MINUTES
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Community Outreach Committee (COC)
February 23, 2026, 7:00-9:00 pm

Committee Members Present: Ashley Blake, Lorena Gil, Gail Sullivan
Commissioners Present: Commissioner Kimberly Butler, Commissioner Stephen Kolb
Community Members Present: John, Michaela, Paul, Martha

7:02 pm Adoption of agenda

- Adopted by the committee.

7:05 pm Welcome and Icebreaker- What do we love about H Street?

- Attendees cited grocery store access; H Street Fest; Tiki Garden; local farmers market; Maketto's

7:14 pm Community Updates- Round Robin

- Committee Member Gail Sullivan shared the following updates and comments:
  - Sunday clean ups and coffee on/near 12th Street at 9:00 am continue
  - Reminder to check the batteries on your ring/other cameras, as these can be a resource not only to you but your neighbors as well
    - Commissioner Kolb shared this related resource
  - Reminder to reach out to 311 if you are still having issues with your trash pick-up
- Paul Spires shared the following updates and comments:
  - Shout out to everyone who is making time to support community events
  - Some neighbors have considered hosting an H Street Streetcar farewell; folks will continue to assess locations/options for this
- Committee Member Lorena Gil shared that members of 6A02 are coordinating a safety walk with Charles Allen
- Chair Blake shared the following updates and comments:
  - The H Street Planning process is kicking off and there will be a number of opportunities to engage, including:
    - H Street Planning Open House
    - Staff from the DC Planning Office will be attending an upcoming 6A ANC meeting, as well as the 6A Community Outreach, Transportation, Economic Development Committees
  - There is mass organizing happening around the upcoming MPD Oversight hearing- if you are interested, check out the link.
  - Free DC is hosting their next Ward 6 monthly meeting on March 6: Free DC March

7:33 pm ANC Website and Neighborhood Communications

- Chair Ashley Blake mentioned that the CoC has been asked to weigh in on changes to the ANC 6A website, and asked for input related to whether folks go to the website regularly, and what is helpful/not helpful about the website
- ANC website comments and feedback from attendees included:
  - Some folks have visited the website, but many were not familiar
  - More content re: ANC 6A sponsored events would be helpful

    - More color would be helpful
    - More neighborhood representation would be appreciated
    - We should plan to do a review/audit of the organizations listed on the Organizations page and consider identifying criteria for what is added?
    - A help desk feature could be helpful
    - Commissioner Butler noted that there are a number of broken links which will need to be updated/removed
    - Commissioner Kolb noted that the OANC is in the process of reviewing and updating all ANC websites
    - Committee Member Gail Sullivan shared that she and others would potentially prefer to reach someone at the OANC via phone, rather than rely on a website
        - Commissioner Kolb clarified that the OANC is not typically in the position to respond to individual/constituent calls.- If constituents have needs they should outreach to their ANC Commissioner or specific city departments
    - Committee member Lorena Gil suggested that updating the calendar structure would be helpful, similar to 6B, particularly if it allows folks to click on links or "follow" the calendar
- Chair Blake shifted the conversation and asked attendees what other communication channels/outlets people relay on in/around our Ward and ANC- attendees noted:
    - Hill Rag
    - 9th Street Email List Serv (boundaries are roughly 6th-12th from FL to H)
    - People's Front of H Street, What's App group (boundaries are roughly 7th-12th Streets between K and G Streets NE)
    - Linden Court Chat
    - 11th Street Chat
    - Northeast Defenders Chat
    - Lincoln Park Newsletter

7:54 pm Community Grants

- Chair Blake provided an overview of the ANC Community Grants program and highlighted a few key points:
    - ANC 6A has a budget of $3,000 for the year; it is possible to request more but have to go through a budget amendment process
    - There is a formal application; it is tedious, so vetting organizations/proposals first via a short summary is preferred
    - Money has to be spent within 60 days of receiving funds
- Questions and comments from committee members and attendees included:
    - Do we lose money if COC does not spend?
        - Per Commissioner Kolb,- money goes back into ANC accrued funding (but does stay within ANC budget)
    - Is there an application deadline?
        - Per Commissioner Kolb and Chair Blake- no, applications are accepted on a rolling basis
    - Can neighborhood groups apply?
        - Per Commissioner Kolb and Chair- only groups with 501c3 status can apply

    - $3,000 is not a lot of money; can the Committee request more than 3K moving forward?
        - Perhaps, but it is pursuant to the budget and approval of ANC 6A
    - When was the last grant?
        - FY24
    - Why did Sasha Bruce not receive a grant?
        - Per Commissioner Kolb and OANC rep, their application/proposal did not indicate a broader benefit to ANC 6A
    - Could we use funding for H Street Streetcar farewell event?
        - Per Chair Blake, perhaps but need to get more info about "direct granting" to CoC
    - Comment: Local groups may have gotten word that the ANC 6A grant process is too tedious to apply, which may be impacting interest
- Chair Blake reminded attendees that given funding availability and rolling application opportunities, we will continue to keep grants on the agenda

8:11 pm 2026 COC Planning

- Chair Blake noted that herself and Committee Member, Lorena, have spent some time thinking through potential meeting topics and presentations, including:
    - h3 Project presentation
    - We Empower DC and energy assistance presentation
    - Free DC Project
        - Mr. Spires noted support for hearing more on this
- Additional suggestions from Committee Member, Lorena, included:
    - Holiday window painting; inviting students from local schools to paint the business of windows, coupled with a competition- this gets the youth and local businesses engaged
    - Holiday crafts market, which could include an opportunity to partner with H Street Main Street.
- ANC6A administrator shared that historically there was an annual resource fair, organized in partnership with local schools, to highlight community resources via DCPS
- Chair Blake then asked the group to brainstorm meeting space options, and attendees noted:
    - Capitol Hill Towers
    - Sherwood Recreation Center
    - Minor Elementary School

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.