

Minutes
**ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Regular Meeting - March 25, 2024**

COC members present: Paul Spires (Chair), Adina Wadsworth, Elizabeth Corinth, Angelique Dorazio Sanders, Clare Dougherty, Gail Sullivan

ANC 6A Commissioners present: Amber Gove

Attendees: Julie Muir, JoAnn Sparacino, Carolyn C, Melissa Mazard, Jennifer Brown, Martha

7:11 pm Paul Spires called the meeting to order.

7:13 pm Icebreaker - favorite flower

7:21 pm What is community outreach?

Paul Spires:

- Community (comes from “common”) = a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together in a larger society
- Focusing on our common characteristics will help us reach out to the right people and bring them in
- Outreach = an activity providing services to any population that might not otherwise have access to those services
- Here, most of us have access to services and educations around services - who are the people we need to reach out to get them their services?

Gail Sullivan:

- Spoke with Ryan at Queen Vic
- Two more restaurants closing on H Street (Sospeso and Bar Elena) - hard to bring in business because we only have us - no venue along H Street (besides Atlas Theater) to bring people in
- How do we keep the businesses and how do we offer services?
- A lot of burden is put on the schools to offer services
 - Cannot speak for the churches, do not know what they are doing
 -

Paul Spires:

- Yes, how can we support and provide services to the local businesses as well?
- Family Dollar - systems and freezers often down

7:32 pm Announcements / Updates Gail Sullivan

- Sent out a transportation survey - public comment period for the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan launched on March 1, 2024. The comment period runs through March 30, 2024.
- Visit visualize2050.org to learn about the plan and to use the interactive comment forms. Comment forms are available in English and Spanish on the homepage.
- We often complain that we do not have a chance to give input on decisions, so this is our chance
- DDOT is proposing to make H Street one lane in each direction for private cars (plus one dedicated lane for buses & streetcars)

7:39 pm Miner Grant Application, Julie Muir, Miner Elementary PTO:

- Miner is in Ward 7 but there are tons of Ward 6 residents who are in-boundary for Miner (boundaries did not change when ward lines changed)

- Seems like a simple / trivial project, but matters a lot to our students
- Koi & turtle pond used to be a really cool feature - kids love it, used to come say hi to Franklin the Turtle; now it is an eyesore and smells bad
- Fish died, new fish that were not the right kind (turtle ate them), still have the turtle, talked about rehoming, but he is a very hard-to-place turtle, want to keep him anyway
- Want to re-do the pond habitat, potentially get new fish but right now just want to clean it up, plants to put around it, etc.
- Miner has gone through a few years of trauma lately and they want to do something special for the kids

Claire Dougherty:

- Spent 12 years at Maury, understand how different facets at the school can bring a lot of joy to kids / teachers / parents
- Who will do the work to upgrade the pond?

Julie Muir:

- Custodial Foreman has been doing all the work and paying out of pocket (just found out), he wants to take the lead

Paul Spires:

- Is there an aquatics expert? How will the pond continue to get maintained?
 - Julie Muir: Have relationships with some organizations who can help
 - Want to do it right

Amber Gove:

- Money would need to be expended by the end of the fiscal year
- Need a business to give you an invoice and proof that it is paid
- You will need to expend and we reimburse, needs to all happen by September 30, 2024

Gail Spires:

- Where is Franklin living?

Julie Muir:

- He is in the pond; they do filter it and he is okay
- Anacostia Watershed Society said he would be happier there than in an aquarium

7:48 pm Vote on Grant Application

Chair Spires made a motion to recommend that ANC 6A approve a grant to Miner Elementary School PTO in the amount of \$1,000.00 to fund the renovation of a turtle habitat. Committee Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

7:52 pm Community Comments

JoAnn Sparacino

- Just moved back to the area
- Has contracting experience - interested to know what the needs are in the area and get involved
- St. Peter's has many outreach activities, e.g., Christ Church provides a meal once a month to unhoused people who are being hospitalized

Melissa Mazard

- Lives in Noma
- Serves on Mayor's Financial Literacy Council, residents' committee
- Wanted to see what Community Outreach Committee was all about
- Would love to partner / connect with anyone who wants to speak further
- Making sure people are not being taken advantage of, that they have the financial information they need
- Email: melissamazard@gmail.com
- Paul Spires: Do they serve students / young people?
- Gail Sullivan:
 - Do they cover regular literacy (reading) or just financial literacy? (A: Just financial literacy)
 - Recommends looking into facilities that serve seniors

Jennifer Brown:

- How does the agenda get set?
 - The COC Chairs sets the agenda
- How do you plan to get more than five community members to these meetings?
 - Paul Spires: The more we are doing outreach, and out in the community, the more people will know about us and want to come to our meetings
 - Amber Gove: People can join the ANC6A info lists:
 - –ANC 6A Announce Google Group = ANC 6A activities such as meeting announcements, agendas, and other ANC notifications. To request to join, email 6A06@anc.dc.gov
 - –Community-moderated ANC 6A Community Forum; members of this google group can share information and communicate freely with each other. To request to join, email felixduc@gmail.com

Gail Sullivan:

- Restaurant fees - what are the rules, are the fees excessive?
- Amber Gove: There is a process in the works to have greater clarity on fees like that.

Amber Gove - Public Toilets

- There is a committee working on implementing public toilets.
- Recommended a short list of locations - one is the Southwest corner of 8th and H Streets NE (would also have an external video camera)
- Looking for additional locations
- They would be super high-tech fancy portapotties with sensors
- Have to use your phone to get in and if you misbehave you get kicked out and cannot go back
- Less burden on the city because they do not need to hook into plumbing, etc.
- There is currently one in Yards Park, going to bring one to Maury for an upcoming event so people can check it out

8:12 pm - Chair Spires moved to adjourn the meeting