

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
WebEx Meeting  
July 9, 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 June 2020 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the June 2020 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent without changes or objection.

**Community Presentations**

**Assistant United States Attorney Doug Klein**

Assistant United States Attorney Doug Klein spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic fraud hotline (202-252-7022; [usadc.covid19@usdoj.gov](mailto:usadc.covid19@usdoj.gov), directly to US Attorney's office) and shared tips to protect yourself from scammers: independently verify the identity of any company, charity, individual, email addresses, or websites offering information; be aware that scammers often mimic real email addresses; do not give any personal and private information over email as legitimate health authorities will NOT solicit personal information in this way; do not forward emails, click on links inside emails, or download attachments from unknown or unverified sources; ignore offers for a COVID-19 cure, vaccine, or treatment; make sure your virus protection software is up to date; check online reviews of any companies offering COVID-19 products and be wary of products with several negative reviews; research charities and be alert to reputable-looking logos, seals, etc.; be cautious about all donations, specifically cash/gift card/wire transfer requests - do not send money through any of these channels; for the most up to date information, visit CDC website. Scams should be reported to the police and individuals should call the US Attorney's office directly. The Attorney's office is still prosecuting cases remotely now that there are no trials. Courts are operating remotely as well, and this is reevaluated weekly. Eventually in-person trials will begin again, and Mr. Klein encourages the filing of community impact statements.

**District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Florida Avenue 90 percent plans - Amanda Stout and Andrew DeFrank**

Deputy Chief Officer for Project Delivery at DDOT Amanda Stout presented about two projects on Florida Avenue, focusing on the Florida Avenue 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Streets NE streetscape project and the Florida and New York Avenues NE intersection project (Dave Thomas Circle). Since December 2019, the streetscape design has been updated from 65% - 90% design, the most important changes being one-way protected bike lanes on both sides of the street for the entire corridor, and a widening of sidewalks under the rail bridge between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. Details including a video presentation can be found at [www.floridaaveproject.com](http://www.floridaaveproject.com); the video of the 90% design for the streetscape can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDBqodPu5Jg&feature=youtu.be>. DDOT is still working on the final design for the Dave Thomas Circle project and are not yet at 65%, but are looking to continue the one-way protected bike lanes from Florida Avenue all the way through to Eckington and 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE. There will be three new public spaces created once the Wendy's

property is acquired, and DDOT is working closely with the NOMA Parks Foundation on these designs.

DDOT Community Engagement Specialist Andrew DeFrank gave an update on C Street NE project; he will be sending Commissioners the final version of the 100% design plan and noted the C Street website is dormant for now until construction gets underway. The project was obligated on July 2, 2020 and the package is being signed off on by different parties in DDOT. The advertising to contractors will happen by mid-August 2020, after which it will take three months to award the contract. A contractor will be onboard in the fall with preliminary construction beginning in the winter and construction in earnest will begin in 2021. Mr. DeFrank also mentioned that a preliminary assessment of 'no right on red' at H Street corridor intersections might not be the best way to promote safety, noting that left turns are a bigger concern and that DDOT will continue thinking of ways to improve safety and take into consideration the Commission's input and requests. Mr. DeFrank also gave a brief update on speed humps, noting that, due to the pandemic, DDOT was not able to collect necessary data to perform a safety assessment. He will be following up about this and about previous sidewalk requests with Commissioner Mike Soderman.

#### **Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) - Anthony Diallo, Ward 6 Account Manager**

Andrew Diallo presented an update on DCRA issues. DCRA rolled out Scout, which is a one-stop-shop for information on businesses, permits, owners, and FAQs, and can be found at [www.scout.dcra.dc.gov](http://www.scout.dcra.dc.gov). DCRA remains closed during phase 2 of the pandemic and re-opening has not yet been scheduled; the organization's goal is to be a digital government agency. As of now, DCRA has been processing as many, if not more, permits than pre-COVID, and DCRA is still performing inspections. DCRA has added four representatives (account managers) which will help them meet future goals to increase productivity, transparency, and accountability and to make sure requests are fulfilled or scheduled within 3 days. Mr. Diallo encourages 311 use for construction inspections and other service requests for metrics. Commissioner Brian Alcorn has noticed some inconsistencies in Scout, and Mr. Diallo will be following up with him directly. 1410 C Street NE and 1000 C Street NE continue to be at the top of DCRA priority lists.

