant is to the Ludlow Taylor Elementary PTO, which funds more than half of the \$60,000 Food Print program. Any grant funds received would reduce the PTO commitment for Food Print and redirect it to another program. Food Print is a program run through Fresh Farm and allows pre-kindergarten through grade 5 students to learn how to harvest fresh vegetables, cook healthy food, and combine knowledge of science and healthy eating. Commissioner Phil Toomajian offered an amendment to the motion to clarify that the grant is for the Ludlow Taylor PTO. The motion passed as amended 6-0.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the for the Eliot-Hine Middle School Band grant for \$2,000.00 dollars. Sasha Silverman represented the Eliot-Hine Middle School PTO, reporting that Eliot-Hine was recently renovated and has state-of-the-art practice rooms and a new music teacher, but the instruments are lacking and dated. For the band program to grow, new and improved instruments are needed, and Ms. Silverman's son is working on a project to secure these through GoFundMe and other resources, such as this grant. The grant could

potentially cover uniforms as well, which would have to remain the property of the school for future student use. Commissioner Toomajian offered an amendment to the motion to clarify that the grant is for the Eliot-Hine PTO. The motion passed 6-0.

4. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve that 501(c)3 and non 501(c)3 organizations that demonstrate a public benefit to the ANC6A community be eligible for grants. OANC has mandated that ANC 6A must give grants to non 501(c)3 organizations in addition to 501(c)3 organizations in order to conform with city guidelines. Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A table this motion. The motion to table passed 6-0.
5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 27, 2022 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

1. No report. Committee did not meet in May 2021.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 28, 2022 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space

1. The May 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 21, 2022 (3rd Tuesday; usually 3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning

1. The May 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for special exception zoning relief under Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 902.1 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1, and special exception zoning relief under Subtitle E § 5201, Subtitle E § 205.5, and Subtitle X § 902.1 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4 to construct a third story and rear addition, and convert to a flat, an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 647 16th St NE (BZA Case #20612) in the RF-1 zone on condition that the construction debris be removed, an update to the BZA package to note a six foot privacy fence around the entire property, best effort to get a letter of support from the owner of 649 16th Street NE (noting that they have seen the shadow study), and providing the contact at DC Water regarding the brick issue and the contact information for the construction project manager, when that person is named. (Note that neighbor at 649 16th Street has sent a letter of opposition). BZA Case scheduled for 6/22/2022. Commissioner Toomajian moved and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A table this item until the July ANC 6A meeting to allow neighbors extra time to give input and for Commissioners to look more closely at the property. The motion passed 5-1 with Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert opposed.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 15, 2022 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

Commissioner Gentile moved and Commissioner Keya Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A narrow the focus of the ANC 6A Google Group to serve solely as means of communication for ANC meeting agendas and notices, as well as for Commissioners to share information with the community. All Commissioners, Committee chairs and the ANC Administrator would have permission to post to the list. A second Google group would be created for public sharing and a community forum; the community forum will not be an official mode of communication and is not monitored or moderated by ANC Commissioners. The current Google group is not an official forum and is not moderated by ANC 6A officials. Logistically, Commissioners were in disagreement about whether to post ANC 6A content in

just the official group or in both the official group and the community forum, and who should own the community forum group. The Commissioners do not have time to moderate the community forum and do not want to be affiliated with it as it currently stands, with some instances of hate speech. Commissioner Gentile moved to table this item until the July 2022 ANC 6A meeting. The motion to table passed 6-0.

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) is relieved to report that redistricting is now done, and is proud to report that he and hundreds of his fellow residents will be part of a new 10 member ANC Commission, ANC 7D. The southern border of this SMD will be 15th Street and Potomac Avenue SE with the northern border along DC/Prince George's County border. There will be many logistics to work out and the Commissioner looks forward to working with community volunteers. The Commissioner recognized Phil Mendelson and all Commissioners and community leaders who were pivotal in this process. There will be a meeting about the use of a vacant lot at 1744 D Street NE for a public purpose.

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert (6A07) thanked Commissioner Alcorn for working with her on the D Street lot. The Commissioner attended a Memorial Day party and witnessed Friendship Public Charter School (PCS) - Blow Pierce Elementary School students march against gun violence.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) is following up with DDOT for traffic calming on the 1300 block of D and 11th Streets as well as an all way stop on Tennessee Avenue and 14th Street NE and a raised crosswalk on Duncan Place and 14th Street NE. The Commissioner has heard several trash concerns on D Street with blocks getting skipped entirely or trash being left behind in containers. The Commissioner also reported parking safety concerns and poor visibility at Lovejoy Condominiums and is requesting a mirror or increased setback. The Commissioner spoke with an organizer of a Juneteenth celebration, who is concerned that her emails are going to people's junk mail but the event is moving forward as scheduled.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) reported on a recent DDOT C Street Project visit which also included MOCRS Jasmine Coilton, noting that DDOT promised to move bus stops to the far side of intersections, curb extensions, raised crosswalks, and a speed table. The Commissioner looks forward to short- and long-term improvements to traffic patterns around Lincoln Park.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) has been working on facilities issues, this month on School within Schools @ Goding (SWS) which had no air conditioning and is disappointed that the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are not maintaining facilities. There are many exterior issues at the Sherwood Recreation Center - missing parts of instruments and fences, a neglected water fountain, and broken playground pieces, to name a few. The Commissioner is hoping to plan a site visit soon.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) noted that strawberry and summer vegetable season have started and community members can visit the farmer's market at 13th and H Streets NE every Saturday morning. There was a shooting at this location on May 26, 2022 and it may have been an automatic weapon. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen put out a report with detailed and specific recommendations to prevent gun violence. The Commissioner reported that a lot of sex work is happening on K Street NE with condoms being left near J.O Wilson Elementary School by customers and is grateful to the ANC 6A COC for starting a conversation about this.

Community Comments

Ms. Naomi Mitchell will be leaving Councilmember Allen's office on June 30, 2022 after 15 years of service. All Commissioners are in their positions until the end of 2022 and can petition to run again; petitions can be picked up in late July 2022 with the election scheduled for November 2022. Early primary voting for several races, including the mayoral race, is currently open and election day is June 21, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.