

## ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)

November 16, 2009

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:06 pm
- II. Introductions
  - A. Committee members present: Shane Artim, Lance Brown, DeLania Hardy, Diane Hoover and Omar Mahmud (Chair).
  - B. Committee members absent: Sean Lovitt and Marlon Smoker.
  - C. Others in attendance: Diane Thomas, Director of Communications for the Greater Washington Sports Alliance (National Marathon); ANC 6A Commissioners Nick Alberti, David Holmes and Kelvin Robinson; and Drew Ronneberg, Chair of the ANC 6A Economic Development and Zoning Committee.
- III. Community Comment
  - A. Mr. Ronneberg asked whether the committee had received input from DDOT on the H Street Connection project. Mr. Mahmud informed Mr. Ronneberg the committee had yet to receive anything from DDOT.
- IV. Announcements
  - A. Mr. Mahmud provided the committee with information about a DDOT public meeting on the Performance Based Parking Pilot Program in Ward 6. The meeting is to be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Friendship Baptist Church (900 Delaware Avenue SW).
    - i. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he would be interested in the committee exploring whether similar legislation would be feasible for the H Street area.
    - ii. Commissioner Holmes informed the committee that ANC 6B has around \$380,000 at the ANC's disposal for transportation enhancements as a result of this legislation.
- V. New Business
  - A. Presentation by Greater Washington Sports Alliance regarding SunTrust National Marathon
    - i. Mr. Mahmud introduced Ms. Thomas and invited her to provide the committee with a summary of the race along with details about transportation planning and outreach.
    - ii. Ms. Thomas provided handouts to those in attendance and discussed the following details:
      1. The race will be held March 20, 2010.
      2. The race held earlier this year "sold out" in terms of participants. The plan is to limit the race to 12,000 participants next year, which will include about 8,000 participants in the half marathon and about 4,000 in the full marathon. Registration is up 50% over last year thus far. About 20% of registrants are District residents.
      3. Street closure information is included on one of the handouts and the race map. This information will be distributed throughout the community in the weeks before the event.

4. Next year's race will also include a "kids program" with activities specifically designed for children, including Kids Run DC, which is a program that matches mentors with kids interested in running.
5. Race organizers plan to change the course next year to prevent a triangle block in our ANC (bordered by North Carolina, 13<sup>th</sup> and Constitution NE) from being "blocked in" due to street closures.
  - a. The new course would run down Constitution Avenue NE directly from 13<sup>th</sup> Street NE as opposed to continuing down 13<sup>th</sup> to Lincoln Park, then heading northeast on North Carolina Avenue NE up to Constitution. The change will require race organizers to add additional mileage elsewhere on the course, which they have expressed an interest in pursuing.
  - b. Ms. Thomas promised to get back to the committee once this course change is approved by race organizers and recertification of the course is completed by the City in late January/early February.
6. Race organizers are working with DDOT to provide messaging (EMS) to reroute traffic due to certain street closures.
  - a. Commissioner Holmes has identified a particular problem during past races along Massachusetts Avenue NE leading up to Lincoln Park. Ms. Thomas promised to bring this issue up with DDOT. She also encouraged the community to forward information about other traffic problems caused by street closures during past races so she can address the problem with DDOT.
7. Race organizers continue to explore ways to allow for safe traffic flow across the course. It has been reported that MPD does not allow motorists to cross the course along E. Capitol Street NE intermittently when it's safe to do so. Race organizers have promised to meet with the Special Operations Division (SOD) within MPD and DDOT to resolve this problem. Mr. Mahmud asked if Commissioner Holmes and he could join the meeting. Ms. Thomas agreed to set up a meeting sometime after the new year and get word of the meeting to Mr. Mahmud.
  - a. Commissioner Holmes expressed concern that the problem is not with getting MPD and DDOT to agree to allow the safe crossing of motorists, but that the instructions don't filter down to officers on the ground on race day. Ms. Thomas agreed to focus on this issue during the SOD/DDOT meeting.
8. Door hangers summarizing race details, including the street closure schedule, will be placed on houses along the course. Ms. Thomas will also provide door hangers to ANC Commissioners who request them so Commissioners can provide the hangers to residents in their SMDs.
9. Next year's race will include community festivals leading up to the event. Ms. Thomas is hoping to work with H Street area partners such as H Street Main Street to bring a community festival to H Street. The festival will target residents and nearby schools with the hope of getting more people out on the course on race day.

