

Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.
- II. Introductions & Announcements.
Committee members present: Maura Dundon (Chair), Shaun Lynch, Jeff Fletcher, Caitlin Rogger
Commissioners present: Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee, Rob Dooling, Laura Gentile
- III. Amended agenda item: Introduction of Friends of Lincoln Park organization.
Mr. Jason Maga provided a background, overview, and purpose of the Friends of Lincoln Park that he has organized with Ms. Jeni Schoemaker and Mr. Jonathan Jacobson. The group organized to channel volunteer and financial resources of the community surrounding the park into park maintenance, improvements, and event planning. The organization is already working with the National Park Service (NPS) to prioritize projects, and ultimately establish a formal agreement defining financial and work order commitments. Playground upgrades, landscaping, restoring water access into the park (for irrigation) have been identified as priorities. Volunteers have already cleaned off the park kiosks.

Commissioner Amber Gove expressed support of the ANC 6A TPS Committee to be a conduit for the organization's priorities, and inquired about any specific capital improvements that are being planned and a timeline. Mr. Maga identified the water restoration as the one item that NPS is currently looking to address, which would repair the break in the water main to the park, but there is no specific timeline. He added that NPS has set up an email for service requests related to Lincoln Park.

Community member, Mr. Ayk Yilmaz, inquired about the use of native vegetation and pollinator gardens in future landscaping planning. Mr. Maga responded that NPS is likely going to want to keep the park largely in its current form, and the Friends of Lincoln Park are not looking to change the historic nature or character of the park, but is open to recommending vegetation approaches that would achieve that objective beyond traditional grass.

Friends of Lincoln Park does not yet have any formal donation website set up yet, but neighbors who are interested in volunteer opportunities or more information on the organization can email friendsoflincolnparkdc@gmail.com.

- IV. Old Business.
 - A. Discussion of recent new speed hump and raised crosswalk approvals by DDOT: 300 block of 17th Place NE; 900 block of G Street NE; 12th Street NE and Wylie Street NE (crosswalk); 200 block of 9th Street NE; 200 block of 9th Street NE; 400 block of 9th Street NE. Chair Maura Dundon reviewed these raised crosswalk and speed hump approvals that have been coming in as part of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) new streamlined process, leading into the subsequent related agenda item.

- B. Discussion of the new DDOT procedures, including whether to request improvements to the [DDOT TSI Dashboard](#); and when to recommend an ANC resolution in support of a traffic safety change. In October 2021, DDOT announced a new policy to streamline the Vision Zero traffic safety improvements. Residents can submit Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) requests via the 311 system, and can track the progress of the TSI on the dashboard website with tabs listing TSIs Pending Review, Pending Data Collection, Pending Installation, and Complete. The Committee would like to address serial TSIs (i.e. TSIs within a common traffic corridor) in a future ANC 6A TPS committee meeting with DDOT's new ANC 6A representative, as Commissioner Gove indicated that a single TSI cannot include more than one block. Commissioner Gove also noted that resolutions from the ANC add great weight to TSIs, and that a resolution would be appropriate when urgency dictates and/or when serial TSIs exist.
- C. Request for traffic calming at 13th and D Streets NE and a recent accident at this intersection. Pending TSI 22-0027049 (filed 1-16-2022). Commissioner Laura Gentile described the situation regarding three accidents at this location dating back to September 2021, and turned over the discussion to community member, Ms. Cory Langley.

Ms. Langley spoke on behalf of neighbors who are interested in increasing safety for pedestrians in the neighborhood near the intersection of 13th and D Streets NE. A middle school student was struck in September 2021; another resident was hit in December 2021; and on January 22, 2022, a vehicle careened into a line of parked cars on along the block. After asking concerned neighbors to get in touch with her, Ms. Langley noted the comments falling into three themes:

- i. They are seeing too many cars that are speeding and not stopping at stop signs.
- ii. They are afraid for their children, who are walking and biking in the area.
- iii. They see this as not just a problem at this one intersection, but also along the 13th Street NE area up to F Street NE where cars are speeding down, trying to make the traffic light.

Ms. Langley noted that neighbors mentioned speed bumps, but would also like to see enforcement of the existing traffic laws. She also noted concern that there is no signage on the 1300 block of D Street NE, near Kingman Dog Park and the adjacent field, to look for children. Commissioner Keya Chatterjee suggested this is an example where multiple, related TSIs should warrant an ANC resolution. Commissioner Gentile will work with Ms. Langley to draft TSIs for the block.

Commissioner Gentile moved that That the ANC to adopt a resolution for traffic calming measures in the general area of 13th St NE. Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all ANC Commissioners and TPS Committee Members present voting yes.

- D. Request for a speed camera westbound 1300 block of H Street NE and other pending speed camera requests. Commissioner Robb Dooling wants to follow up on the January 2021 promise of installing a speed camera on H Street. An eastbound camera exists as of July 2021, but there is no westbound camera.

Commissioner Dooling moved that ANC6A send a letter to DDOT in support of an installation of a speed camera in 1300 block of H Street NE, as well as other prior ANC6A requests for speed cameras.. Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all ANC Commissioners and TPS Committee Members present voting yes.

V. New Business

- A. Rock ‘n Roll Half Marathon. Diane Romo Thomas of the Rock‘N Roll Running Series reviewed plans for the March 26, 2022 event, including the race course and road closures in ANC 6A. Commissioner Gove praised the organizers for ensuring that the site cleaned out quickly following the November 2021 event, but also noted concern that DDOT “No Parking” signs were not posted with enough notice and that weather had blown down some of them. Commissioner Gove requested event organizers post notice in excess of 72 hours, and to secure them better.

Commissioner Chatterjee requested the “open streets” for a two-hour period during cleanup, and suggested advertising the post-race street closure as a reason to visit the H Street NE corridor and enjoy the shops and restaurants in a car free environment. Commissioner Chatterjee also noted that mailed notices for last November’s race were received a month before the race, and many neighbors had forgotten by race day. She suggested a postcard could be more effective than a letter.

Commissioner Chatterjee moved that the ANC send a letter of support for the race, and for two hours of post-race road closures. Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all ANC Commissioners and TPS Committee Members present voting yes.

- B. Metro for D.C. Amendment Act of 2021, B24-0429. Commissioner Chatterjee led a discussion of the bill recently introduced to the DC Council to provide a \$100 monthly public transit benefit to all DC residents. She noted that full ANC support would be useful for the bill. Half of bus riders earn less than \$35k/year, and that this bill would be the closest DC can get to free fare under the political climate of the Metro region. The Committee debated the merits of supporting the benefit for residents who already receive student- or employment-related Metro benefits, and the proof of residency requirements that may discourage many residents most in need (including undocumented residents) from applying for the benefit.

Commissioner Chatterjee moved that ANC 6A send a letter of support to the entire DC Council, including support for undocumented residents to have access to the benefit, and for an ANC 6A commissioner to testify at the Council hearing. Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all ANC Commissioners and TPS Committee Members present voting yes.

- C. H Street NE Safety Listening Session update from Commissioners Chatterjee and Dooling. Commissioner Dooling noted that the small businesses expressed appreciation and gratitude for ANC 6A’s continued support and advocacy for the three points previously agreed upon:
- i. Transit-only lane for the DC Streetcar
 - ii. Pickup/Drop-off (PU/DO) zones

iii. Widened sidewalks

The businesses remain concerned about speeding and parking. Commissioner Dooling suggested that we host another joint meeting with ANC 6C in February, and would like to get together with all of the small businesses in support of PU/DO zones and transit-only lanes for the DC Streetcar.

Commissioner Chatterjee added that many businesses have raised an issue that they want speed cameras on every block and a 15-mph speed limit on the corridor. Commissioner Chatterjee suggested making signs of support for businesses to post in their windows with a web link or QR code to sign a petition expressing support for the H Street businesses.

Commissioner Gove suggested gathering the support for the ideas and buy-in from the businesses before DDOT makes any proposal in order to avoid being derailed by small, organized opposition.

VI. Additional Community Comment.

A. Commissioner Chatterjee brought attention to a property at the intersection of 12th and K Streets NE with “spikes” on their retaining wall, which appear possibly to be former wrought iron railing installed directly into the retaining wall concrete and subsequently cut down with approximately five-inch iron bars remaining exposed out of the wall. DC Code notes limits on fences, including that an installation cannot impale someone. DDOT would have jurisdiction in this area, as the yard is almost certainly (homeowner-maintained) public space, but there is no obvious option in the 311 system under which to report this situation. This was particularly precarious during the recent snow events, where anyone nearby who may have slipped would be at risk of significant injury due to these spikes. Chair Dundon offered to look into whom to contact at DDOT for such property violations.

B. Community member, Mr. Ayk Yilmaz, asked the committee about DDOT design standards for traffic safety installations, such as raised crosswalks, and expressed concern about the new TSI system potentially facilitating haphazard installations due to individual, uncoordinated TSIs. Commissioner Gove responded that DDOT does have design standards, and that the ANC can request the DDOT’s ANC 6A liaison to share them with the committee. Commissioner Gove also noted that there are differences between the short term (TSI) fixes and DDOT’s longer term, bigger projects that allow for more creativity with design. Federal guidance is being updated more broadly.

C. Commissioner Dooling requested the Committee invite DDOT’s new project manager for the H Street Corridor to the February 2022 meeting of ANC 6A TPS Committee.

VII. Meeting adjourned.