

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Sherwood Recreation Center Library (640 10th Street NE)
March 19, 2012

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
- II. In attendance: ANC 6A Commissioner Adam Healy and Transportation & Public Space Committee members DeLania Hardy and Omar Mahmud (Chair); local business owners Danny Roberts and Joe Englert, and other members of the ANC 6A community.
- III. Community Comment - None.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Consider patio license for H Street Country Club (1335 H Street NE)
 1. Mr. Mahmud invited Mr. Englert, owner of H Street Country Club, to provide information regarding the H Street Country Club's proposed use of public space for a sidewalk patio. Mr. Englert provided the following information to the committee:
 - a. The patio will be situated 10 feet from the curb line directly in front of the business and have seating for 12 patrons. There will be wrought iron fencing with planters, plants, umbrellas, and metal/wood furniture (no plastic). All outdoor furniture will be removed from the space every night upon closing, which will be by 11pm Sunday to Thursday, and at 12am on Friday and Saturday.
 - b. Mr. Englert assured the committee the business will be diligent about keeping the public space clean and that there will be no outdoor music.
 - c. Mr. Mahmud asked whether this matter is on the DDOT Public Space Committee calendar for consideration. Mr. Englert indicated it is not given the ANC has not weighed in yet. They're not on the calendar yet. They can't get on calendar until we weigh in.
 - d. Mr. Englert also promised to discuss this matter with the Atlas Theater and report back to Mr. Mahmud, but he does not anticipate there being opposition from the theater.
 2. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the ANC send a letter of support for this proposed use of public space. The motion passed without objection.***
 - B. Traffic calming plan for Florida Avenue NE
 1. Mr. Mahmud invited Commissioner Healy to provide information regarding a proposal to request traffic calming measures for Florida Avenue. Commissioner Healy provided the following information to the committee:
 - a. In the NOMA master plan produced by DDOT in 2010, a recommendation was made for traffic calming measures along Florida Avenue NE from 2nd Street NE to West Virginia Avenue NE, including the reduction of one lane of traffic from two lanes to three along this stretch and putting in turn lanes. By reducing one lane of traffic in each direction, traffic is slowed and there is room for wider sidewalks, which are currently very narrow and pedestrian-unfriendly.
 - b. Gallaudet University and ANC 6C have sent letters of support for this idea already. So the request is to join these letters of support in an effort to jumpstart an effort to address traffic calming and pedestrian safety like what was done for Maryland Avenue NE from Stanton Park to the starburst intersection.

2. Neighborhood resident Tomas Carbonell also expressed strong support for the proposal to explore traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures for Florida Avenue. He informed the committee it is very dangerous for him to walk along the narrow sidewalk here. Mr. Mahmud relayed the same experience walking along this stretch of sidewalk from work to home during his daily commute, which he now avoids. Ms. Hardy indicated she is not familiar with the area but that she would check it out.
3. ***Mr. Healy made a motion that the ANC send a letter to DDOT joining ANC 6C's call for traffic calming measures along Florida Avenue NE from 2nd Street NE to West Virginia Avenue NE, including reduction of one lane of traffic in each direction, installing turn lanes and widening sidewalks, among other solutions. The motion passed without objection.***

V. Additional Community Comment

- A. Mr. Roberts, owner of Caribbean Best and Rose's Dream, was on hand to discuss his previous request regarding relocating a bus stop moved in front of his businesses by DDOT post-streetscape construction. The bus stop was previously located at the northeast corner of H Street NE and 14th Street NE for years before being moved in front of his businesses at the northwest corner of this same intersection. Councilmember Tommy Wells and the ANC previously contacted DDOT to support his request. He indicated he is raising this issue with the committee again since he hasn't seen any movement on this issue from DDOT.
 1. Mr. Roberts is still worried about the location of the new stop hurting his business, including his new business when he moves two doors down as is currently planned. Mr. Roberts wants an answer from DDOT regarding the reason for this move and the reason why the stop cannot be moved back to the northeast corner of H and 14th Street NE, especially given the new investment he plans to make in the new business.
 2. Ms. Hardy asked if Mr. Roberts has spoken to WMATA about the bus stop placement. Mr. Roberts indicated that he had, but that the dialogue with WMATA got shut down for some reason. He says there is no functioning business where the bus stop was previously located.
 3. Mr. Roberts is also concerned that the new bus stop removes several parking spots from in front of his business after he waited for years for the construction to be finished. In addition, given the striping put in place by DDOT, he keeps getting tickets for what he says is legal parking.
 4. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Mahmud for his opinion regarding why the bus stop location change was made. Mr. Mahmud offered that it may have been done since DDOT has informed him it generally prefers having bus stops located after intersections, rather than just before as this stop was previously situated. Mr. Mahmud also indicated he does not know the reason for this particular change, but that he suspects this may be the reason.
 5. Mr. Roberts expressed frustration that he raised his concern prior to the bus parking pads being installed at the new location, but DDOT still installed the pads. He is also concerned that he made a prior investment in reliance on the bus stop being at the northeast corner, not at this location, given bus patrons harass his customers and disturb his business with trash, graffiti, etc. Mr. Roberts also wonders how the bus stop down the street in front of Granville Moore's (1200 block of H Street NE) was moved by DDOT and speculates it may have been done because of bus patrons sitting on the steps leading up to this business.

6. Mr. Roberts also contended there isn't enough room for the large buses to pull into the new location, especially with handicapped passengers. Mr. Roberts spoke to Charles Allen, Councilmember Wells' Chief of Staff, about this recently and he plans to discuss with Councilmember Wells directly at his next community meeting.
 7. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the ANC send a follow up letter to DDOT regarding our previous request to have the bus stop moved back to its original location at the northeast corner of H Street NE and 14th Street NE. The motion passed without objection.***
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.