

Minutes
ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Regular Meeting - June 22, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Quorum present.

COC members present: Roni Hollmon (Chair), Stefany Thangavelu, Jason Gresh

COC members absent: Gladys Mack

Community members present: Gottlieb Simon, Hannah Jacobson Blumenfeld

The Committee has received the revised ANC 6A Residents Guide that was completed by former COC member, Jean Kohanek.

Recommendation: ANC 6A approve the revised ANC 6A Residents Guide and that the document be posted to the ANC 6A.org website.

The Committee discussed the creation of an ANC 6A Facebook page. The Committee is requesting input and direction from the ANC as to what should be included on the page. In addition, the Committee proposes to be the administrators of the page if that is the wish of the ANC.

Recommendation: ANC 6A establish a Facebook page for the Commission and that the page be administered by the ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC).

The Committee welcomed Mr. Gottlieb Simon, Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC). It was a very robust discussion. The Committee reviewed the draft ANC Universal Grant Application, which has now been mandated and gave feedback. By FY 21, it is hoped that the Universal Grant Application will be in use by all ANCs. It still needs to be rolled out across all ANCs for feedback.

There was clarification given on how grants are approved during the COVID pandemic when things such as duplication of services and other expenditures are currently permitted and that the rules will return to normal once the health emergency has ended.

One important point of clarification given was regarding the Committee's understanding of the 60-day report. First of all, the 60 days start when the applicant receives the check and not when the ANC approves the check. Second, the money does not need to be spent in 60 days. The Committee needs to receive a report from the recipient in 60 days on progress; if the money is not spent at that point, a report is due in 90 days and every 90 days thereafter until the money is spent and accounted for or in the event an applicant decides to return the money.

Mr. Simon provided examples on what constitutes the "community as a whole benefit". The Committee gained greater clarity as to what it should look for on applications to meet that test. An example was given of an actual grant for 6 young people to learn landscaping. On its face, one would think that the grant could not possibly be approved; however, the Attorney General ruled that since their training was conducted in public spaces, that benefited the community as a whole, and thus the grant met the requirement. It is important to understand nuances such as these when the Committee evaluates applications.

The Committee welcomed Ms. Hannah Jacobson Blumenfeld from Serve Your City. She answered questions as to how their grant will be used to directly impact residents of ANC6A, including the pod at Mount Moriah Baptist Church where a refrigerator will be installed to hold fresh foods; how tutoring is available for all schools within the ANC; how residents can access the services for help. Their website is <https://www.serveyourcitydc.org/covid-19-emergency-response>.

Under Community Comments, Committee Member Gresh raised the issue of fireworks and how there has been an increase and how they are impacting the neighborhood. He was not advocating for a harsh response from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), but their lack of interest in enforcement was puzzling. What followed was a robust discussion as to what can be done to remind parents that fireworks are illegal in the District. The COC could formulate a message to be sent to school listservs and engage with the community at Serve Your City pickup locations. Given the climate in the country, youth may be having difficulties as to how to have an appropriate response and may need direction in channeling their energy, teaching them to be more responsible advocates, finding ways for them to have their voices heard, etc.

The social issues facing the DC are immense, but the work must be started, even if it cannot be solved immediately.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The next regular meeting of the ANC 6A COC will be August 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm