

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee

June 18, 2012 Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Jean Kohanek, Louis Barbash (quorum)

Committee members absent: Rose Williams, Pat Joseph

Community members present: Phil Toomajian, Vice President, Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers (SNV); Jean Wegimont; Kathryn Toomajian; Mila Freyere; William Toomajian; Manuel Wegimont - all in support of Sherwood Recreation Center playground - and Michal Bilick

I. Agenda

Adopted.

II. Status report on ANC/COC activities.

Ms. Nelson reported that there was less in the ANC 6A budget than was known at the time of the May COC meeting. The Eastern SHS PTSA did not send a representative to the May ANC 6A meeting, so the COC recommendation for partial funding (storage equipment) was "laid on the table". The PTSA can ask that it be considered at a future ANC 6A meeting. The P'Tones grant was approved with partial funding - \$3, 645, the balance remaining in the grants budget. The recommendations regarding funding the balances of the two grants were voted down due to lack of sufficient reserves.

Both grant applicants have been notified of the status of their requests. The Eastern SHS PTSA has asked to have the matter on the COC agenda on September 17 for consideration at the October 11 ANC meeting. There will not be funding available until the start of the new fiscal year in October.

III. Consideration of request for ANC 6A support for playground at Sherwood Recreation Center.

1. Mr. Toomajian presented the request on behalf of SNV and a group of families with young children. He stated that they would like to have a children's play area in the NE corner of the Sherwood Rec Center property, to the north of the main entrance - a 40' x60' (approx) area that is currently under-used. The vision is to have climbing equipment, including a slide, and other items that would appeal primarily to children under the age of eight. Ideally, there could be equipment targeted to both very young children and different equipment better suited to children at the upper end of the age range. The playground should be fenced for the safety of the children. However, current fencing is nearly adequate; probably only a gate would need to be added to complete the enclosure and control access.
2. Mr. Toomajian pointed out that there are a great many young children in the immediate area who are currently going to Lincoln Park, Stanton Park or Lovejoy Park because facilities are not available closer to home. The basketball and tennis courts currently at the Center are not suitable for the use of children in this age range, although a large group of nannies does meet inside the center, on the basketball court, to allow their charges to play and move

together. He also stated that having more “eyes on the street” would reduce the amount of nuisance activity associated with this part of the Rec Center grounds. It would also increase the number of stakeholders at Sherwood, which would lead to more support, including volunteer labor and donations.

3. The COC agreed that the playground would be an appropriate use of the site and that it would serve the purposes as described - although Ms. Nelson did caution that children quickly outgrow such facilities. However, they were unwilling to recommend that the ANC request funding - as it is not known what the “trade off” would be in directing funding to this particular project. They were also concerned that there had not been adequate notice given to the community, such that those who might be opposed and/or have a competing vision would have an opportunity to make their views known. Ms. Nelson had spoken with Mr. Toomajian on this topic in advance of the meeting. But notification had consisted only of going door-to-door among those houses directly facing the Center. This was viewed by the COC as inadequate, although Mr. Barbash found the support of Commissioner Ronneberg to be reassuring, as he is an elected representative. Ms. Kohanek asked if notice had been posted to the local listservs such as anc-6a and MoTH - as this would not be time-consuming to do. The playground supporters said that had not been done.
4. Consideration was given to asking the playground supporters to return to the COC in July, after having done more outreach. But that would mean that the matter would not come before the ANC until September. Instead, we agreed that we would recommend that the concept (but not funding) of the playground be supported by the ANC if certain conditions were met.
5. **Motion: Ms. Nelson moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A provide a letter of support for the concept of (but not funding for) a playground for young children at the Sherwood Recreation Center provided that the following conditions are met:**
  - a) **Flyers (including an outline of the proposed project, contact information of the COC Chair to register approval/disapproval, date/time/location of the July ANC meeting at which the commissioners will take a position) be posted at all the street intersections around the Center (and at the main entrance to the Center) by noon on June 23.**
  - b) **And that the same information be posted on both the anc-6a and MoTH listservs, also by noon on June 23.**
  - c) **And that no significant opposition be expressed prior to or at the July 12 meeting of ANC 6A.**

**Seconded by Mr. Barbash. Vote 3 in favor none opposed.**

- IV. Discussion of possible changes to policies and procedures for ANC grant program.
  1. Ms. Nelson reported that the ANC 6C grant application includes a request for the grant applicant’s EIN (also known as “Tax ID”). ANC 6C also requires that a copy of the IRS “ruling letter” be attached. She also provided an excerpt from the tax code that outlines which organizations are not required to request a ruling in order to operate as a 501(c)(3) organization:

### ***Organizations Not Required to File Form 1023***

Churches and organizations (other than private foundations) with annual gross receipts normally \$5,000 or less are not required to file Form 1023 and obtain recognition of tax exemption for contributors' contributions to them to be tax deductible. Although there is no requirement to do so, many churches and

small organizations seek IRS recognition because recognition assures contributors that contributions are deductible. For more information, see [Publication 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations](#), and [Public Charity - Exemption Application](#).

To apply <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1023.pdf>

After some discussion the COC decided that it would be good policy to require that applicants provide either an EIN - or a statement of finances indicating that they are not required to request a ruling. Ms. Nelson will make these changes to the grant application posted on the website at her earliest opportunity. [Subsequent to the meeting, this has been done.]

2. The COC then took up consideration of how to administer grants in the new environment where requests exceed the grants budget - which was not generally the case in the past. One possibility is that there might perhaps be two categories of grants, "small" and "large" with different funding cycles. For example small grants (perhaps less than \$200-300) might be requested on the current monthly cycle to support unanticipated needs but larger grants might have a longer cycle, perhaps twice a year. In this example, the fiscal year grants budget would be divided roughly in half, grants would be held until the end of the cycle at which point their relative merits would be considered before making funding recommendations. This is [roughly] the practice of the Capitol Hill Community Foundation - which seems to work well, at least for that organization. There might also be consideration of past funding an organization has received in determining future funding recommendations.
  3. This is a complex issue and one that the COC feels should be considered very carefully before making any decisions. As this fiscal year's grants budget has been exhausted, there is time to deliberate before any new grants will be considered. The COC will continue to explore this issue at the July meeting.
- V. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
- VI. **The next meeting will take place Monday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. at 1235 C St. NE**