

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee

April 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith annex, 1235 C St. NE

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

Committee members present: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Louis Barbash, Pat Joseph, Rose Williams, Jean Kohanek (quorum)

Commissioners: Nick Alberti, Adam Healy (arrived after vote on Sherwood), David Holmes, Gladys Mack, Drew Ronneberg, Lia Veenendaal-Selck

Community members present: Necothia Bowens, Edward Campbell, John Cotten, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Jordan Washington, Shirley Worthy, Dana Wycoff

1. Agenda

Adopted.

2. Status report on ANC/COC activities

Ms. Nelson reported that the two most recent grant applications (Miner ES PTO and Capitol Hill Garden Club) had been approved by the commissioners and that we would not be asked to consider any medical marijuana facilities as none are proposed for ANC 6A.

3. Discussion of possible proposals to provide memorial names for elements of the Rosedale Recreation Center including the Library (ANC 6A voted in December 2010 to keep the current name of the Center itself).

- a. Consideration of the recommendation that ANC6A confirm its opposition to renaming the Center.

MOTION: Ms. Nelson moved that the ANC confirm its opposition to renaming the Rosedale Recreation Center. Seconded by Ms. Williams. Vote of Committee members: 4 in favor, none opposed, one abstention. Vote of Commissioners present: 4 in favor, none opposed, one abstention. Motion passed.

- b. Consideration of the names suggested for the library (Robert L. Christian, John Mercer Langston, Britt Wycoff) and alternate proposal to instead create a "wall of honor" where many distinguished community activists can be honored.

Discussion:

Community member Sondra Phillips-Gilbert spoke in favor of a joint renaming of the new library at the Rosedale Recreation Center after both John Mercer Langston and Robert L. Christian. Each had a library facility in the larger community, and when closed, she stated that it was proposed at the time that they could be co-located at the new Rosedale library when built (Commissioner Mack noted that this was included in the minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting of ANC6A). Ms. Phillips-Gilbert spoke of the reasons each is deserving of recognition: John Mercer Langston is a prominent historical figure, the first African-American elected official and member of Congress, and the first Dean of the Howard University Law School; Robert L. Christian was active in youth programs in the H Street neighborhood. She said it was important for the youth of the community to see these names on the building to understand that they could aspire to the same thing. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert stated that she and Commissioner Gladys Mack had held a meeting and circulated a petition in the community in

support of this renaming proposal (she did not have the meeting attendance list or signed petition at the meeting, but stated she would bring it to the ANC meeting). Committee member Louis Barbash asked if either (Langston or Christian) had lived in the Rosedale area; they had not, though Mr. Christian did not live far away.

Necothia Bowens spoke as President of the Rosedale Citizens Alliance which, with the Rosedale Youth Institute, is the Department of Parks and Recreation-approved support organization (Park Partners) for the Rosedale Recreation Center. She stated that the Center has been named Rosedale for a long time, and the community felt strongly that they did not want it renamed; there is a sense of pride in retaining the name of the community. They recommended instead that the facility include a “Wall of Fame” within the building that could accommodate many more activists and notable residents.

John Cotten spoke in agreement that the Center should retain the community name. He noted that Britt Wycoff (another name being floated for the library) was instrumental in getting the library located at the Center, but stated that while the family would like him to be recognized, they did not feel that the library needed to be named after him, particularly if it was contentious. (Dana Wycoff, Britt’s daughter, had to leave the meeting and was not present for the discussion.)

Commissioner Nick Alberti stated his support for retaining the Rosedale name for the Center, as the location or address of a facility is generally how it is known anyway; any name associated with a building is often overlooked in day-to-day use. Commission Chair David Holmes stated that he felt a “Wall of Fame” might instead be called a “Wall of Honor,” and could include many distinguished residents and activists. Ms. Nelson stated that she agreed, and thought the Wall of Honor provided an opportunity for more information about each honoree, including text and even a photograph, rather than just a name.

MOTION: Ms. Nelson moved that: 1) the facility be named the Rosedale Recreation Center and Library (not separately named), and 2) a Wall of Honor be established where community activists and other notables may be recognized; 3) names for inclusion on the Wall of Honor should be vetted by the Rosedale Park Partners in conjunction with the recreation center management and approved by ANC6A. Seconded by Ms. Kohanek.

There was further discussion. Committee member Jean Kohanek stated that she didn’t feel that the committee or ANC needed to dictate how names for the Wall of Honor be approved; she felt this was something that the community could decide in conjunction with the management of the center or the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Alberti agreed. There was discussion on who should manage this process. Ms. Nelson suggested that the motion be amended as follows:

MOTION: Ms. Nelson moved that: 1) the facility be named the Rosedale Recreation Center and Library (not separately named); 2) a Wall of Honor be established where community activists and other notables may be recognized; and 3) the Department of Parks and Recreation set up and manage the process for creating the Wall of Honor, soliciting input from members of the community, Rosedale Park Partners, and the ANC. Seconded by Kohanek. Vote: 4 committee members in favor, 1 abstaining, none opposed; 1 commissioner in favor, 3 abstaining, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

4. Consideration of a request for ANC 6A support for a Father's Day event at the Sherwood Recreation Center from Jordan Washington of the Sherwood Vets (formerly referred to as Friends of Sherwood).

