

ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC)
August 25, 2014 Minutes
Maury Elementary School (ES), 1250 Constitution Avenue NE

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Committee members present: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Jean Kohanek, Maurice Cook, Roni Hollmon, Pat Joseph, Gladys Mack, Shirley Worthy (quorum)
Committee members absent: Rose Williams, Louis Barbash
Commissioners present: Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Nick Alberti
Community members present: Donny Kirsch, Maury ES PTA; Ashley Donald, P'Tones; Raphael Marshall, Director Sherwood Recreation Center

- I. Agenda
Adopted.

- II. Mr. Cook recused himself from all discussion and did not participate in any votes because a grant application from his organization, Serve Your City, was under consideration by the Committee. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert asked Ms. Nelson if she would recuse herself because she volunteers at Maury Elementary School (ES). Ms. Nelson declined; she volunteers with several civic organizations and serving as a volunteer does not disqualify her.

- III. Ms. Worthy inquired as to the status of a grant request from a cheerleading group based at the Rosedale Recreation Center. She expressed her disappointment that the application would not be considered. Ms. Nelson reported that they submitted a grant application on August 21, 2014, long after the filing deadline (August 11, 2014) for the current funding cycle. Applications must be submitted far enough in advance that the Committee members can exercise "due diligence" in evaluating them, prior to making a recommendation. Ms. Nelson has offered to help the Rosedale Tiger Cheerleaders navigate the application process in a future grant cycle, as she does for all new grant applicants. Ms. Worthy also said that she did not think that the grant application should require that an Employer Identification Number (EIN) (IRS tax id) be provided. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert registered a similar concern. Ms. Nelson explained that compliance with IRS code requires that charitable organizations must apply for an EIN if their annual receipts are in excess of \$5,000.00. Organizations with receipts less than \$5,000.00 (who are therefore not required to have an EIN) can submit a bank statement with their grant application instead of providing an EIN. This is noted on the grant application form. Ms. Hollmon said she had experience with applying for an EIN and would be glad to share information with the organization.

- IV. Applications from Maury ES Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Serve Your City and P'Tones:
There was some question as to whether all three of the grant applications met all of the guidelines. So, the Committee members first voted on whether each application should be considered. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert and Ms. Mack objected to this but it was deemed a reasonable way to proceed by a majority of the Committee members.
The Maury ES PTA application was selected for consideration (5-2-0) - Joseph, Nelson, Kohanek, Hollmon, Worthy in favor; Mack and Phillips-Gilbert opposed. The Serve Your City application was selected for consideration (4-3-0) - Joseph, Nelson, Kohanek, Hollmon in favor; Worthy, Phillips-Gilbert, Mack opposed. The application from P'Tones was not selected for consideration (3-4-0) - Worthy, Mack and Phillips-Gilbert in favor; Joseph, Nelson, Kohanek, Hollmon opposed. Reasons given for not supporting consideration of the P'Tones grant included that it did not meet the guidelines, not

having a statement of benefit to ANC 6A (District statute specifies that the primary benefit must be to the ANC funding the grant) or a complete budget section (the total amount requested exceeds the sum of the itemized costs listed) and did not indicate what other sources of funding were available (the amount requested exceeds the entire grants budget).

The organization is registered to operate in the District but is not locally based. Ms. Hollmon pointed out that the headquarters is in New Jersey (according to the IRS website) and they operate centers in several cities; anything purchased with ANC funds could easily be moved elsewhere and the ANC would have no recourse. This is not a serious risk with locally based organizations that do not have facilities elsewhere.

Ms. Nelson explained that she had spent a great deal of time coaching the P'Tones through their initial request for funds and that application was complete and had been approved by the Commissioners (it is posted on the ANC website). However, the ANC had been forced to withdraw the grant at their September 2012 meeting when it was discovered that P'Tones was attempting to use the funds to pay for equipment for their New Jersey site. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert asked if there was any documentation to support this. Ms. Nelson responded that the matter was discussed at the September 2012 ANC meeting and is reflected in the minutes posted on the ANC website. [please see excerpts from these minutes, included at the end of this document] The Chair at the time, David Holmes, sent an email to P'Tones documenting his concerns on July 27, 2012; the commissioners, including Ms. Mack, were included in the cc list.

