

Minutes
ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
February 29, 2016
Maury Elementary School
1250 Constitution Avenue NE, Washington, DC

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

COC members present: Gladys Mack, Joyce West, Dana Wyckoff (Chair) (Quorum)

COC members absent: Roni Hollmon, Raphael Marshall

ANC Commissioners present: Sondra Phillips-Gilbert

Community members present: Anne Fitzpatrick (Ludlow-Taylor PTO); Pete Kirschner (Events DC); Caroline Jhingorg (Events DC).

Old Business

The Committee discussed but took no action on Old Business.

New Business

I. Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization Grant Request

Committee members heard a grant proposal presentation from the Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). The school is in ANC 6A, located at 659 G Street NE and serves nearly 340 students from Pre-3 & -4K through 5th grade, a majority of whom are ANC 6A residents. It is a Title I school, with more than 40 percent of the students from families designated as low-income.

The PTO representative, Anne Fitzpatrick, outlined the details of the request - \$300.00 for art supplies and materials to be used in the weekly art classes to enhance the student's learning and communications skills through the visual arts process. The funds requested would be used to purchase supplies either not provided by and/or not funded by the school. Items would include, but are not limited to: marble clay, feathers, oil pastels, storybook lined newsprint and other items. The ANC 6A Grant would cover 33 percent of the total cost (\$900.00) of the needed items; the PTO has purchased some materials already with their own funds; and has applied for a grant from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation for the remaining amount.

Committee Members Joyce West and Gladys Mack questioned why the funds for the supplies were not available in the school budget. Ms. Fitzpatrick replied that the art teacher did not get his budget request fulfilled, but that she did not know the specific details of how or why the Ludlow-Taylor administration allocates funds. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert said that the ANC is responsible to the DC Auditor and that duplication of materials that are provided by a city agency is disallowed. Chair Dana Wyckoff noted that the application stated there were not available or adequate funds for, and/or materials needed, so therefore there should be no duplication. Ms. West strongly urged the PTO to contact Councilmember Charles Allen about the issue, to advocate for funds next year, to avoid a piece-meal approach through grants and PTO monies. After further discussion and questions, Ms. Fitzpatrick agreed to obtain additional, specific information about why funds were not allocated/available for the art class, and update the grant application with a revised letter (or email) from the school principal as soon as possible.

Ms. Wyckoff moved that the Committee support the Ludlow-Taylor PTO Grant application and forward it to the ANC 6A Commission for their review and approval at the March 10, 2016 meeting; pending the PTO provide the Committee Chair a revised letter or supplementary email from the Ludlow-Taylor principal explaining why there were no funds allocated (or) available for the art class during the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

II. Proposed ANC 6A Facebook Page

The Committee reviewed a written proposal from the ANC 6A Webmaster, Renee Dworakowski, for the creation and maintenance of a Facebook (FB) page for the ANC. As Ms. Dworakowski wrote, it would “add to the Commission’s community exposure to establish such a page...(and)... gives the community another vehicle to understand and participate in the Commission’s work.” Ms. Dworakowski notes that the “communications/social media outreach (for) the Commission... currently consists of posting meeting notices and updates to three (3) Yahoo listservs (ANC6A-Announce, ANC6A and Newhilleast) that serve the ANC 6A community; a Twitter account; and advertisements in the monthly publication, The Hill Rag.

Ms. Dworakowski wrote that the page “would be a no-cost item”; that she would do the legwork to establish the FB page, and would update it at the same time as other information is posted on the listservs and Twitter account. She wrote that several ANCs in Wards 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have FB pages.

The Committee members had a prolonged discussion about the proposal, focusing on a). rules for what information/content would be posted; b). how comments/questions from the public would be responded to; and c). if costs would be incurred (if) the time required to manage/update the page increased.

Pertaining to a). Information/Content, questions included what additional items would/could be posted, such as fliers, pictures, video, announcements. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert asked if items from individual Commissioners would be allowed to be posted. From the floor, Mr. Kirschner of Events DC said his organization posts frequent updates to keep users interested; Ms. Wyckoff noted that while a general rule for non-profit organizations is to post 3-times a day, ANC 6A is neither a non-profit nor a large DC Agency; and that the proposal’s stated goal was to be another source of information about meetings, similar to Twitter and the listservs. Ms. West and others wondered about how the FB page would look (main and profile pic); there were also questions about if (and how) the ANC and Commissioners would be described in the About section. All agreed that rules pertaining to content and information be established. Ms. West suggested that a ‘pilot’ of the FB page, to see the reaction/use.

Pertaining to b). Responding to comments/questions from the public. Ms. Mack wondered who would be authorized to respond to comments posted on the page. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert said that she did not want anyone to answer for her. Ms. Wyckoff suggested that a way to handle it was for the Webmaster to direct pertinent comments to the appropriate Commissioner or to the ANC Chair for his review and further action; all agreed that rules should be established.

Pertaining to c). Possible additional costs. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert and Ms. Mack raised concerns that there were going to be additional costs eventually, as expanded content would require additional time to manage and update the page; though the proposal before the Committee was to use the FB page as another means of disseminating information about meetings and ANC Commission business.

Ms. Wyckoff moved to vote on the proposal as written. Ms. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously against the proposal as written.

Ms. Wyckoff then offered an amended proposal, recommending the creation of a FB page, pending the discussion of, and setting guidelines for, the issues and questions as described above by ANC Chair Phil Toomajian and Ms. Dworakowski. Ms. Wyckoff moved the motion, with Ms. West seconding. The vote was 2-2, with Ms. West and Ms. Wyckoff voting yeah and Ms. Mack and Ms. Phillips-Gilbert voting nay.

Chair Wyckoff noted that Committee members generally supported the establishment of an ANC 6A FB page, once the concerns are addressed; and she would coordinate with the Webmaster and Chair Toomajian to revise and bring the proposal before the Committee quickly, if they desired.

Community Comments

Pete Kirschner of Events DC spoke about the Kaboom playground project at C and Nineteenth (19th) Streets NE. He thanked Commissioner Calvin Ward (ANC 6A08) for his help on the project, and noted that the playground will be in Mr. Ward's Single Member District.

Mr. Kirschner and Ms. Caroline Jhingory, the new Community Outreach Coordinator for Events DC, asked for the Committee's help in distributing information about the project's several steps. Mr. Kirschner said that an initial informational meeting will be held at the regular quarterly Events DC meeting at RFK Stadium; followed by a 'design' meeting in 'mid-spring' and then a 'build-day' during the summer. He was unable to give firm dates for the meetings, but did ask for the COC to distribute information when the dates are set; the organization wants to be certain that all stakeholders in the nearby neighborhoods in ANC 6A08, 7D01 and part of 6B participate in the design concept and then in the build day. The Committee agreed to disseminate information and urged Events DC to give out information as soon as possible. Committee members West and Mack suggested they contact the Eliot-Hine PTO, Apple School, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**The next regular meeting of the ANC 6A COC
Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Maury Elementary School, 1250 Constitution Avenue NE
(enter from 200 block of Thirteenth (13th) Street)**