

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee

August 12, 2013 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), Louis Barbash, Maurice Cook, Gladys Mack, Jean Kohanek, Rose Williams, Pat Joseph (quorum)

Commissioners present: Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Nick Alberti

Community members present: Vira Sisolak and Vy Cornett (Capitol Hill Village), Phil Toomajian, Jean Wegemont (Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers), Raphael Marshall (Director, Sherwood Recreation Center), Denise Harrison (observer)

I. Agenda  
Adopted.

II. "Thank you" notes to supporting organizations

Ms. Nelson reminded the Committee that, in years past, the ANC has sent "thank you" notes to organization providing meeting space for ANC meetings (including committee meetings) and web hosting.

**Motion: Ms. Kohanek moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A send thank you notes to the same organizations who received them last year. Seconded by Ms. Mack. Vote 7 in favor none opposed.**

III. Presentation of grant applications from Capitol Hill Village (CHV), Serve Your City (SYC) and Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers (SNV)

1. The grants budget for the current fiscal year is \$5,000; \$1,130 has been spent or committed; the remaining balance is \$3,870. The total of all three grant requests is \$4,208 - exceeding the balance by \$338.

2. Although the commissioners can choose to fund grants in excess of the budget, the three applicants were, in a sense, competing for the remaining funds. Therefore, all three were allowed to present their grant requests and answer questions before any discussion of their relative merits and how available funding should be apportioned. Ms. Kohanek and Mr. Cook recused themselves from discussion of relative merits and the vote because of current or anticipated relationships to the organizations.

3. Capitol Hill Village is requesting \$500 for costs associated with symposium on healthy aging.

a) The applicants (Ms. Sisolak and Ms. Cornett) gave a brief description of their organization which is geared toward assisting Seniors in remaining in their homes. They also gave information on the planned symposium and noted that 120 people had attended a previous symposium on housing options.

b) Ms. Nelson noted that the grant application did not describe the benefit to residents specifically of ANC 6A, though benefit of grant monies can be to others as well (per Statutory Guidelines). She called this to their attention at the time the grant was originally submitted and suggested possible ways to demonstrate the benefit to ANC 6A, such as including enrollment figures that would show how many CHV members reside in ANC 6A or providing the number of attendees at the previous symposium (also held at HillCenter) who resided in 6A or by holding the event in ANC 6A. She suggested several locations within ANC 6A that might serve as possible venues. The applicants elected not to update the grant application. Ms. Nelson also noted that CHV has not held any events in ANC 6A.

c) Ms. Sisolak said that CHV hoped that events such as these would encourage more residents of ANC 6A to join, that they advertised the events within ANC 6A and that they might host events within ANC 6A in future. However, she was not able to

- provide information on the number/percentage of CHV members or previous symposium attendees lived in ANC 6A. They wanted to keep the event at HillCenter because that is their “core area”.
- d) They are requesting funding from ANC 6C but not from ANC 6B in the belief that ANC 6B will not provide such funding (ANC 6B has no grants program).
  - e) Committee members agreed that the purpose of the grant was a good one and that it would serve a different age demographic than has received funding in the past.
4. Serve your City is requesting \$2,758 for youth tennis/rowing program
- a) The applicant (Maurice Cook) explained that his organization encourages young adults, mostly college students, to become involved with local children and provide enrichment opportunities. Among other activities, SYC is currently providing a first exposure to the sport of rowing to youth, primarily from the Rosedale area. SYC seeks to extend the program into the fall and spring and enroll more children. They also plan to have twice weekly-tennis lessons. The children would not otherwise be able to engage in these sports. This exposure is important because they are sports that can be done throughout life and because they will bring the children into contact with people from outside their usual social circles/neighborhood. The rowing program also familiarizes the children with the Anacostia watershed. Going forward, the children will be recruited primarily from neighborhood schools, Eliot-Hine, Eastern and Maury.
  - b) The program is heavily subsidized by DC Strokes which is donating most of their services for the rowing program. Volunteers from Tennis For All are involved in the tennis component.
  - c) Committee members agreed that the purpose of this grant is a good one, although Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert expressed concerned that the children might not all live in the neighborhood. Mr. Cook explained that about 90% of current enrollees did and that if the program goes forward with ANC funding, the percentage will be the same or higher.
5. Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers is requesting \$950 for toddler’s group-play equipment (\$650), supplies and tools for an after-school jewelry making class (\$200) and a small amount (\$100) to maintain the on-going landscaping project.
- a) The applicants (Mr. Toomajian and Mr. Wegemont) explained that there is a new “First Steps” at the Center. For some time, toddlers and their care-givers have congregated there but there was no formal program. Now, someone has been hired by DPR to run the program and 45 children are enrolled, but there is no budget to purchase any equipment at all. \$650 is requested to purchase equipment that will encourage interaction, gross and fine motor skills. Also, there is a jewelry making program (that has some materials) that Sherwood would like to run as an after-school program this fall. Funds were requested from DPR to purchase the tools and supplies that would make this possible, but the request was denied. Last, SNV has been maintaining the landscaping around the Center for several years; this has greatly improved the appearance of the facility. \$100 is requested for small tools and landscaping materials for needed maintenance.
  - b) Ms. Williams asked if the children in the toddler program live in 6A; Mr. Toomajian said that surely there were a few who did not but that the majority did and he knew many of them personally. Ms. Williams also asked why these projects were chosen as the priority instead of providing additional uniforms and balls for the basketball program, which have been lacking in the past. Mr. Marshall explained that the Center has uniforms to use for games (though not practices) and that the SNV had served as a “pass through” to get funding for these uniforms in the past two years. Since SNV had already supported basketball, it made sense for them to support something different at this time.

6. Although there was general agreement that all three requests would serve useful purposes, all three could not be funded in their entirety (within the budget) and there was considerable diversity of opinion as to what the priorities should be. There were also some remaining concerns about demonstrating the benefit to ANC 6A of the CHV grant though no-one doubted that it would be of benefit to the larger community. Also, it is a one-day event while the other activities would be on-going. Mr. Barbash suggested that we “pro-rate” the amount requested by CHV by the percentage participation we thought they might receive from 6A. This seemed, to many, to be a reasonable compromise but difficult to calculate, since no numbers were provided. Upon review of the amounts requested by the applicants in relation to the balance in the grants budget, Ms. Nelson suggested that if the ANC gives half of what was requested to CHV, the other two applicants could receive most (though not all) of the funding they need for their projects.
  7. **Motion: Ms. Nelson moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A approve grant funding as follows: \$2,720 to Serve Your City; \$900 to Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers; \$250 to Capitol Hill Village. Seconded by Mr. Barbash. Vote 4 in favor, 2 opposed (incl. Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert) and 2 recusals (Kohanek and Cook). The motion carried and the applicants were advised that they needed to send representatives to the ANC meeting on September 12.**
- IV. Confirmation of next meeting date.  
The next meeting will be held Monday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. at 1235 C St. NE.
- V. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.