Ms. Nelson went on to say that, although it seemed clear to her that the current application was incomplete, she did not think it appropriate for her to make a unilateral decision. So, the matter was brought before the Committee so the members could decide at the meeting whether to consider the application.

1. Mr. Kirsch presented the grant application from Maury ES PTA for \$1,000.00 for technological items, math games and other enhancement materials for the new Math Resource Room (see grant application for details). The requested materials will enable the Maury PTA to enhance the learning environment for children throughout the range of proficiency. While the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) has hired a new Math Resource Teacher, funding is not available for the “extras” that will allow the school to leverage this asset. The items requested will also be used to enhance the recess and after-school experiences of the students.
 - a. Ms. Worthy observed that she thought the Maury PTA grant was a good idea.
 - b. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert asked if the LSAT (school advisory board) had requested a Math Resource teacher and why they would make such a request if they didn't have money in their budget to purchase supplies. Mr. Kirsch responded that he was not a member of the LSAT and that staffing decisions are made by the principal. So, he didn't know the particulars of how the school developed the current budget, but that the PTA was trying to find funding for equipment that DCPS cannot provide. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert asked if Mr. Kirsch had approached other organizations prior to applying to the ANC for funding. He said he had contacted the ANC first, but that the PTA will reach out to other grant-making organizations as listed in the grant application.
 - c. Ms. Kohanek asked if there was a dedicated space for the items requested and if they could be secured. Mr. Kirsch replied that there was a designated Math Resource Room and that items would be secured there.
 - d. Ms. Joseph asked the ages of the children who would use the materials. Mr. Kirsch replied that it would serve the entire school population from Pre-K-3 through Fifth Grade.
 - e. Ms. Mack asked “what was the budget to have a Math Resource Teacher”. Mr. Kirsch did not know as he is not on the LSAT and is not privy to salary information.

Ms. Kohanek noted that it was not the job of the Committee to assess the school's budget; the PTA had submitted a complete grant application that met the guidelines; and the Committee had often recommended approval for similar projects in the past.

2. Mr. Cook presented the grant application from Serve Your City (SYC) for \$3,384.50 for equipment and uniforms in support of their rowing, aquatics and tennis programs (see grant application for details). Rowing, Aquatics, and Tennis are sports that are generally too expensive for low-income, disadvantaged students to participate due to the high costs of equipment, supplies, and training. The SYC program makes these activities available to youth who would not otherwise be able to participate.
 - a. Ms. Joseph noted that Mr. Cook had made extensive efforts to reach out to many different community groups to recruit youth to participate in SYC activities.
 - b. Ms. Hollmon asked when the programs would begin at Eliot-Hine Middle School (MS). Mr. Cook replied that they would begin on October 1, 2014. They have four rooms available for tutoring (for which they are not seeking financial support) and indoor space for tennis this winter.
 - c. Ms. Worthy asked how many children and volunteers participated in the summer programming. There were 38-42 youth plus 14 volunteers. Some volunteers are college students but some are young local residents. Many of the children had parents who participated as well - a good family strengthening experience. In response to a specific follow up questions - rowing had 17 youth participants.
 - d. Ms. Worth also asked if Mr. Cook had reached out to the Rosedale community; Mr. Cook has been in contact with Mr. B. Williams (at the Recreation Center) and is planning an information session for youth at the Center.
 - e. Ms. Hollmon noted that she had seen the flyers posted at Eliot-Hine MS.
 - f. Ms. Mack expressed concern that SYC had received grant money in the recent past. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert also expressed this concern. Mr. Cook said that SYC requests funding from many organizations, including ANC 6A and that the money is used to provide programs that are unique and serve youth that would not otherwise have access to these activities. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert asked if the funds allocated to the 2013 SYC grant application had been spent and learned that they had been. She also asked if there were children already enrolled. Mr. Cook replied that recruitment enrollment was still underway but that he had 20 registered already for the fall program.
 - g. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert expressed concern that the aquatic activities might not benefit residents in ANC 6A because they would take place at the Deanwood Pool in Ward 7. Mr. Cook said that he would have preferred to use the Rumsey Center near Eastern Market but that it is so heavily used that he couldn't book the time. Ms. Kohanek asked if SYC was recruiting at Deanwood Pool; Mr. Cook stated that they were not recruiting there, but simply using the space. Participants will be residents of ANC 6A and SYC is providing bus tokens to facilitate transportation. SYC will be running after school programs at both Eliot-Hine MS and Eastern Senior High School (SHS) and those will be the primary recruitment sites.
3. Ms. Nelson noted that the balance in the FY 2013-2014 grants budget is \$2,533.00. The total amount requested exceeds that amount. The Committee voted on which of the grant applications should be considered for full or partial funding, to be followed by a discussion of apportionment. The Maury ES PTA grant was recommended for consideration (5-2-0) - Joseph, Nelson, Kohanek, Hollmon, Worthy in favor; Mack and Phillips-Gilbert opposed. The SYC grant was recommended for consideration (4-2-1) - Joseph, Nelson, Kohanek, Hollmon in favor; Worthy and Phillips-Gilbert opposed; Mack

abstaining. The Committee discussed priorities within each grant application with the applicants.

- a. Ms. Mack moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A approve \$1,000.00 in support of the Maury PTA request and \$1,533.00 in support of the Serve Your City request. There was no second.
4. Ms. Nelson moved (seconded by Ms. Worthy) that:
The COC recommends that ANC 6A approve \$733 in support of the Maury ES PTA request for items to enhance the Math Resource room and \$1,760 in support of the aquatics component of the SYC grant request. The measure passed unanimously, 6-0-0. (Ms. Phillips-Gilbert had left the room and did not vote.)
5. Ms. Worthy and Ms. Phillips-Gilbert expressed concern that applications are received from many of the same organizations and asked what outreach had been done. Ms. Nelson said that the availability of grants had been posted to the website and published in the Hill Rag and Buzz newsletter. She had personally contacted the PTAs for the schools serving ANC 6A children plus the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Friends of Sherwood Recreation Center, etc. It is to be expected that we will see many of the same applicants because the primary benefits of the grants have to be to ANC 6A, which is a very small area. Ms. Nelson said that she would welcome assistance with outreach to qualified organizations. Ms. Joseph said she would do what she could to publicize the availability of grants and suggested that Ms. Worthy assist also, which she agreed to do.
- V. Ms. Nelson noted that, since there will not be a new fiscal year budget until October or November, there would be no grant applications to consider at the September meeting. The Committee will use that opportunity to consider possible adjustments to the ANC 6A grants guidelines.
- VI. Confirmation of next meeting date.
The next meeting will be held Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Maury ES, 1250 Constitution Ave NE (enter from 200 block of 13th Street).
- VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Excerpts from minutes, September 2012 meeting of ANC 6A

Present: Commissioners Alberti, Healy, Holmes, Hysell, Mack, Ronneberg, Veenendaal- Selck

P'Tones Grant (Officers Reports, Chair)

Last month the ANC approved a grant to P'Tones, to purchase equipment and software for a program teaching recording techniques to young people at Sherwood Rec Center.

Mr. Holmes read from the Commission's by-laws: *(IV 9b) The Commission may approve grants to organizations that are public in nature and benefit persons who reside within the Commission area*

And

(h) the grant recipient shall forward to the Commission a statement as to the use of the funds consistent with the grant application, complete with receipts which support the expenditures.

He said it had become apparent that the P'Tones grant was at risk of being used to purchase equipment and/or software for conveyance to sites outside the 6A area. Therefore, he said, he stopped the issuance of the check funding this grant and conveyed his concerns that all grants must be spent for the direct benefit of, and use in, ANC 6A. He said he had yet to receive communication that the funds, if transmitted, will be spent solely for the facility in the Sherwood Rec Center. He said the matter would come up for a vote later in the meeting.

P'Tones (under New Business)

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Dr. Ronneberg seconded a motion to withdraw the grant to P'Tones awarded in July. Mr. Holmes said that it is a worthwhile program, but the grant is to be implemented outside the ANC 6A boundaries. The motion passed without objection.