**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A**

**Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting**

**September 5, 2024**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove, Roberta Shapiro, Robb Dooling, Dave Wethington, Steve Moilanen, and Mike Velasquez were present.

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 Roberta Shapiro moved and Commissioner Dave Wethington seconded the motion to formally amend the July meeting minutes to reflect the correct name of a grant applicant, Hill Family Biking; the motion was approved 6-0 and the amended ANC July 2024 meeting minutes were accepted. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion to amend the agenda to include a request from the Eliot-Hine food pantry for a letter of support from ANC 6A for their application to serve as a Capitol Area Food Bank community location.  The motion was approved 6-0 and the agenda as amended was accepted by unanimous consent.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

**Community Outreach (COC)**

* ANC 6A approve a grant to Guerilla Gardeners of Washington DC in the

amount of $1,000.00 to plant tulips bulbs at Sasha Bruce House at 1022 Maryland Avenue NE.

* ANC 6A approve a grant to Atlas Performing Arts Center in the amount of $1,500.00 to host a free lobby event on November 2, 2024.

**Officer Reports:**

1. The September 2024 Treasurer’s report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the expenditures accrued in July: $59.35 for Zoom Premium, $250 for notetaking, $771.19 for webmaster services, and $15.90 for a DocuSign subscription (checks #2118-#2121, respectively). The opening uncommitted funds available were $37,412.84. After accounts payable totaling $4,092.48 the closing available checking balance is $33,320.36. The savings account opened at $100.05, gained no interest, and closed at $100.05, and petty cash remained at $25. Commissioner Moilanen confirmed that moving forward, meetings will be held on the OANC Zoom account, so ANC 6A will no longer need or pay for a Zoom Premium subscription. The Treasurer’s report was approved by unanimous consent.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Community Outreach (COC)**

1. The July 2024 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting: September 23, 2024 (4th Monday)

**Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis (ABC)**

1. The July 2024 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Preliminary discussion on a proposed letter to the DC Council and appropriate agencies to improve application process, oversight and enforcement of violations for establishments selling Cannabis and/or Alcohol. Commissioner Shapiro led a discussion on the current issues with cannabis and liquor licensing procedures, noting an asymmetry in the regulations for cannabis and liquor licenses. For cannabis licenses, only the ANC can protest, whereas for liquor licenses community associations or neighbor aggregates can protest. There are currently at least 18 cannabis and drug establishments operating on H Street, many of which are not operating with valid or legal licenses and ABCA is not enforcing its own guidelines. Commissioner Shapiro and Commissioner Mike Velasquez have met with Councilmember Allen and drafted four motions to address these challenges as well as a fifth addressing the timing of protest deadlines, ANC approval, settlement agreements, and licensing.
3. Next meeting – September 24, 2024 (4th Tuesday)

**Transportation and Public Space (TPS)**

1. No reports. Committee did not meet in July and August 2024.
2. Next meeting – 7:00 pm, September 16, 2024 (3rd Monday)

**Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)**

1. The July 2024 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Wethington seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to the BZA for a Special Exception from the height requirements of Subtitle E § 203.2, pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201.1 and Subtitle X § 901.2 at 1351 C Street, NE. (BZA# 21156) The proposal is to construct a rooftop penthouse; the current height limit in the zone is 35 feet, and this structure would bring it to almost 42 feet. The current construction has a door flat with the roof and leaks; the applicants would like to replace it with a staircase and a structure to enclose it. The applicants first presented in June and a close, non-adjacent neighbor expressed concern about the impact to his solar panels. A shadow study was done in July and another concern was raised by another non-adjacent neighbor, too far away for reasonable concern. There would be nominal if any effect and would certainly fall under the 5% threshold the regulations allow. The applicants and the originally concerned neighbors have come to an agreement. The motion passed 6-0.
3. Next meeting – 7:00 pm, September 18, 2024 (3rd Wednesday)

**New Business**

* + - 1. Commissioner Velasquez moved and Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A protest the license application of Aldi #15 (801 H Street NE, ABRA-127993) unless a Settlement Agreement is reached between the ANC and the license applicant prior to the protest deadline. Committee member Erin Blumenthal is appointed to represent the ANC along with Commissioner Velasquez and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC. The settlement agreement mirrors those of Giant and Whole Foods on H Street and includes common neighborhood concerns like sanitation and parking; this will be the third Aldi in DC. The Aldi representatives will look into additional bicycle parking spots and how unsellable or expired food gets treated. The motion passed 6-0.