Jordan Washington, president of Sherwood Vets, stated that he was seeking the ANC's support for a Father's Day event at Sherwood Recreation Center, so that they may be issued a permit from DPR. He stated that the event had activities for people of all ages, and was intended as a way for those who grew up in the neighborhood to celebrate Sherwood. Commissioner Alberti asked if his organization was made up of military veterans; Mr. Washington said no, that 'Vets' referred to those that had grown up in the neighborhood that Sherwood serves. Ms. Nelson asked if he had spoken with the director of Sherwood Recreation Center about the event. Mr. Washington stated that he had spoken with Director Raphael Marshall, but that Mr. Marshall would not weigh in until the ANC had made its decision. He asked that the ANC approve his request for a permit for the event; and if the ANC refuses, that the reasons be documented in writing.

Discussion:

Commissioner Drew Ronneberg stated that nearly all of the immediate neighbors are opposed to the event, which essentially becomes a huge street party, due to the public drinking, urination, noise, and trash left behind, all of which he has witnessed personally. He stated that most residents seek to be out of town for that weekend because of the problems at this event. Commissioner Holmes said that he has also witnessed the same behavior, stating that he could not get his car through because of all the people in the street. He stated that he saw people drinking in and across the street, but also freely moving in and out of the event at the Center. Ms. Nelson stated that she and Commissioner Alberti have seen the same behaviors over many years, and said that residents have contacted them privately about their dislike of the event, though they were reluctant to come forward publicly for fear of retribution.

Edward Campbell, Vice-President of Sherwood Vets, stated that those activities have nothing to do with the purpose of the event, and that his organization has been told that they are only responsible for what happens on the Center grounds—not what may happen across the street, at the House of Ruth shelter. Ms. Kohanek stated that she did not find it coincidental that police complaints in the surrounding neighborhood spiked the same weekend that this event occurred every year. Mr. Campbell denied the charge, stating that the police department could not find a single complaint for the last year it was held (though there was some confusion as to which year that was); he also stated that police officers were regularly in attendance at the past Father's Day events. He also stated that MPDC was very supportive of the plans for an event this year and had promised to send a squad car to provide security. Commissioner Ronneberg stated that there is documentation of the problems associated with this event going back years on the ANC 6A web site, noting that police have been called many times.

MOTION: Ms. Nelson moved that the ANC oppose the 2012 Father's Day Event at Sherwood Recreation Center. Seconded by Ms. Williams. Vote: 5 committee members in favor, none opposed; 1 commissioner in favor, 4 abstaining. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

The next meeting will take place, Monday, May 21 at 7:30 pm at 1235 C Street NE.



Rosedale Citizens Alliance
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April 16, 2012

Commissioner Gladys Mack
ANC6A-07
703 18th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Commissioner Mack,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Rosedale Citizen's Alliance (RCA), a 501c3 Community organization comprised of members and community partners in and around Rosedale as well as Kingman Park (Ward 7) neighbors.

On the issue of renaming the Rosedale Recreation and potential naming of the Library, our position has not changed (i.e., letter of opposition dated February 7, 2011). Stated in that letter were the community recommendations of retaining the current name with the addition of Library (Rosedale Recreation Center & Library) to the newly construction facility.

As previously stated, maintaining "Rosedale" in the center's name is extremely important to the fabric of our community, past and present.

On February 7, 2011, neighbors, community partners and organizations came together during a public meeting hosted by Friends of Mr. Reginald C. "Kiyi" Ballard, Sr on the similar topic of renaming the Rosedale Recreation Center. At which time the community unanimously said "no" to the proposal of renaming the Recreation Center. We did however agree to support the creation of a "tribute wall" with Honorable mentions. This seems to be a more suitable solution than the proposals to rename the Rosedale Recreation Center and Library. This wall would honor community members and Friends of Rosedale who have made a notable contribution and impact in and around the Rosedale community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

Necothia Bowens
Necothia Bowens
RCA President

cc: Tommy Wells, Ward 6 Council Member
David Holmes, Chairman ANC 6A
Lia Veenendale-Selck, Commission ANC6A-08
Lisa White Commissioner, ANC 7D-01
Elizabeth Nelson, Chair - ANC6A COC
Department of Recreations / Library
John Cotton, RYI Community Liaison (RCA -Community Partner)
Chandell Butler, Rosedale Cheerleader/Dance Team (RCA-Community Partner)
Willie Smith, H.O.O.D (RCA-Community Partner)
Stephen Starke, Coach-Rosedale Hard Hitting Boxing Team (RCA-Community Partner)
Friends of Kingman Park (RCA-Community Partner)

May xx, 2012

Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian
DC Public Library
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Washington, DC 20001
Email: ginnie.cooper@dc.gov

RE: Rosedale Recreation Center and Library

Dear Ms. Cooper,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting^[1] on May 10, 2012, our Commission voted x-x-x (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to renew our support for keeping the current name of the Rosedale Recreation Center (position established in December 2010).

We also voted x-x-x to have the name of library component bear the name of the Rosedale Recreation Center such that the entire facility will be known as the Rosedale Recreation Center and Library (not separately named). We further request that there be a Wall of Honor established where community activists and other notables may be recognized. Names for inclusion on the Wall of Honor should be vetted by the Rosedale Park Partners in conjunction with the recreation center management and approved by ANC 6A.

On behalf of the Commission,

David Holmes
Chair

cc: Councilmember Tommy Wells
Chair, Recreation and Parks Committee

^[1] ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on anc-6a@yahoogroups.com (not controlled by the ANC), our anc6a-announce@yahoo.com email list, and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.