

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee

July 16, 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), Pat Joseph, Louis Barbash (quorum)

Committee members absent: Rose Williams, Jean Kohanek

Community members present: Michal Bilick

I. Agenda

Adopted.

II. Status report on ANC/COC activities.

1. Ms. Nelson reported that the commissioners voted to send a letter in support of a proposed playground at Sherwood Recreation Center.
2. Options PCS has announced plans to expand into rented space at 702 15th St. NE. Commissioner Andrew Hysell (that location is in his SMD) has been asked by Options for a letter of support. In turn, Commissioner Hysell has asked that the COC provide an opportunity for community discussion before he gives his support. Committee members remembered that there have been on-going concerns about the supervision of the youth at Options and how the youth interact with the surrounding neighborhood. There could be zoning issues as well. Commissioner Hysell requested August 13 (COC would normally skip August of meet on the 20th) but Dr. Vincent from Options had not confirmed as of the COC meeting but did subsequently confirm.
3. P'Tones, whose grant request in support of their Sherwood Recreation Center program was approved last month, has approached the ANC to request disbursement of the funds. However, they submitted invoices rather than receipts. Receipts are required, in advance, if the check is to be made payable to the organization. In discussing the matter, the ANC Treasurer, Nick Alberti, learned that P'Tones has purchased equipment - but intended to use it at some other site. This is not permissible, as DC Statute requires the benefit of ANC grants must be to residents of the ANC. This is also in conflict with the grant application wherein P'Tones stated that the new equipment/software was needed because that currently in use at Sherwood was obsolete (though still usable). The P'Tones representative also so stated at both the COC and ANC meetings. There was some discussion as to whether the COC should take any action or provide a recommendation to the ANC in this matter. Mr. Barbash pointed out that it is important to have confidence in the integrity and level of involvement of grant applicants, especially when the group is not locally based. Ms. Joseph followed that this is particularly important given the difficulties of monitoring grants after they are made. For example, P'Tones could move the equipment out of Sherwood at a later date and we would not be able to prevent it and might not even be aware of it. While it has always been a requirement that materials purchased with ANC money be used to benefit the 6A community (and remain with the facility for which they are purchased), it was not overly concerning in the past. All, or nearly all, of the grant recipients were local organizations, well known to us and unlikely to have the desire or ability to move the resources elsewhere. Going forward, we will need to consider this possibility more carefully. However, the COC did not feel that we should go so far as recommending that the grant approval be voided.

We defer to the treasurer and other commissioners of the ANC to resolve the matter.

- III. Discussion of possible changes to policies and procedures for ANC grant program.
 1. Ms. Nelson introduced the topic by noting that for the past several years, the ANC has sent thank you notes to those organizations providing meeting space and/or website support. There was little discussion as all committee members agreed that this is the correct thing to do. Ms. Nelson will provide draft letters.
 2. **Motion: Mr. Barbash moved that we recommend that ANC 6A send thank you notes in appreciation of support received from Sherwood Recreation Center, Capitol Hill Towers, Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Miner ES (use of meeting space) and Gallaudet University (webhosting). Vote 3 in favor, none opposed.**

- IV. Discussion of possible changes to policies and procedures for ANC grant program.
 1. The COC continued 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. This is a complex issue and one that the COC feels should be considered very carefully before making any decisions. The COC will continue to work on a draft guidelines document through email and at an August meeting if we have one. A draft will be shared with the commissioners at their September meeting. Any feedback will be incorporated at the COC's September meeting with the expectation that a final version will be formally submitted to the ANC at their October meeting. This will coincide with the start of the new fiscal year and the establishment of a new grants budget.
 2. **Motion: Mr. Barbash moved that we brief the commissioners on a draft guidelines document at the September ANC meeting. Seconded by Ms. Joseph. Vote 3 in favor, none opposed.**

- V. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

- VI. **The date of the next meeting was not been set, pending notification from Commissioner Hysell regarding Options PCS. Subsequently it has been established as August 13, 7:30 p.m. at 1235 C St. NE.**

Below are notes regarding possible, draft guidelines for future grant applications:

- 1) Grants budget be divided in half for "Winter" (October-February) and "Summer" (January-July) cycles.
- 2) The "season's" grant budget be further divided in half for larger (>\$300?) and smaller (<=\$300?) grants.
- 3) Small grants will be reviewed on the monthly cycle with deadlines as they currently are. This would allow for organizations (especially small ones) to respond to unanticipated funding needs.
- 4) Larger grants will be considered at the February and July/August COC meetings, considering the relative merits of applicant's proposals in funding recommendations. Mr. Barbash pointed out that having all applicants' present during this discussion will help stimulate their thinking about their own programs. It would also encourage them to think about asking other groups for funding.
- 5) Any funds not expended from the small-grants funding pool for that season-cycle will be available for larger grants.
- 6) Any funds not expended in the winter cycle will be available in the summer cycle.

7) Past grant history will be considered in making funding recommendations.