**Commission Business**

**Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Velasquez (6A02) is excited to welcome Aldi to the community and hopes its presence will help dissuade persistent illegal activity on the corner of 8th and H Streets. The Commissioner salutes DC and DDOT for their cleaning up of the alley on the 1200 block of Maryland Avenue. A constituent noted that 1227 Maryland Avenue seems to be vacant and the Commissioner will be engaging with DC agencies to address this.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) is pushing for an all-way stop sign on E Street and Tennessee Avenue and has heard several constituents ask for the portion of G street next to Chick-fil-A to be one-way. Providencia, the new bar from the team behind Maketto, is now open in the alley behind Atlas theater and has received terrific reviews from neighbors so far.

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) lost her phone driver’s license and was impressed with the process of getting a virtual license. There are complaints again about the vacant building at 11th and F Streets, which has been vacant for at least five years but is showing signs of occupancy. DOB is coming out for an inspection but enforcement continues to be an issue. Multiple requests for traffic calming on 11th Street continue after a community member had a third car damaged by a speeding driver. The $1.4M of renovations of Sherwood Recreation Center have yet to be started. The Commissioner recently walked along H Street and noted the immense amount of trash along the corridor.

Commissioner Wethington (6A05) reported that a community meeting occurred with regard to Kingsman Dog Park where a substrate of engineered wood fiber was chosen and construction is set to start this fall. The Commissioner is grateful to DPR and DGS for the replacement of basketball hoops at the park, slightly sooner than anticipated. The Commissioner participated in a meeting with Commissioner Dooling and community members with interesting ideas for the revitalization of H Street. Alley paving started happening in late August/early September to rave reviews in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Moilanen (6A07) is disappointed that there is a giant pothole in the middle of the SWS playground, only about 9 months after it was resurfaced. The Commissioner is grateful to Commissioner Velasquez for the relicensing of 7 River Mart, who are lovely compliant neighbors and under new ownership.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) noted that there will be a site visit at 11th and East Capitol Streets, where DDOT is working to reconfigure signage of what they intend drivers to do around Lincoln Park. Eastern High School Homecoming is on September 27, 2024 and there will be a parade and the official dedication renaming ceremony will be held for Blue and White Marching Machine Way. The crosswalk mural that ANC 6A supported looks great and was widely celebrated. It is prime block party season and Commissioner Gove encourages all Commissioners to help constituents organize and support more neighborhood engagement and block parties.

**Community Comment**

Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Wethington seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support of the Eliot-Hine food pantry to support their application to be a community partner for the capitol area food bank. Jean Kohanek from the community pantry at Eliot-Hine spoke, noting that ANC 6A had previously supported the organization through a grant in 2020 to help fund the pantry. With the initial grant, the pantry purchased refrigerators and shelves that are still in use today and allow the organization to serve many community members. For the last two years, the pantry had been part of a school pantry program at the capital area food bank through which they were receiving free food produce every month. This program is being discontinued, meaning the pantry will now apply to partner with the food bank and pay for the food rather than receiving it for free. As part of the application, the pantry is seeking a letter of support from the ANC, proving that their services have benefited the community. The pantry serves an average of 184 households each month and moved 17,000 pounds of food last year. The motion passed 6-0.

MOCR Marcus Manning noted that it is 202 Creates month, celebrating DC’s art and creative scene and there is an extensive calendar of events taking place, including H Street Festival. The calendar is available here: [www.Mayor.dc.gov/202creates.com](http://www.Mayor.dc.gov/202creates.com). On September 7, 2024 there will be a Ward 6 Roll-Off day meant for neighbors to bring e-waste, bulk trash, and appliances to the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center from 10am-2pm. On September 20, 2024a public safety job fair will take place at the DC Armory:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8Unkj5SLt0-ZBm-Tnagtc_vT1tqTocZPofUGfFPO5dUM1dCUVk5VEFSWUtIUDBJVjNSSEFTMjA1WCQlQCN0PWcu>

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The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.