

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
June 15, 2009

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:06 pm
- II. Introductions
 - A. Present: Lance Brown, Shane Artim, Commissioner David Holmes, Diane Hoover, Commissioner Kelvin Robinson and Omar Mahmud (Chair)
 - B. Absent: DeLania Hardy, Sean Lovitt and Marlon Smoker
- III. Community Comment - None
- IV. Announcements
 - A. DDOT Transportation Enhancement Projects
 - i. DDOT has announced that approximately \$2,000,000 in funding is available for “non-traditional” projects linked to the District’s transportation system. DDOT is now accepting applications through August 7, 2009. Winning selections will be announced in the Fall.
 - ii. Project submission requirements:
 1. Must relate to surface transportation.
 2. Must meet at least one of twelve eligible activities geared towards bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic highway programs, historic preservation, railway corridor improvements as well as rights-of-way acquisitions. Additionally, the projects must be consistent with the mission, policies and plans of District agencies (e.g., DDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans, the Office of Planning’s Comprehensive Plan).
 3. Online applications and additional information can be found on the DDOT website (www.ddot.dc.gov).
 - a. Mr. Mahmud proposed possibly co-sponsoring some C Street NE proposals being developed by the Rosedale Citizens Alliance (RCA). Mr. Mahmud indicated he forwarded the funding information to Ken Granata of RCA who may already be submitting a proposal related to C Street.
 - b. Mr. Brown suggested submitting a proposal related to performance parking.
 - c. Due to the upcoming deadline, Mr. Mahmud suggested any recommendations should be made to the full ANC at next month’s meeting.
 - B. Expansion of DDOT Public Outreach Efforts
 - i. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee DDOT has announced new technology-driven public outreach efforts, including a recent launch of a Facebook page to compliment DDOT’s current Twitter account, email alerts and website.
 - ii. To access DDOT’s Facebook page, search “District Department of Transportation” on www.facebook.com to be added as a “friend.” The DDOT Facebook page gives users access to:
 1. the latest DDOT news and traffic advisories
 2. photos from DDOT events and projects
 3. a calendar of upcoming public meetings and other events

4. links to project plans and updates
 5. contact information for service requests, questions and comments
- iii. To follow DDOT Twitter, go to www.twitter.com/DDOTDC. DDOT's Twitter offers real-time updates about traffic, construction projects, events and other transportation news. Users can also "tweet" (submit) service requests to DDOT.

V. New Business

A. 637 10th Street NE

- i. Mr. Mahmud briefed the committee on this matter. A property owner has enclosed the public space in front of the house with a tall wooden fence, very similar to one you would expect to see enclosing a backyard. Enclosing the public space fronting a property with such a fence is a violation of District regulations.
- ii. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he has brought this matter to the attention of Mr. Marcou with DDOT's Public Space division, who then forwarded the query on to his division's permit researcher and inspector.
- iii. Mr. Mahmud suggested the best course would be to wait for the public space team to conduct an investigation before taking any ANC action.
- iv. Ms. Hoover brought up a similar situation at 12th and I Street NE. She indicated a green chain link fence about six feet high may be enclosing public space at this location, the site of a church.
 1. Mr. Mahmud agreed to take a look at the location and follow up with the DDOT public space permit researcher and inspector for our ward.
- v. Mr. Brown brought up another possible improper fence at 15th and Gales Street NE. Mr. Brown informed the committee Commissioner Schultheiss has informed DDOT about concerns with a construction project and a possible improper fence at this location. A parking pad is also being built at this site. Mr. Brown believes DCRA and DDOT are aware of the situation at this location and that a stop worker order has been issued.

B. Demolition at 1300 Block of H Street

- i. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he has heard local chatter about the owner of buildings on this block being interested in tearing down his buildings to make way for a parking lot.
- ii. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Brown expressed interest in exploring whether the owner's plans could be challenged based on the H Street Overlay, which prohibits parking lot uses for properties such as these (see section 1320.5). He also indicated we could challenge the owner's request for curb cuts at this location since DDOT and our ANC have expressed an interest in putting an end to further curb cuts along H Street.
- iii. Mr. Mahmud agreed that these are great ideas, but that the matter may not be ripe until the owner actually applies for zoning relief to build his parking lot. Mr. Mahmud expressed doubt about being able to challenge the building demolitions based on what the owner might do.
- iv. Mr. Brown agreed and indicated he is not proposing a preemptive action at this point, but he is interested in keeping the no curb cut issue enforced. The committee agreed to refer this matter to the Economic Development & Zoning Committee.
- v. Messrs Brown and Robinson indicated their belief that the ANC decided not to take action on the demolition matter because it was thought the case was not winnable.

VI. Old Business

A. 1400 Maryland Ave NE (proposed Shell gas station) Public Space Hearing

- i. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee the re-hearing in this matter before the DDOT Public Space Committee is scheduled for June 25 at 941 N. Capitol St. NE, 7th Floor. The gas station developers, DAG Petroleum, have submitted revised site plans in an effort to address findings at the last hearing which denied DAG's public space application. A time for the hearing will not be assigned by DDOT so people interested in attending and/or testifying would have to be available potentially all day.
- ii. Mr. Mahmud asked the committee for volunteers to testify at the hearing. Mr. Brown indicated he would try to make it if he is released from jury duty prior to the hearing. Mr. Artim also indicated he may be available, depending on his work commitments that day. Both indicated they would inform Mr. Mahmud whether they could make it to the hearing or not.
- iii. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee that testimony from our committee should focus on the transportation impact on the surrounding streets, particularly the impact of a lack of vehicle flow on the property and the removal of parking spots on 14th Street NE to accommodate fueling truck access to the property.
- iv. Mr. Mahmud agreed to send out a reminder email to the committee closer to the hearing date and to ask Commissioner Schultheiss to provide talking points for testifying committee members.

VII. Additional Community Comment

- A. Commissioner Robinson asked the committee whether ANC approval or input is required for extending designated no parking times in loading zones. For example, on such loading zone is in front of Rock n Roll Hotel on H Street.
 - i. Mr. Robinson indicated this question was posed at a recent PSA 102 meeting.
 - ii. Mr. Robinson also wanted to know what the procedure is for a request such as this and whether any such procedure is being followed by businesses in our ANC.
 - iii. Mr. Mahmud indicated this was a matter of first impression for the committee. Ms. Hoover agreed to research this matter and report back to Messrs Robinson and Mahmud. Mr. Robinson also agreed to follow up with Mr. Harvey of DDOT to find out any additional information.
- B. Commissioner Robinson asked the committee whether it has contemplated establishing public space bulletin boards in our ANC for ANC announcements.
 - i. Mr. Robinson proposes any such bulletin boards be placed in public spaces like Sherwood Recreation Center or other permanent locations so people will always know where to go for ANC information if they don't have access to the website.
 - ii. Mr. Robinson agreed to look into the feasibility of getting public bulletin boards put up. Mr. Mahmud suggested he check with Commissioner Marshall about getting such a bulletin board put up at Sherwood.

VIII. Adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm.