

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
December 19, 2011

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:04 pm
- II. Introductions - ANC 6A Commission Chair David Holmes and Commissioners Alberti, Lawler, Mack and Veenendaal-Selck; Committee members DeLania Hardy and Omar Mahmud (Chair); Chris Browne with the Greater Washington Sports Alliance; Becky Richards and Mike Soderman with the Capitol Hill Classic; and community members Rob Stephens and Sondra Phillips-Gilbert.
- III. Community Comment
 - a. Rob Stephens asked to speak to item V (5).d. on the agenda because he had to leave the meeting early. Mr. Stephens then stated the following:
 - i. Basically asking that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT reactivating the C Street NE Project, which is aimed at reducing traffic volume and speed along C Street NE. Persistent problem because the street has become a six lane highway. If 6A is concerned with curbing commuter traffic in the neighborhood, then cutting down traffic along C Street is key.
 - ii. The project has been going nowhere for the last year and a half. DDOT has stated the project will be restarted but it seems to be a lower priority. Please send a letter to DDOT asking for three things:
 1. Release the C Street study that reflects community comment from four community meetings;
 2. Hold a final community forum with impacted ANCs; and
 3. That DDOT move to issue a final recommendation and move to final implementation stage.
 - iii. This project should be a priority because it's a school area with children around. Need to deal with traffic at this area if you're concerned with reducing commuter traffic. DDOT has implemented two similar projects in Ward 7. Why has DDOT prioritized Ward 7 but not here?
 - iv. He also asked that ANC 6A call for a reduction in one westbound lane. No need to push it, but this is what he wants.
 - b. Mr. Mahmud thanked Mr. Stephens for his comments.
- IV. Announcements. Mr. Mahmud made the following announcements:
 - a. There will be a DDOT meeting regarding the Maryland Avenue Pedestrian Safety Corridor Project from 1 to 3pm on January 28, 2012 at the Sherwood Recreation Center (640 10th Street NE).
 - b. There will be a follow up meeting hosted by DDOT regarding the H Street/Benning Road Streetcar line starting at 6pm on December 20, 2011 at the Atlas Performing Arts Center (1333 H Street NE).
- V. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Greater Washington Sports Alliance (GWSA) - National Marathon. Mr. Mahmud introduced Chris Browne from GWSA, thanked him for attending the meeting and asked that he provide an overview of the race details. Mr. Browne then provided the following information:

- i. View presentation in two phases. 1) Present 2012 race plans, improvement areas, and tweaks to course based on feedback. 2) Come back to committee in January 2012 based on tonight's conversation to outline a full plan and get vote of support.
- ii. 8th annual edition of the event. Provided a fact sheet for last year and the next year.
- iii. Date: Saturday, March 17, which is several weeks prior to previous years due to conflict with 100th anniversary of the Cherry Blossom Festival. GWSA agreed with Mayor's office to move the race to an earlier date because of the volume of Cherry Blossom Festival events.
- iv. Course will start and finish at RFK stadium, with some proposed changes to the route GWSA hopes will positively impact ANC 6A. Went over the In/Out times and turn by turn directions for the proposed course.
- v. There were about 17,000 registrants last year. The new name for the race is the Rock and Roll National Marathon, which will be done in partnership with Competitor Group Inc. Competitor Group does 26 running events around the world and is investing millions of dollars in this event going forward. GWSA is a non-profit so this gives them more organizational capability and resources, including about 100 more feet on the ground to help with the event. Outreach efforts will also be enhanced from last year (door hangers, basic outreach).
- vi. Route: No mystery that this race demands a lot of 6A. Commissioners Alberti and Holmes have provided much feedback on the routes in the past and have helped improve it for residents. GWSA strives for improvement every year. It's a loop course that presents challenges for 6A. Looking for a revision of the full marathon route at the split (eliminate a mile of the loop in Ward 6). Also planning to split the route at 13th Street NE. Eliminates one mile around the Capitol Hill area and gets them done a little earlier. Not sure what the domino affects are at this point, but on paper it looks positive. Road races around the Capitol are being eliminated.
 - 1. Commissioner Holmes pointed out that they are still going down Constitution by the Capitol. Mr. Browne pointed out that bordering the Capitol Hill grounds is acceptable.
 - 2. Commissioner Alberti asked for more explanation regarding the advantages of the split at the half/full described earlier. Mr. Browne explained that this will create an hour earlier "exit" for this area, thus minimizing the boxing in of residents. One mile = 1 hour. But there will be less of a box around certain streets regardless.
 - 3. Mr. Stephens pointed out that it was a mess around C Street last year. There were clothes all over the place.
 - 4. Commissioner Alberti: every year the neighborhood has to deal with the same lack of clean up problem. The ANC hears every year that things will be different. From his block alone [presented two medium plastic bags full of clothes], concluding that GWSA has no credibility on this issue anymore.
 - 5. Commissioner Veenendaal-Selck also had an experience with clothes and trash not being picked up after the race. She wants to know what the concrete plans are for this.

6. Commissioner Alberti suggested developing a new course. Mr. Browne replied that this is on the table and the course is evaluated every year to identify areas for improvement.
7. Mr. Browne: regarding clothes, we engaged a non-profit to pick up clothes, but we found they didn't pick up everything which is a problem. The buck stops with GWSA. Please allow the event to improve its performance.
8. Commissioner Alberti: I understand this benefits the community but this is the 8th year with no improvement so the solution is to find a new course and not impact our community every year.
9. Mr. Browne: clean-up is not a resounding issue every year, it is a recent issue. Mr. Alberti responded that the odds of seeing an increase in trash is higher given it will likely be colder this year due to the date change.
10. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert suggested GWSA properly budget for clean up because you're alienating the community by not taking care of this adequately. Mr. Browne responded GWSA has more human resources this year so they can do an effective job this year. Follow-through is key.
11. Commissioner Lawler: I didn't have any complaints but the bag of clothes has been presented before. What communication do you need from the community to ensure this isn't a problem again? Mr. Browne answered that GWSA must ensure the event doesn't end until cleanup is complete. Can't promise everything will be perfect. Priority is to have a safe event, but want to be a good neighbor as well. Wants to create effective solutions.
12. Mr. Mahmud asked about getting this cleanup issue solved once and for all. Despite GWSA's best efforts, not everything is being picked up for some reason. GWSA needs to develop a plan for cleanup and improve quality control. Mr. Browne responded that the race contracts with DPW to provide cleanup.
13. Chairman Holmes: contracting with DPW doesn't work if you have trash under cars and in yards/on fences. I will always oppose the race as long as you run it by the same street twice, but my area always gets hit twice so the whole morning is tied up. Go down to M Street to cross town. Now we have rock and roll bands coming this year at 4am to set up and play until 1pm. Mr. Browne: what you've presented is a scare tactic. This is a professional event run by professionals with local entertainment. The entertainment will be appropriate for residential areas. Like a choir. Commissioner Alberti: I'm concerned about whether the music is amplified or not. Mr. Browne: it's not all rock and roll bands. Each mile will have some entertainment offered but the plan has not yet taken shape. There will be no sound checking at 5am.
 - a. Mr. Browne promised to come back to the January 2012 committee meeting with a music schedule for each mile marker in ANC 6A. Mr. Holmes stressed that the schedule should be worked out with event organizers ahead of time so we can know it's final. Mr. Browne assured the committee this would be the case.

14. Commissioner Alberti: what is economic input for the district? Mr. Browne: George Mason U. did a study. Mr. Browne promised to provide the ANC with a copy.
- vii. Returning to discussion about the route, Mr. Browne indicated that the course comes through our ANC twice because of RFK Stadium's location. Again, GWSA continues to evaluate other options. A "central option" would have a start at Freedom Plaza, but it would likely cause a loss of east of the river course, which GWSA wants to avoid. Also, 25% of race participants are from Ward 6.
 - 1. Commissioner Veenendaal-Selck wants to ensure the community is heard and respected, but she is not currently seeing this translate into action by race organizers. She wants concrete plans.
 - viii. Mr. Browne again reiterated that there are a lot more resources to use this year. There will be enhancement given partners. Metro will be opening earlier this year.
 - 1. Chairman Holmes brought up the need to coordinate with MPD better on "bumpouts" to ensure they are enforced better and traffic is allowed to cross when safe.
 - ix. Mr. Mahmud thanked Mr. Browne for attending the meeting and summarized action items for Mr. Browne to report back on during the January committee meeting:
 - 1. Present the new race route with timelines;
 - 2. A schedule of entertainment acts along the route in ANC 6A;
 - 3. Concrete plans on outreach;
 - 4. Concrete plan for picking up trash post-race.
- b. Presentation: Capitol Hill Classic. Mr. Mahmud thanked Mr. Soderman and Ms. Richards, who presented the following information about the race:
- i. Race organizers submitted a petition in response to a petition trying to get the race moved to Saturday from Sunday. 319 signatures total: 251 from Ward 6 and 68 non-Ward 6 parents. The event is sponsored by the Capitol Hill Cluster Schools Parent Teacher Association (PTA).
 - ii. Had 2,100 participants last year, but goal of 3500 this year between the 3k and 10k.
 - iii. Putting on race to help bridge gap on funding for DCPS. Buys school supplies for Capitol Hill Cluster Schools.
 - iv. Raised \$12,500 last year because they had to pay full tab on MPD unlike the National Marathon, which doesn't have to pay. Had to pay about \$37k for MPD detail (99 MPD officers last year, but hoping to have 64 this year).
 - v. Changing the route this year. A) want to reduce MPD personnel needed for the event (reduce by a third). B) Didn't want to block in 5th Street Baptist Church.
 - vi. Has met with 97% of the local impacted faith groups (LP Methodist, Church of Reformation, St. Joseph's, etc.) to discuss impact of the event on services for Sunday. The churches have offered support. Meeting with them to find ways to ensure the event doesn't impact services. Looking at placards and leaflets showing congregations how to get to church on race day.
 - vii. Proposing to MPD that they not have "static closures" along the race route so that streets can open up as the race moves by.