#### **Update on School within School@Goding (SWS) Modernization - Diana Halbstein, Coordinator, Facility Planning and Design, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)**

Diana Halbstein introduced the modernization project at School within School@Goding at 920 F St NE. The budget is \$38 million; the broad view of the modernization is to redesign the building to meet DCPS educational specifications and accommodate the school's specialty Reggio Emilia programming needs. The scope of the project is likely to consist of renovations and an addition; currently the project is moving into the schematic design stage with specifics available in the next week. Target enrollment is 351 students (up from current 313) and target completion date is August 2022. Construction will begin in earnest in January 2021. For the year and a half of construction, students will not attend school at this location. A modular campus, design for which is also underway, will be built on Benning Road and I Street NE on the field behind Phelps High School. The project is aiming for LEED Gold certification and is maintaining the garden at the front of the current school location as well as including a green roof. Ms. Halbstein will be following up about the manner of expansion and the target enrollment number with the Commission. For more information or to get involved, please contact Diana Halbstein at [diana.halbstein@k12.dc.gov](mailto:diana.halbstein@k12.dc.gov), or visit the modernization website at [bit.ly/SWS\\_Mod](http://bit.ly/SWS_Mod)

## **Officer Reports**

1. The July 2020 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Alcorn reviewed the three expenditures accrued in June: \$465.89 for webmaster services (Check 1936), \$200.00 for meeting minutes (check 1937), and \$66.00 to maintain the website domain name for three years (Check 1938). There were existing obligations: an approved grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Serve Your City and four issued checks not yet deposited (Checks 1920, 1922, 1934, and 1935) totaling \$1,215.89. Commissioner Alcorn proposed an amendment to include July payments for the webmaster (\$465.89) and meeting minutes taker (\$200.00) from the June 2020 fund in order for these individuals to receive their compensation before the Commission's August recess. The opening uncommitted funds available were \$26,834.82 and after these five disbursements (including two from the amendment) totaling \$1,397.78 and total existing obligations of \$4,215.89, the closing uncommitted funds are \$21,221.15. The savings account opened at \$100.03, gained one penny of interest, and closed at \$100.04. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent as verbally amended.
2. Commissioner Alcorn reported on the 2020 Q3 Quarterly Report, sharing that ANC6A had \$22,291.99 in receipts for the quarter and \$3,264.44 disbursed, with the requisite amounts in the checking and savings accounts. The receipt total is unusually high because OANC decided to account for several past DC government disbursements that were not accounted for in the OANC ledger. The report was adopted by unanimous consent.

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

### **Community Outreach**

1. The June 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Phil Toomajian seconded that ANC 6A approve the revised ANC 6A Residents Guide and that the document be posted to the ANC 6A.org website. The recommendation passed 8-0.
3. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommended and Commissioner Amer Gove seconded ANC 6A establish a Facebook page for the Commission and that the page be administered by the ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC). The recommendation passed 8-0.
4. COC will not meet in July 2020. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The June 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent
2. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown seconded that ANC 6A take no action on the application of DC Culinary Academy, LLC, t/a The Outsider at 1357-1359 H Street NE for renewal of its Class C Tavern License, and no action on any application of DC Culinary Academy, LLC, t/a The Outsider at 1357-1359 H Street NE for a change of trade name. The motion passed 8-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 21, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The June 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for Mozzarella's public space application for an outdoor patio at 1300 H Street NE with the following conditions and after correct applications are filed with DDOT and the ANC has a chance to review all pertinent documents:
  - a. Operate the sidewalk café space only during hours agreed upon in the Settlement Agreement (TBD);

- b. Take reasonable efforts to contain noise within the sidewalk café space including, but not limited to, using any sidewalk café removable structures it may now or in the future install (e.g., a sidewalk cafe canopy, roll down plastic windows, etc.) and any other reasonable means to contain noise, but only to the extent allowable by applicable District laws and regulations;
- c. Only use the sidewalk café space for food and drink service, and not for any playing of music, amplified or otherwise, or for any other use, including live performances;
- d. If applicant installs fencing around the sidewalk café area, it shall be consistent with DDOT specifications and the fencing enclosing other sidewalk cafes within our ANC, which shall include fencing or bars designed to keep trash contained within the sidewalk café area (preferably by minimizing any gaps at the bottom of the fencing);
- e. Use easily moveable chairs and tables and tables that shall be moved inside and/or locked up when not in use;
- f. Applicant will ensure no trash container of any sort will be stored anywhere on public space, including on the sidewalk café itself; and
- g. Regularly maintain the adjacent tree boxes and keep all areas in front of the business and within the sidewalk café area clean, including the adjacent sidewalk and street gutter;

And contingent upon:

- a. The application being filed with, and accepted by, DDOT prior to the ANC 6A meeting on July 9, 2020.
- b. Plans for the patio in said application are materially the same as those presented to the TPS Committee on June 15, 2020.

The motion passed 8-0.

- 3. TPS will not meet in July 2020. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, August 17, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

- 1. The June 2020 committee report was approved by unanimous consent
- 2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception under Subtitle E § 205.5 and 5201 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4, to construct a two-story rear addition to an existing attached principal dwelling unit at 229 14<sup>th</sup> Street NE (BZA #20301) in the RF-1 Zone. The addition will be 16 ft. The residents made best efforts to get approval from neighbors and did all required shadow and similar impact studies. The recommendation passed 8-0.
- 3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 22, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

### **New Business**

- 1. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Marie-Claire Brown seconded the motion that ANC 6A authorize Amber Gove and Phil Toomajian and David Levy of Livable City Group to represent ANC 6A for discussions with DDOT regarding the establishment of an outdoor H Street NE “Streatery” district. There are ongoing conversations between DDOT and H St Main St and preliminary designs which include a barrier on passenger sides. The motion passed 8-0.
- 2. Commissioner Soderman moved and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of the proposed designation of 12th Street NE (from East Capitol to K St), G Street NE (from 2nd to 15th Streets) and Gales Street NE (from 15th to 21st Streets) and authorize Amber Gove to represent ANC 6A for discussions with ANC 6B and ANC 6C to identify additional roadways that should be designated as “slow streets” under the DC Slow Streets Initiative. Proposed signage to

inform and educate the community of these changes consists of lightweight barriers covering the entrance to the driver's side of the block every few blocks of the corridor. The barriers will read "Local Traffic Only" or "Closed to Thru Traffic" and will have 15 mph speed limits in order to discourage through traffic. Mr. DeFrank will inform the Commission of the chosen streets and frequently asked questions to better inform their communities. DDOT has committed to 5 miles of safe streets in Phase 1 and 20 miles in Phase 2; Phase 2 should be complete by summer 2020. The motion passed 8-0.

### **Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) coordinated a call with community members, Councilmember Charles Allen's office, and MPD in response to narcotics, homelessness and safety matters on D Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Place. He is working with a community member to address what might be an illegal rooming house on 17<sup>th</sup> Street and is grateful to DDOT for recently replaced brick and re-pavement on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and A Street NE. Finally, he recognized Ms. Tyler Williams, Ward 6 Liaison for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, for her great work in assisting a community member experiencing homelessness at 16<sup>th</sup> and D Streets NE.

Commissioner Brown (6A01) has received a few reports of trees blocking stop signs and will be reaching out to the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding this. She is continuing to address the firework situation and recognized a new business, Crab Boss, at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and H Streets NE but notes that there is an inordinate number of unmasked customers in close proximity.

Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson (6A05) is keeping construction on two C Street NE properties a priority.

Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert (6A07) wrote a letter to the office of the Attorney General addressing constituents' safety concerns and mentioned that portions of the Rosedale field were set on fire by illegal fireworks. A resident put the fire out and though firefighters came to the scene, they did not investigate; Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert had to call them back to properly address the area. She noted that unfortunately there was a homicide on July 8, 2020 at 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Benning Road and she is working with many partners to review resolutions to public safety in the area. She emphasized the importance of educating the community on available resources to combat homelessness, drug trafficking, and safety concerns.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) has received many complaints about fireworks and is unsure about a solution. He reminded everyone that Sherwood is open, though masks and social distancing are mandated.

Commissioner Stephanie Zimny (6A06) has been working with security and neighbors at the former Options School on some activity on the steps of the school. She is also continuing to see illegal dumping and working with DPW on getting signs posted in these areas. She is seeing continued homeless activity in the area and is working on distributing information on resources to the community.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) encouraged the community to reach out to Commissioners in writing and noted that there will not be an ANC6A meeting in August 2020.

### **Community Comments**

It was noted by some Commissioners that there were several comments posted in the WebEx Q&A area. Because the meeting had already run overtime, those comments were not addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.