

Minutes
ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Regular Meeting - February 28, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm.

Quorum present

COC members present: Roni Hollmon (Chair), Stephanie Thangavelu, Gladys Mack, Sarah Bell and Marc Friend

COC members absent: Jason Gresh

Commissioners present: Laura Gentile

Panelists: Elder Sarah Bell, Christ City Church; Danielle Yates, Capitol Hill Hounds; Sela Gebrechirstos (they/them), Ceon Dubose (all pronouns), Black Swan Academy

Community members present: none

A round of introductions was made at the beginning of the meeting.

Elder Bell gave a report on the Holiday Food Gift Baskets. 150 baskets were distributed, in addition to coats and other items. She thanked ANC 6A for the grant.

Danielle Yates gave an overview of Capitol Hill Hounds and the Kingman Dog Park. The Park is built on city lands and the Capitol Hill Hounds is the non profit arm that maintains the park. Many active members have moved away and the group is seeking to work with the community and the city to improve the park and maintain the park.

Committee Member Thangavelu wanted to know how we can help get out the word and pass on the information to get the word out.

Ms. Yates said they have posted it on some list serves; have posted flyers and reached out to Commissioners Laura Gentile and Amber Gove.

Chair Hollmon suggested Danielle reach out to the schools to offer community service hours to students.

Commissioner Gentile commented that she was excited that Danielle and Katherine are restarting this group and wants to see them succeed.

Sela and Ceon gave the presentation on Black Swan Academy (BSA). The Black Swan Academy empowers Black youth in under-served communities through civic leadership and engagement, giving them a comprehensive set of tools needed to succeed in life and become active social

catalysts in their communities. We are committed to creating a pipeline of Black youth leaders that are committed to improving self, as well as their communities.

A successful Black American that is civically engaged, excelling socially, and economically is thought to be the “exception” instead of the “rule”. The Black Swan Academy, in reference to the “Black Swan Theory”, which states that a Black Swan is 1) an outlier, 2) has an extreme impact on society and 3) changes the mindset of humans to no longer see such a rare occurrence as an outlier, but as a very possible and likely occurrence. With this in mind, the BSA aims to develop effective social change agents that strive to make the “exception” “the rule” in this generation and those to come.

Black Swan Academy is youth led and have chosen the following campaigns after their summit: queer affirming learning spaces, hopes and homes, communities ground, guns down.

Committee Member Marc Friend commented that the work they do is amazing. He inquired whether the organization be eligible for a grant. Chair Hollmon responded they would be eligible for a grant but that the rules were back to normal, so none of the Covid exceptions apply now.

He also wanted to know if they needed any resolutions or letters to the DC Council that they may need for our Commissioners to vote on.

Sela responded that she would follow up with an email that will include their policy director.

Chair Hollmon thanked them for coming and said how happy she was to have them. Youth are underestimated, but they are powerful and our future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.