

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
December 14, 2023**

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee, Roberta Shapiro, Dave Wethington, Robb Dooling, Mike Velasquez, and Steve Moilanen 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. The minutes for the ANC November 2023 meeting were accepted. The agenda for the December 2023 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

Community Presentations

Tommie Jones, Chief of External Affairs, and Michael Watts, Chief of Community Recreation Division, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Mr. Tommie Jones is the Chief of External Affairs for DC Parks and Recreation and acts as liaison with the community and Commissioners with Sherwood Recreation Center as a particular focus. He answered several questions from the Commission, responding to claims that a child was kicked out of DPR programming at Sherwood over the summer and clarifying that the student was asked to leave and come back at a different date and time, and DPR's goal is to provide safe, accessible, and open facilities for all residents. DPR works with MPD through the individual commanders and community engagement representatives to identify and engage residents in programming, and they also has a Roving Leaders Division that works in various schools to engage parents and students in DPR programming. DPR will begin discussing summer programming in January, and residents can reach out to [kidscampandcoop\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:kidscampandcoop[at]dc.gov) with questions; there will be a lottery system again. Mr. Jones announced that a design/build firm has been selected for the Kingsman Dog Park renovation, and DPR will be working with the community on a strategy and design for the updates; this should happen in late winter or early spring of 2024. DPR is also looking forward to working with the community of Sherwood Recreation Center to learn about its priorities for the \$1.4 million of capital funding available for the renovation. DPR always welcomes programming suggestions at recreation centers and will work with ANCs and residents to select programs to engage the community. Currently, the center offers yoga, line dancing, tennis, and pickleball, among others. Mr. Jones apologized for the delay in responding to the ANC's official May 2023 letter and promised a response by the end of the week. There are many ways to engage with DPR and get more information:

Upcoming events: www.dpr.events

Information on programming and how to sign up: www.dprprograms.com

Finding a DPR facility: www.dpr.dc.gov/locations

How to host an event at a DPR site: www.dpr.dc.gov/permits

Customer care center: (202) 637-7647 or [dprcustomercenter\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:dprcustomercenter[at]dc.gov)

Dr. Oye I. Owolewa, Shadow US Representative for Washington, DC

Dr. Owolewa noted that the Office of DC's Representative is located in the John A Wilson Building, not on Capitol Hill, and fights for DC Statehood as the Representative lacks a congressional cote and seat. DC residents pay taxes without voting representation, lack full control over their resources and general autonomy. The lack of DC Statehood impacts healthcare, education and youth services, public safety, environment, and human rights, and

Dr. Owolewa addresses these matters. Since 2021, Representative Owolewa has amplified the fight for DC statehood by appearing in publications, introducing DC Statehood Resolution into West Virginia House of Delegates, held inaugural Supercar Rally 4 DC Statehood with local Sunset Auto Group, and participated in several other pro-DC Statehood programming, resulting in more attention and support of the topic. In addition to being a Representative, Dr. Owolewa is a healthcare provider and pharmacist and is passionate about equitable access to healthcare; he vaccinated thousands of DC residents during the pandemic, demonstrated and distributed Narcan, and fights to increase DC's vaccine access and resources. In education and youth services, Representative Owolewa is fighting for more enrichment, resources, internships, and programming in DC's schools. In terms of public safety, DC's lack of statehood means DC lacks control over its criminal justice system and incarcerated DC residents are housed all over the country, and Dr. Owolewa fights heavily for the rights of returning citizens. Representative Owolewa reminds us that "today we may lack a vote, but we still have our voice." To get involved with this office, community members can reach the Representative directly at [Adeoye.owolewa\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:Adeoye.owolewa[at]dc.gov) or the office at [info\[at\]repyedc.com](mailto:info[at]repyedc.com).

Officer Reports:

1. The December 2023 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the three expenditures accrued in November: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250.00 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Premium, (checks #2079-2081, respectively). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$40,217.39. After accounts payable totaling \$2,153.66 the closing available checking balance is \$36,989.55. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05, and petty cash remained at \$25. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Moilanen seconded the motion that ANC6A accept a slight increase in price and continue posting meeting notices and information in the Hill Rag. The ANC typically posts meeting notices in the Hill Rag, and the cost of this is increasing slightly in 2024. These ads could include calls for volunteers and information about grants, and this is an effective way to support a local publication and continue to post about the ANC non-electronically. The motion passed 7-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

1. The November 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. No meeting in December 2023
3. Next meeting: January 22, 2024 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

1. No report. ABL did not meet in November 2023.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, December 19, 2023 (3rd Tuesday; usually 4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The November 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, December 18, 2023 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. No report. EDZ did not meet in November 2023.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, December 20, 2023 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

1. Commissioner Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC6A resolves to oppose Washington Gas' PROJECTpipes Phase 3 Application, authorize the Chair, Vice Chair, and/or their designee(s) to represent ANC 6A on this matter, and forward copies of our resolution to the DC Council, the Office of the Peoples Council, and the Office of Mayor Bowser. The motion passed 7-0.
2. Discussion of methods for cooperation between Ward 6 ANCs on the processing of Ward 6 Cannabis applications under the Emergency Regulations and on gathering of data and community feedback for any future regulatory modifications.

This is a complicated and new issue with little clarity; any ANC in a Ward where a cannabis establishment submits an ABCA settlement agreement will be able to protest, so collaboration among Ward 6 ANCs will be crucial. There will be an ABL meeting on Monday to discuss further, but there is a lot of confusion, specifically about the process and the 400-ft rule, and the outcome of new cannabis laws will hugely impact H Street businesses.

Commission Business

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Velasquez (6A02) reported that Pursuit Wine Bar on H Street NE will sadly be closing, and there is an unsettling trend of several businesses closing. The Commissioner got a call from a constituent at 1005 H Street NE saying "the ANC declared my building vacant" and is looking for additional information to investigate.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) is getting an interpreter next month and noted that there is a play currently at Atlas theater, ISM II, in ASL as well as spoken English: <https://www.atlasarts.org/events/voca/>. The Commissioner noted that while the ANC may be the most easily visible governmental agency in many communities, policies are set by other agencies; for example, no RPP on commercial blocks is a DDOT policy. The Commissioner very much looks forward to the H Street bus priority project in 2024.

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) was informed that, weather permitting, by the end of the month, DDOT will install a stop sign at the corner of 11th and F Streets and a bump at 11th and E Streets. There was a community representation meeting with Sasha Bruce House, who are in the final stages of scoping out a contract structural repair for the outside of the building. The Commissioner attended the COC meeting and also attended the Stuart-Hobson production of The Addams Family and was very impressed. Finally, the Sherwood playground is finally getting resurfaced.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) is excited about the upcoming bicycle lane installation on K Street NE and is ready to help community members transition through this change. The Commissioner has heard many concerns about establishments closing and public safety but has also witnessed neighbors come together and support these businesses.

Commissioner Dave Wethington (6A05) noted a study by the deputy mayor for education of DC which looks at Maury and Miner Elementary Schools and researches the socioeconomic differences in the school populations, making suggestions to bridge the gaps.

Commissioner Moilanen (6A07) was reflecting on his first year as a Commissioner and noted that none of the policies we live by are self-executing and require repeated advocacy and attention and the Commissioner is grateful to everyone that continuously works to make things better.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) encourages residents to attend meetings and look at the study on Miner and Maury Elementary Schools as the school boundaries get reconsidered to rebalance students and reduce racial segregation. The Commissioner expressed continued frustration at DGS, in this case for failing to replace filters at Eliot-Hine leading to the heat not working in the newly renovated school. The Commissioner appreciates this community and all of their immense commitment and work.

Community Comment

Two DC residents spoke in support of the K Street bike lane and are grateful for any way to slow traffic near JO Wilson Elementary School.

Zack Learman, a lawyer with experience in cannabis legislature, is representing Up N Smoke, a dispensary with several locations across DC, one of which is on 15th Street NE. The establishment wants to maintain open communication and address any concerns; Mr. Learman will work with Commissioner Dooling to meet or extend any protest deadlines. He can be reached at [zlearman\[at\]mandijapllc.com](mailto:zlearman@mandijapllc.com).

MOCR Jake Stolzenberg referenced DC sports teams moving away from downtown but noted that the Mayor's goal is to continue to have a thriving downtown DC. Mr. Stolzenberg has participated in several core walks around Ward 6 and is aware of several issues around ANC 6A including those in alleyways on H Street.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm.