

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G Street NE
Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm

I. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

II. Introductions:

- A. Committee members in attendance: Chair Elizabeth Nelson, Caitlin Rogger, Hassan Christian
- B. Commissioners in attendance: Brian Alcorn (6A08), Mike Soderman (6A03)

IV. New Business

- A. Request for letter of support for Capitol Hill Classic, Sunday, May 17, 2020
Roberta Stewart, Event Outreach Chair, Capitol Hill Cluster School (a DCPS public school), made the presentation. There are no changes to the course or timing of road closures from what they were in 2019. There will be no parking allowed on the race route. The event raises approximately \$100,000 each year, which is split among the three campuses in the Cluster. Committee members noted that the race is well regarded by residents and that the schools it supports are important community institutions. Race organizers will post no-parking signs 72 hours in advance, will advertise on listservs and in the Hill Rag, have coordinated with affected churches and will request that ANC commissioners help get the word out.

Ms. Rogger made the motion: ***TPS recommends that ANC 6A send a letter to District of Columbia Homeland Security and Management Agency in support of the 2020 Capitol Hill Classic.*** The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian and passed unanimously (5-0), including the two Commissioners present.

- B. DC Comprehensive Plan Comments

The Committee evaluated the transportation and public space-related portions of the DC Comprehensive Plan comments from Capitol Hill Village. After considerable discussion, the Committee members agreed on a list of comments (that appear at the end of the minutes) to be forwarded together with those from the Economic Development and Zoning (ED&Z) Committee.

Ms. Rogger made the motion: ***TPS recommends that Ms. Nelson consolidate TPS comments on the DC Comprehensive Plan, as discussed at the meeting, and will circulate to the Committee by e-mail to verify the list and submit said list to the Commissioners for their concurrence with the recommendation that the comments be added to those of the ED&Z Committee and put forward by ANC 6A.*** The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian and passed unanimously (5-0), including the two Commissioners present.

- C. Public Space Construction Permit application #343819 at 1518 North Carolina Avenue NE - driveway through public space.

The applicant, Melissa Wilson of Octopus Properties, purchased a property without alley access and now wishes to create parking in the rear of the property which backs up to public space on a very steep hill along the 1500 block of C Street NE. She proposes that a short driveway be constructed through a public green space to connect

the alley to her rear yard. The site is very steep and could erode from being driven over, so she is proposing to use an engineered and pervious material to line the driveway. Committee members appreciated the applicant's concern for the environmental impact but believe that it would set an unacceptable precedent if the applicant is allowed to compromise public use of the land to benefit an individual. Others in the same row of houses might request the same, which would further subtract from the public space. And, if permission is given for this encroachment, it will be more difficult to oppose similar requests - or other claims for individual use of public space - in future. Once the driveway is installed, it will be impracticable for the public to reclaim that right of way should another public-serving use or need arise.

Ms. Rogger made the motion: ***TPS recommends that ANC 6A send a letter to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) in opposition to the application (#343819) for a driveway through public space at the rear of 1518 North Carolina Avenue NE.*** The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian and passed unanimously (3-0), with the two Commissioners abstaining.

III. Old Business

Ms. Nelson reported on DDOT's response to ANC 6A's request for 4-way stops at all local-local intersections. The blanket request was denied; each location will have to be requested individually. This can be done through the recurring "top ten" lists. With respect to the intersection at 14th and A Streets, NE, a four-way stop has been denied, at least in part of the basis of a traffic study conducted on Thanksgiving Day. Instead, DDOT is offering other measures including the removal of parking near the intersection.

Ms. Nelson noted that there is a hedge at this location that is blocking site lines to a far greater extent than parked cars. The hedge is clearly in violation of public space guidelines:

<http://dcrules.elaws.us/dcmr/24-102>: 102.4 Hedges on parking shall not exceed three feet (3 ft.) in height, nor project more than six inches (6 in.) over the sidewalk. On corner properties, if hedges are placed at the back of the sidewalk, they must be planted not more than ten inches (10 in.) above the sidewalk grade.

Ms. Nelson has made complaints regarding this location (100 14th Street NE) and another in ANC 6B (The street address of the house is 29 7th Street SE but it is a corner lot and the offending shrubbery is on the 600 block of A Street SE) through 311, 311.dc.gov and the public space inspector, to no avail.

Mr. Soderman made the motion: ***TPS recommends that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT asking for enforcement with respect to overgrown hedge at 100 14th Street NE, also noting the one at 29 7th Street SE. (DCMR24-102). Further, the letter should request that on-line 311 be updated to facilitate the reporting of public space violations.*** The motion was seconded by Mr. Alcorn and passed unanimously (5-0), including the three commissioners present. [Subsequent to the meeting, the hedge at 29 7th Street SE was pruned so this part of the recommendation was not placed on the ANC agenda.]

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Note: The text of the current 2006 Comprehensive Plan is shown in black; OP's new proposed text is in underlined bold black font; OP's strike throughs are in red. TPS Committee proposed revisions and comments are in blue.

**Comprehensive Plan Introduction Element
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A Comments
Land Use Element**

309.6 *ANC 6A supports these aspects of the discussion of what makes a good neighborhood and proposes changes as they appear in blue font. Current 2006 Comprehensive Plan is shown in black; OP's new proposed text is in underlined bold; OP's strikethroughs are in red.*

309.6 What Makes a Great Neighborhood?

A successful neighborhood should create a sense of belonging, civic pride, and a collective sense of stewardship and responsibility for the community's present and future among all residents. Indeed, a neighborhood's success must be measured by more than the income of its residents or the size of its homes. Building upon the ~~in~~ 2004, "A Vision for Growing an Inclusive City" identified essential physical qualities that all neighborhoods should share. These included:

- Transportation options for those without a car, including convenient bus service, car sharing, bicycle facilities, and safe access for pedestrians;
- Easy access to shops and services meeting day-to-day needs, such as child care, groceries, and sit-down restaurants.
- Safe, clean public gathering places, such as parks and plazas—places to meet neighbors, places for children to play, and places to exercise or connect with nature;
- Quality public services, including police and fire protection, high-quality, safe and modernized schools, health services, and libraries and recreation centers that can be conveniently accessed (though not necessarily located within the neighborhood itself);
- Distinctive character and a "sense of place", defined by neighborhood architecture, visual landmarks and vistas, streets, public spaces, and historic places;
 - Evidence of visible public maintenance and investment—proof that the city "cares" about the neighborhood and is responsive to its needs; and
- A healthy natural environment, with street trees and greenery, and easy access to the city's open space system.

Transportation Element

1. *411.15. Action T-2.5.A: Maintenance Funds. ANC 6A urges the city to improve sidewalk lighting in neighborhoods and to maintain sidewalks to reduce tripping hazards. This would make walking safer both from helping prevent injuries and increasing personal security. Specifically, we recommend revision of 411.15 as follows:*

411.15. Action T-2.5.A: Maintenance Funds.

Provide sufficient funding sources to maintain, and repair the District's system of sidewalks, streets and alleys, including its street lights and traffic control systems, bridges, street trees and their roots, and other streetscape improvements. 411.15

2. *After 410.14, ANC 6A proposes a new action item as follows:*

NEW. Action T-2.4 G Pedestrian oriented street lighting.

Develop a program to prioritize improving pedestrian oriented lighting of sidewalks, while reducing light pollution. This would increase ease of communication for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Element

4. 810. 7 Policy PROS-2.2.3: Program Diversity. *ANC 6A endorses the policy on program diversity. We believe this section would be strengthened by referring to “community based organizations”.*

810. 7 Policy PROS-2.2.3: Program Diversity . Provide diverse recreation activities **to promote healthy living** for persons of all ages and cultural backgrounds, distributed equitably in all parts of the city. Coordinate **activities and offerings** with other service providers, including DC Public Schools, **and community-based organizations,** to maximize the effectiveness of service delivery and minimize redundancy. 810.7

6. **810.9 Policy PROS-2.2.56 Special Needs. ANC 6A endorses the following with minor comments in blue font:**

810.9. Policy PROS-2.2.56: Special Needs

Increase efforts to meet the needs of special **underserved** population groups, **including older residents and** persons with disabilities. Provide “barrier free” access by modifying existing facilities to accommodate the needs of the disabled **and modifying existing indoor and outdoor facilities and parks to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. Explore the use of alternative participation styles and formats in the program curriculum so that activities can be easily adjusted to allow people with disabilities and other special needs to participate.** 810.9

Urban Design Element

1. *ANC 6A endorses, with minor changes, the following new proposed Action:*

- **NEW Action UD-2.1.B: Standards for Street Furniture**

Produce standards for street furniture in public space, such as benches, trash cans, and bike racks, that designate spacing, layout, and other characteristics that promote socialization and interaction, as well as public health and wellbeing. These should be equitably distributed throughout the City

2. *ANC 6A endorses, with a proposed addition, the following new policy on neighborhood streetscapes:*

NEW Policy at UD-2.1.2: on Neighborhood Streetscapes Neighborhood streetscapes should be designed to visually reflect the character and level of intensity of the adjacent land uses. For instance, narrow sidewalks may be appropriate for narrow streets with low-scale buildings, while sidewalks with more trees and vegetation may be appropriate for large-

scale developments. Pedestrian oriented lighting should be designed to enhance walking thoroughfares to public transportation hubs and promote communication for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as well as visually reflect the character of neighborhood. Light sources should be shielded to eliminate or reduce light pollution.

CAPITOL HILL PLANNING AREA ELEMENT

1. 5. 1508.13 Policy CH-1.1.12 RFK Stadium Area.

ANC 6A believes that development of the RFK and Reservation 13 sites offers excellent opportunities for coordinated planning for recreation, parkland, and mitigation of negative effects of heavy traffic in the area. While we support environmentally appropriate development of the waterfront and adjacent open space in a manner that provides access to the neighbors, we also believe that the shoreline and parklands should be equally available to DC residents of all ages and physical condition and from all city neighborhoods. We also recommend that OP add an additional sentence to 1508.13 which would give preference to maintaining more natural landscapes along the River, over highly developed landscapes.

Our proposed revisions to this section follow:

1508.13 Policy CH-1.1.12 RFK Stadium Area. RFK Stadium and the surrounding area are currently leased by the DC Government from the National Park Service, with the restriction that development be limited to sports, recreation and entertainment. Restricting the use of the land to sports and recreation is consistent with preferences of adjacent neighbors and residents of the wider Planning Area. Provide improved buffering and ~~landscaping~~ **landscape** screening along 19th Street and elsewhere in the vicinity of RFK Stadium in order to reduce the effects of noise, dust, vibration, and air pollution on the adjacent Hill East community. Work collaboratively with the National Park Service, **District agencies, Events DC,** and National Capital Planning Commission on long-range plans for the stadium and adjacent parkland and parking lots. **The highly successful project, the Fields at RFK Campus, offers a model for how Events DC can collaborate with the neighborhood and other stakeholders.** Waterfront open space in this area should be retained and improved for the benefit of **all DC residents as well as adjacent Hill** East, Kingman Park, and Rosedale residents. **Improvements should include the creation, and maintenance, of a pedestrian and cyclist shoreline access path, and well-designed public spaces. Recreational and green spaces should include features for people with disabilities or for aging adults. Reduce the amount of land occupied by surface parking and maximize activity along the waterfront.. Facilities for swimming should be included.**

Give preference to retaining the natural character of the landscape along the shoreline while allowing access to enjoy the river and its shoreline. See also 1514.8 Reservation 13 Parkland and ~~See the Urban Design Element for additional policies related to parks and open space.~~ 1508.13