

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Sherwood Recreation Center (10th Street and G Street NE)
March 15, 2013 at 7:00 pm

I. Call meeting to order at 7:05 pm

II. Introductions

A. In attendance were committee members ANC6A Commissioner Omar Mahmud (Co-chair), Todd Sloves (Co-chair), Benjamin Rosset, Lara Levison and Delania Hardy; ANC6A Chairman Commissioner Nick Alberti, ANC6A Commissioner David Holmes. Of those with business before the committee: Representatives for DC Streetcar; Jason Martin of Chupacabra; Mr. Anise of Nomad Hookah Bar, Cynthia Sims on behalf of Nomad Hookah Bar (formerly Sahra); residents of 1100 block of Maryland Avenue.

III. Community Comment

A. None

IV. Announcements

A. Co-chairman Mahmud announced an upcoming public meeting on the Florida Avenue Corridor multimodal transportation study. Co-chairmen Mahmud and Sloves encouraged community attendance. They explained the goals of the study and answered a few questions on the scope of the study.

B. Update from DC Streetcar team

Mr. Thomas Perry, in charge of construction, thanked the Committee and ANC6A for supporting extended quiet work hours to install overhead wires. It was key to meeting their milestone. The project is now in functional acceptance testing, identifying any issues that need to be addressed. The next phase will be systems integration testing. Afterward, they will put out a Request for Quote (RFQ) for the rest of the twenty-two (22) mile system.

Commissioner Alberti asked when the streetcars will begin moving, anticipating complaints from motorists.

Mr. Perry responded that streetcars will be going up and down the street for testing as early as Friday, March 28, 2014.

Mr. Perry also said the Twelfth (12th) Street substation will be getting its brick façade by the week of March 31, 2014.

Commissioner Alberti asked when traffic would revert to normal arrangement on the Hopscotch bridge.

Mr. Perry indicated that will happen once testing is over.

With regard to revenue service, Mr. Perry would not commit to anything better than full operations within 2014. He stated that winter weather set things back.

V. New Business

- A. Request by Chupacabra Latin Kitchen/Taqueria (822 H Street NE) to install bike racks on public space adjacent to sidewalk café
 - i. Co-chairman Mahmud gave background on Chupacabra's previous requests for public space and concerns of neighbors.
 - ii. Mr. Martin gave a presentation on the proposal to install the bike rack at the north edge of his current sidewalk café.
 - iii. Discussion: Mr. Mahmud indicated that a bike rack was not the Committee's original idea of a noise buffer. Commissioner Holmes asked if people were likely to congregate near the bike rack. Mr. Martin responded no. Commissioner Holmes asked if Mr. Martin would commit in writing that his staff will dispel any loiterers from that area, given its proximity to neighbors. Mr. Martin agreed.
 - iv. ***Co-chairman Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Co-chairman Sloves, that the Committee recommend that ANC6A send a letter of support to DDOT if Chupacabra provides a written commitment that the restaurant staff will dispel loiterers from the location of the bike rack. The motion passed unanimously.***
- B. Request by Nomad Hookah Bar (formerly Sahra Lounge) (1200 H Street NE) to install a sidewalk café on public space adjacent to the property.
 - i. Mr. Mahmud provided background on the public space request process and explained that the Committee and ANC6A would have to protest the request because the Committee was not given enough time to formally weigh in and that Nomad would not postpone their hearing with DDOT. He also explained history involving Sahra's illegally-operated sidewalk café.
 - ii. Mr. Anise gave a presentation to the Committee on the public space proposal, the designs for which were shared with others in attendance.
 - iii. Discussion: Mr. Alberti asked if Nomad has signed an ABRA Settlement Agreement. Mr. Anise and Ms. Sims confirmed that they had. Mr. Alberti asked if Nomad would consider limiting their application to a maximum capacity of forty-four (44) patrons in the sidewalk café. Mr. Anise consented. Mr. Tony Gray of Wylie Street voiced his opposition to the proposal. Mr. Alberti recommended ANC6A send a follow-up letter if the owner agrees to the stated concessions in writing.
 - iv. ***Mr. Mahmoud offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Sloves, that ANC6A withdraw its opposition to the application conditioned upon receipt***

in writing from Nomad a promise to reduce sidewalk café capacity to 44 patrons, maintain the adjacent sidewalk area and any tree boxes clean and limit hours to those stipulated in the settlement agreement. Motion agreed to unanimously.

- C. Request by residents for support concerning alley repair/repaving requests. 1100 block of Maryland Avenue NE/1100 block of E Street NE.
 - i. Presentation by Nick Losurdo, joined by several other residents of the block. The alley has not been repaved since sometime before 1978 (per neighbor Craig), and the condition is terrible - “third world conditions.” The driveways are deteriorating into the alley, trash isn’t collected properly, which attracts rats, holes full of water which breed mosquitoes, and the overall poor condition which attract criminal activity. Mr Losurdo and other neighbors have made many requests to the city government and Councilmember Wells for repair, but to no avail. In 2011, Mr. Losurdo was told the alley had been put on the list for repair in 2013. The repairs were then pushed to 2014, and again to 2015. Stacey Leavandosky of 1101 Maryland Avenue NE noted that the branch of the alley from Eleventh (11th) Street doesn’t have a curb cut, has a “grassy knoll,” and can’t be returned to functioning alley status. Commissioner Holmes stated that the City sets aside about \$3 million per ward for alleys, which doesn’t go very far.
 - ii. Mr. Mahmud agreed to talk to the Ward 6 Coordinator in the Mayor’s office, ask him to do a walk through, and see if the Mayor’s office can make a push.
- D. Consideration of a new Capital Bikeshare station location originally planned for 12th Street NE and H Street NE in the proximity of the streetcar electrical substation.
 - i. Neighbor Stacey Leavandosky proposed placing the station in the triangle at Maryland Avenue NE, Tenth (10th) Street NE and D Street NE.
 - ii. Commissioner Holmes stated that there is already partial funding for that site. Discussion of ideas for locations will continue at the next TPS Committee meeting.

VI. Additional Community Comment was omitted.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.