- viii. Scheduled for May 20, 2012, starting at 8:30 am.
- ix. Organizers did the petition to counter one church's effort to move the race to Saturday (5th Street Baptist Church). They have reached out to the church and received no response.
- x. Commissioner Mack suggested organizers check with local military bases about getting a volunteer police force.
- xi. Mr. Mahmud asked about street closure times for the impacted areas in ANC 6A. Mr. Soderman indicated this is still being worked out. He also indicated E. Capitol would close around 8am for the start and open back up around 11am.
- xii. Chairman Holmes asked that organizers explore the "bump cross" (i.e. let cars through when no runners). E. Capitol at 8th, 11th, 13th and 17th are all busy intersections so they are looking at getting these intersections for bump crosses. Commissioner Alberti recommended having at least 15th, 17th and 8th, while pointing other intersections are outside of our ANC.
- xiii. Chairman Holmes recommended clearing the race course as soon as possible. Don't have slow runners kept on the course. Ms. Richards indicated organizers share this concern given they don't want to pay for MPD any longer than is necessary.
- xiv. Mr. Mahmud asked whether a notice to residents about street closures was distributed. They plan to advertise in the Hill Rag, M.O.T.H. and other listservs. Chairman Holmes suggested organizers use volunteering youth to do flyering for community service.
- xv. Commissioner Alberti pointed out there is a break between fun run and the 10k, which would allow people to go through during this break time. Mr. Soderman agreed and indicated he is talking to MPD about getting this done.
- xvi. Chairman Holmes suggested getting Commissioners along the route a phone number they can call if the bump crosses aren't working. Mr. Soderman responded that they will have an action plan with a memo MPD signs that will go out to officers. The memo reiterates that this is a community event and that the streets should be opened as soon as the trail car comes through.
- xvii. Commissioner Alberti: clean up not an issue for these guys every year because the volunteers cleaning up live in this community. They also use BID for cleanup.
- xviii. Chairman Holmes wants organizers to follow up with him on how the bump cross issue is being resolved with MPD.
- xix. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the ANC send a letter of support for the Capitol Hill Classic. The motion was seconded by DeLania Hardy and passed without objection. The letter goes to mayor's task force (they will send me the contact). They will be at January meeting.***
- c. Proposed "Road Diet" for K Street NE. Mr. Mahmud made a motion that this item be tabled until the January meeting being Commissioner Healy is not in attendance to address the matter. DeLania Hardy seconded the motion, which passed without objection.
- d. Discussion regarding C Street NE Project. Mr. Mahmud gave a brief overview of the issue and explained some of the more recent history.
 - i. Commissioner Holmes expressed interest in moving this forward and engaging Kingman Park. Want to ensure we don't move the traffic north to other streets

in Rosedale and Kingman Park. He also indicated he is bringing this up with some hesitancy given traffic may move to E. Capitol through his neighborhood. But he is also concerned about traffic negatively impacting Eliot-Hine Middle School and Eastern High School. Both schools are increasing population and there is concern for kids needing to cross C Street to access the school and recreation facilities. Commissioner Alberti agreed we need to get the project moving forward.

- ii. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert indicated she supports initial designs for C Street NE but not anything that will bring overflow traffic to E Street and F Street. She is also concerned about the new Rosedale community center being negatively impacted. Wants DDOT to use other tools to slow traffic without shifting to other streets. Use speed cameras, etc. she says numerous traffic incidents have occurred on 17th between E Street and D Street. She is concerned about traffic coming to 17th Street. Wants to ensure there is a safe community. Chairman Holmes pointed out that he doesn't want anyone going north and that he has talked to the project team about ensuring traffic is not shifting to other areas.
- iii. Commissioner Lawler pointed out one of the reasons before for the delay was construction on Benning Rd and 11th Street Bridge, which are now either complete or almost complete.
- iv. Chairman Holmes suggested having DDOT do a community briefing for ANC 6A and Kingman Park regarding current status of the C Street project.
Commissioner Lawler: there were three public meetings in 2009 and 2010.
- v. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert indicated she wants improvement to 17th Street addressed as well (dangerous curve) and possibly cameras.
- vi. Commissioner Lawler: there is a red light camera around 19th at C Street NE. Ken Granata, a neighborhood resident, has requested the number of tickets issued by this camera, but was unable to get it. Mr. Mahmud suggested dealing with this issue separately, not in the letter about restarting the C Street transportation project. Commissioner Holmes agreed and indicated we are not yet ready to send a letter like the one provided by Rob Stephens at this time. We need to discuss the different options after hearing back from DDOT with project updates.
- vii. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting follow up regarding improvements to C Street NE within our ANC, specifically a status on where DDOT is and a discussion of the options being studied. Ms. Hardy seconded the motion, which passed without objection.***

VI. Additional Community Comment - None

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.