- a. Commissioner Alberti asked which ANC 6A schools are being targeted. Ms. Thomas indicated she does not have the list with her, but that she would be happy to get it to Commissioner Alberti. Organizers plan to target schools near the course, not necessarily right on the course. Commissioner Holmes recommended sending street closure information home with local students attending these schools. Ms. Thomas agreed that would be a good idea.
- b. Mr. Mahmud asked Ms. Thomas to expand on other new ideas race organizers are considering for next year's race.
  - i. Ms. Thomas met with DDOT to discuss drawing a large green line on the course with biodegradable paint. DDOT has agreed provided race organizers pay all costs.
- c. A question was asked about contingency plans if Congress meets on the day of the race and requires street closures impacting the course. Ms. Thomas hopes active coordination with Capitol Police will help alleviate any problems associated with unplanned meetings of Congress.
- d. Mr. Mahmud asked Ms. Thomas to discuss efforts to work with WMATA on bus disruption issues. Ms. Thomas explained that race organizers met with WMATA last year in the fall, well ahead of the race, to address service disruption issues. Despite what WMATA told race organizers about rerouting bus service on race day and posting notices about new routes, all WMATA did was delay buses until streets reopened. In other words, the rerouting plan that WMATA developed and discussed with race organizers was not implemented. Ms. Thomas does not know why this happened, but plans to find out when meeting with WMATA again in the next couple months.
- e. Mr. Mahmud also asked Ms. Thomas to address providing adequate notice to bus riders in the weeks leading up to the race about service disruptions on race day. Ms. Thomas indicated she would try, but that it is too hard to predict which buses to target for announcements and advertising since buses are designated for routes on a daily basis. In other words, an X1 bus one day may be an 80 bus the next.
  - i. Commissioner Robinson disputed this information indicating he has purchased ads for specific bus routes to run for specific dates in the past. Ms. Thomas agreed to follow up on this.
  - ii. Commissioner Holmes encouraged Ms. Thomas to target the D2 and D6 lines since they service local hospitals. Bus riders with doctor appointments on race day should be notified they may need to alter their travel plans.
  - iii. Ms. Thomas is hoping to better coordinate service disruption information with WMATA by getting the information posted on the WMATA website.

10. Race organizers will buy radio ads to promote the event and notify District residents about race day disruptions.
    - a. Commissioner Alberti encouraged organizers to target a diverse audience with the ads.
  11. Race organizers will do mailings to funeral homes, churches, synagogues, and any other organizations with Saturday events to notify them of the event. Race organizers have also met with the Children's Hospital since it is a large facility that will be directly impacted by the course route and corresponding street closures.
    - a. Commissioner Holmes suggested organizers also meet with Specialty Hospital of Washington on 8<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts Avenue NE.
    - b. Mr. Mahmud asked those in attendance to suggest local blogs and other publications that race organizers should contact about disseminating race information. Suggestions included Frozen Tropics, Hill is Home, JD Land. Ms. Hardy also suggested race organizers contact Commuter Connections. Mr. Mahmud committed to providing Ms. Thomas the names of local listservs she can also contact.
  - iii. Ms. Thomas agreed to attend the committee's January meeting with updates on WMATA's rerouting and service disruption notification plan, information about the SOD/DDOT meeting, course recertification, ddot traffic management and advertising/outreach efforts.
  - iv. Mr. Mahmud thanked Ms. Thomas for attending the meeting.
- B. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he would be unable to attend the scheduled meeting next month on December 21. The committee discussed moving the date of the meeting to December 14. The committee also discussed the timing of providing transportation-related recommendations regarding the H Street Connection project.
- i. Mr. Brown made a motion that the committee reschedule next month's meeting for December 14. The motion was seconded by Mr. Artim, which passed without objection.
  - ii. Mr. Mahmud indicated the committee is awaiting information from DDOT about traffic flow and ingress/egress recommendation before making its recommendation on the H Street Connection project.
- VI. Additional Community Comment - None
- VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.