

Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

II. Introductions & Announcements.

Committee members present: Maura Dundon (Chair), Shaun Lynch, Jeff Fletcher, Hassan Christian

Commissioners present: Keya Chatterjee, Laura Gentile, Rob Dooling, Brian Alcorn

Commissioner Keya Chatterjee made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for the owner of Pursuit Wine Bar to present plans in support of a permit for a permanent patio installation. Commissioner Amber Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all ANC Commissioners and TPS Committee Members present voting yea. The New Business agenda item was modified to include the Pursuit Wine Bar presentation as Item B.

III. Old Business

- A. Discussion of H Street NE Bus Priority project, and other H Street NE traffic calming matters. Mr. Zack Gambetti introduced himself as DDOT's new project manager for the H Street NE Bus Priority project, and noted the high-profile crashes along the corridor from North Capitol Street NE to Benning Road NE. Commissioner Chatterjee highlighted the enthusiasm of ANC 6A & 6C to move personal vehicle traffic away from buildings, and noted that many neighbors are dependent on X2 & X9. Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the comments, and asked Mr. Gambetti about the feasibility of a bus-priority lane in the context of parking needs and delivery drivers. Mr. Gambetti responded that DDOT engineers will be working with his team regarding Pick Up/Drop Off (PUDO) zones and loading zones to manage a bus-only lane appropriately. He believes a bus-only lane is possible with the space available, but the analysis is required. A bright red painted lane (similar to I St NW) is the DC standard for bus-only lanes for now. Commissioner Chatterjee followed with a question about the feasibility of a greenway, pedestrian boulevard similar to previous renderings of Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Mr. Gambetti admitted the final design on H Street NE was not likely to be quite so elaborate.

- B. Discussion with DDOT Community Outreach Representative on new 311/Traffic Safety Investigation dashboard and TSI requests for specific safety improvements. Chair Maura Dundon introduced Ms. Kelly Jeong-Olson, and opened the discussion with comments about the improvements to the new system and concerns about the gap between constituents and ANC Commissioners regarding trouble spots in the neighborhood. Committee Member Shaun Lynch asked Commissioners to provide comment to DDOT on how data within the TSI may be better presented for the purposes of SMD leadership. Commissioner Chatterjee voiced concern of alleyway safety, where speeding can be an issue. Ms. Jeong-Olson referenced experience dealing with similar issues in Ward 5. She noted that DDOT has limited ability to add safety features to alleys due to engineering considerations, such as no curbs and gutters, designs that were never intended for a lot of traffic, and introduction of noise and vibrations that negatively impact neighbors. Ultimately, speed

mitigation features in alleyways are often controversial. DDOT has done some work on alleys as pilot projects (particularly near schools), such as speed stars or cushions, but these are larger alleys. The alley by Atlas Performing Arts Center is wider and DDOT was able to create a work order for a rubber speed bump.

Regardless of alleyway limitations, residents are welcome to submit TSIs for alleys. Chair Dundon asked about the impact of residents requesting specific safety measures in a TSI submission. Ms. Jeong-Olson responded that residents should focus on the problems of a given area, and not the solutions. She asked to allow the engineers consider solutions to address the issues. More details of a problem (in a TSI) are better; engineers will do a site visit, but they do not necessarily know the local environment as well as the neighbors. Ultimately, neighbors can suggest a solution in a TSI, but DDOT asks that the focus remain on the problem.

- C. Update on finalized MoveDC plan. Chair Dundon introduced MoveDC as DC's long term (25-year) mobility plan. MoveDC was finalized in December 2021, and two items reflect the ANC's feedback: 1) build more multi-modal trails; and 2) expand DC Streetcar to across the river. A link was provided via email. Commissioners should review the MoveDC plan to consider with future TPS committee issues.

IV. New Business

- A. The official naming of Overbeck Alley, in the square bounded by 12th Street NE, 13th Street NE, C Street NE, and D Street NE. Commissioner Laura Gentile introduced Mr. Jack Becker as a property developer with property interests along the alley. Mr. Becker, along with associates Adolfo Briceño and Madelyn "Maddie" Hoagland-Hanson, formally requested a name for the alley because a name is required for a building permit for the properties to have an address. The developers have proposed the name "Overbeck Alley" in honor of former resident and historic preservationist of Capitol Hill, Ruth Ann Overbeck, who passed away in 2000. More information about Ms. Overbeck can be found at the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill History Project (<https://www.capitolhillhistory.org/project-people>). Mr. Becker presented historical background of the alley and the surrounding block, and requested feedback, comments, and support for naming of the alley. Commissioner Chatterjee inquired about the name choice, and noted the history of DC on unseated Nacotchtank and Piscataway land as well as this specific location in a historically black neighborhood. Mr. Becker responded that the name reflects both Ms. Overbeck's personal history in the neighborhood and a longstanding personal relationship with Mr. Briceño (developer). The alley was noted in the 1940 Census as Alton Court, but Mr. Becker had no further background on that name (DC has an Alton Place NW). Commissioner Dooling asked if there was any precedent for alley naming in the neighborhood. Mr. Becker responded in reference to Adelaide Alley SE (near 16th and D Street SE), named for a feminist sculptor buried in Historic Congressional Cemetery, as one example. Commissioner Gentile also referenced the naming of Mamie Johnson Alley in SMD 6A07.

Commissioner Gentile made a motion that ANC 6A adopt a resolution, including the petition, proposing naming the alley "Overbeck Alley." Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0, with ANC Commissioners Chatterjee and Dooling abstaining.

- B. Permit for a permanent patio installation at Pursuit Wine Bar. Commissioner Chatterjee introduced Mr. Adam Kelinski, one of the owners of Pursuit Wine Bar.

Mr. Kelinski began by noting that the existing, permitted temporarily sidewalk tents have collapsed following recent weather events and need to be rebuilt. Mr. Kelinski presented detailed renderings and architectural drawings of the proposed area. The owners would like to rebuild a more permanent enclosure with a building-attached awning, including three-inch stanchions. They believe a more permanent structure will also be more aesthetically pleasing than the hodge-podge of tents currently in place. DCRA is currently adjudicating the permit, and the owners are looking for a letter of support to modify the existing permit (for an unenclosed structure) to include an enclosed structure. Pursuit Wine Bar is not asking to expand the existing permitted footprint. Commissioner Dooling asked about the existing distance between the patio boundary and the grass adjacent to the curb, which Mr. Kelinski responded is approximately ten (10) feet. Commissioner Chatterjee proposed a draft motion to be put forward at the full March 2022 ANC 6A meeting that ANC 6A provides a letter of support for the Pursuit Wine Bar enclosed patio. Commissioner Chatterjee added that she also has a draft letter of support to be included with the minutes.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.