

Meeting Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
March 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.
- II. Introductions
Committee members in attendance were Commissioner Omar Mahmud and Todd Sloves, co-chairs, Jeff Fletcher, Hassan Christian, Elizabeth Nelson, Andrea Adelman, and Lara Levison. Also present: Commissioner Matt Levy.
- III. Community Comment (5 minutes)
 - A. Public safety on H Street NE, especially at Eighth (8th) and H Streets: A request went out on a list serve for people to write to the City Council about it. Co-chair Todd Sloves reported that an MPD representative came to the full ANC meeting to talk about public safety; there has been an increase in robberies along the H Street corridor. MPD will have more officers on the corridor. Co-chair Omar Mahmud said he will reach out to Lieutenant Cullen again. Regarding loitering at H and Eighth (8th), Mr. Mahmud explained that the police can do little about it; DC as a federal territory doesn't have anti-loitering laws. Sometimes two police cars are stationed there; the MPD presence can serve as a deterrent.
 - B. Eileen Bradford, resident, 1200 block of G Street NE: She and her husband have started a petition on MoveOn.org in support of the streetcar and asked for signatures; Mayor Bowser is expected to make a decision in a few weeks. She asked people to email her if interested in signing (eileensimpson@gmail.com). Mr. Mahmud informed the Committee and those in attendance that ANC 6A sent a letter to the Mayor expressing concerns about cancellation of the streetcar project. ANC 6C sent a similar letter. ANC 6A invited the Mayor to come talk to us. In response to concerns voiced by a community member, Mr. Sloves informed attendees that WMATA will not discontinue the X2 bus because of the streetcar. UPDATE: The Federal Transit Administration completed its review and gave the streetcar the go-ahead.
 - C. Mr. Jackson, president of Capitol Hill Towers Resident Association, asked if the strip mall on H Street NE will be torn down. Mr. Mahmud informed him that that is the current plan, but it is several months down the line; it will be torn down and redeveloped. The shops will front up to H Street There will be parking underground. It will include retail and housing, including housing affordable for middle-income people.
 - D. Committee member Elizabeth Nelson raised the issue of illegal parking of Al's Pizza delivery vehicles at the corner of Fourteenth (14th) Street NE. and East Capitol Street, as discussed at the February 2015 meeting. Commissioner Matt Levy reported that he had spoken to the owner and will again, but the ANC may need to take action.
 - E. Mr. Mahmud reported that he met with Frank Ledoro at the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding the problems with alley repair and maintenance, and

took him to the Wylie Street and Linden Court alleys. Mr. Ledoro will have the DPW inspector come out and find out which restaurants are dumping grease, etc. Mr. Mahmud stressed the need for enforcement. Anyone who wants to help with alley issues should contact him (Mahmud).

- F. Mr. Jackson asked about the status of Ben's Chili Bowl. Mr. Mahmud said he would be in touch with the developer and have an update next month.
- G. Comment: The sidewalks in front of the H Street stores are filthy. Mr. Mahmud said he would talk to Mr. Anwar Saleem, Executive Director of H Street Main Street and the business owners' association, about this concern.

IV. New Business

- A. Request for conversion of the two (2) way stop to a four (4) way stop at Fifteenth (15th) Street and A Street NE.
 - i. There was a discussion of the hazards of this location, led by neighbors and Commissioner Matt Levy. There was a horrific accident at this location in January 2015. People do not realize it is not a four (4) way stop. Also, Fifteenth (15th) Street is wide and then narrows considerably at A Street, the bike lane doesn't line up on either side of the intersection, and road markings are worn off. Residents have asked for an assessment of a four (4) way stop (Ticket #1500030992), though there is one resident who is concerned that buses will slow down and make more noise.
 - ii. **Co-chair Sloves offered a motion that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT asking them to review the intersection of Fifteenth (15th) Street and A Street NE for resolution of safety issues, including possible conversion of the current two (2) way stop to a four (4) way stop, restriping of lanes, realigning of bike lanes, a sign saying that cross-traffic does not stop, and any other methods that DDOT deems appropriate. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- B. Request from residents for Residential Parking Permits (RPP) on south side of 1200 block of Florida Avenue NE.
 - i. Mr. Scott Goldstein and neighbors described the problem, which has been a concern for some time. This block is the only one along this section of Florida Avenue where you cannot park at non-rush hour times, and the block is not zoned for residential parking; in fact, there are not any parking signs at all, unlike the other blocks around it. The neighbors need the parking, and also the parked cars will encourage drivers to slow down at non-peak times; drivers speed up going onto Florida Avenue from K Street NE. DDOT says the residents have to prepare a Residential Parking Permit petition.
 - ii. **Co-chair Mahmud offered a motion that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter of support for residents of the 1200 block of Florida Avenue NE (south side) to receive Residential Parking Permits. The motion was seconded by Co-chair Sloves and passed unanimously.**

C. 2015 Committee Goals

- i. Co-chair Sloves reviewed the proposed Committee goals, which are the same as for 2014.
- ii. **Motion offered by Ms. Nelson to adopt the current draft of the committee goals for 2015. The motion was seconded by Committee member Jeff Fletcher and passed unanimously.**

D. Discussion of DC Streetcar

- i. Although confirmation was not available prior to the meeting, and therefore this item was not on the official agenda, DC Streetcar was asked to send a representative to the meeting because of concerns about the possible cancellation of the streetcar project. Malia Salaam (malia@dcstreetcar.com, 240-602-5995), who handles community engagement for DC Streetcar, attended but was not able to answer questions on the future of the streetcar.
- ii. Discussion of new effort to prevent auto-streetcar accidents: It takes sixty (60) feet for the streetcar to stop if going 20 mph, which many drivers do not realize. Cars must be parked within the white lines. Double-parking is not recommended, and has decreased significantly as a result of warning tickets. Co-chair Sloves noted that piles of snow have made it more difficult for cars to park inside the white lines; Ms. Salaam said she would report this. The streetcar program is educating drivers by way of social media, working with travel agencies, and planning to air commercials. For the most part, the accidents are caused by auto drivers' errors.
- iii. A concern was raised about how the sidewalks have been widened, trucks cannot unload, and streetcar (infrastructure) has slowed down H Street. Ms. Salaam noted that the wider areas are for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. Co-chair Mahmud noted that DDOT wanted to do those "bulb-outs" anyway to slow down traffic, even before the streetcar program. Ms. Salaam noted that no parking has been taken away except in the 1400 block of H Street, where there is now a travel lane and left-turn lane.
- iv. The most recent milestone for the streetcar project was a peer review by the American Public Transit Association (APTA). The streetcar program is still working on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) safety recommendations. FTA's go-ahead is the last step. A question was asked about how often the tracks are cleaned. Ms. Salaam replied that they are cleaned on an as-needed basis; construction companies have to clean up the tracks if they make a mess.

V. Additional Community Comment

- A. Co-chair Mahmud reported that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for C Street NE (around RFK Stadium onto C Street NE) is done, and DDOT is setting up a community advisory board. Co-chairs Mahmud and Sloves, Ms. Nelson, and Mr. Christian will be on it.

B. Concern: The alley off Eighth (8th) Street and A NE is being used as a bathroom. Co-chair Mahmud replied that he has talked to MPD about it several times, but the police have to catch them in the act. If you see them, call 911. Sometimes there are officers close by at the 7-11.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.