

MINUTES  
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Monday, March 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm

- I. Call meeting to order: 7:03 pm
- II. Introductions:  
TPS Committee Members Present: Marc Brumer (Chair), Andrew Burnett, Hassan Christian, Maura Dundon, Jeff Fletcher  
ANC6A Commissioners Present: Amber Gove (Chair), Kaya Chatterjee, Robb Dooling, Laura Gentile, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Mike Soderman
- II. Community Comment: None
- IV. Old Business  
A. None
- V. New Business  
A. Discussion and Q&A with Verizon representatives regarding equipment installation in the Rosedale community.  
Mario Acosta Velez and Candice Austin came from Verizon to present about 5G small-cell installations. Ms. Austin explained that wireless providers and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) work together to determine demand. Wireless providers then put in an application to DDOT to put a small cell node on specific light poles. Verizon gives notice to the community about pending applications. If there is no existing light pole, they will put up a new one with an effort to match neighborhood design. A new pole would replace an existing pole in the same location.  
  
Ms. Austin explained that notification to the neighborhood is sent through certified mail, including residents on the block where the small cell will be deployed, the relevant Councilmember and ANC commissioner. The notice does not state the exact pole location.  
  
Chair Marc Brumer asked if there is an appeal/objection process. Ms. Austin stated that such communications could go to DDOT which has a call center on small cell.  
  
Mr. Brumer asked whether the small cell will slow down the process to fix lights/replace lightbulbs. Mr. Acosta Velez did not have an answer but said he would get back to the Committee.  
  
Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert discussed the permits for Rosedale. She asked how Rosedale was selected, and whether any other community/block in Ward 6 had been able to block an installation. She noted that many low-income families live proximate to the proposed small cell in Rosedale and she is concerned about the radiation and impact on young people. Mr. Acosta Velez stated that the permit is pending. Ms. Austin stated that Verizon has never been told that there is a particular community they cannot install in. She said the radiation level is safe and Verizon follows all safety regulations and guidelines.

Commissioner Mike Soderman disclosed that he manages a wireless engineering group and that all wireless carriers are his clients. He asked how the systems were connected to monitor functioning if close to residential properties. Mr. Soderman stated that robust deployment throughout our community is beneficial to close digital divide and close coverage gaps, but he wants to ensure that they are being maintained and deployed in a way to ensure health and safety of constituents.

Community Member Gladys Mack asked how many cells there are per pole and noted that she had not received any communications from DDOT. She asked how much radiation would be released and if there is any connection to cancer. Ms. Austin said that, once the permit is filed, notice will be given. There would be just one small cell per pole. Ms. Austin further stated that the radiation escape is limited (less than 1% of the permissible limit established by the FCC). Mr. Acosta Velez denied that there is any connection to cancer. He provided a link to wireless safety studies: [wirelesshealthfacts.com](http://wirelesshealthfacts.com). [Secretary's note: this link is to a wireless industry sponsored website.]

Committee member Maura Dundon asked if there was a map of small cell placements so that the Committee can evaluate Commissioner Phillips Gilbert concerns about disparate impacts of location. Ms. Austin said the data is only for permits requested, not final locations. Commissioner Soderman stated that DDOT is working through a backlog of permits.

Commissioner Robb Dooling stated that it would be helpful if the community could get more information from Verizon or DDOT on how these sites are selected in the future to give the community more confidence in the process. Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert added that she feels the community has not gotten the information they are asking for. She does not think Rosedale is as dense as claimed, and she objects to the fact that DDOT can make a decision on a permit informing the ANC and without getting the consent of the community. Ms. Austin stated that there had been general public hearings on the small cell regulations and that ANCs were present at those hearings.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert made a motion to recommend ANC6A send a letter to DDOT opposing the issuance of permits for the installation of the small cells in Rosedale until more information is received about the process for selecting locations and the safety of 5G small cell infrastructure; and that DDOT contact ANCs before issuing permits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dooling. The motion passed unanimously.

After the motion passed, Commissioner Soderman noted that ANC6a sent a letter to DDOT on small cells to which a reply has not been received (<https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-Re-Small-Cell-Facilities.pdf>)

- B. Public Space Permit Application #361713 for 424 11th Street Northeast, replacement of retaining wall.

The manager for the condo association presented the application. He stated that the permit is to replace a retaining wall that is falling down with no changes to

dimensions. Mr. Brumer noted that they need the permit because it is 46 inches (over the permitted 42 inches) and is less than 50% open (because it is a wall).

Commissioner Gentile made a motion to recommend ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of Public Space Permit Application #361713 for the replacement of a retaining wall at 424 11th Street NE. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Soderman. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Commissioner Dooling.

- C. Discussion of possible letter to DDOT to support funding for the DC Streetcar extension to Benning Rd in the FY2022 budget.  
Commissioner Delia Houseal from ANC 7E discussed the need for better public transit in her ANC. She asked if the ANC6A would support a resolution that 7E passed in support of a streetcar extension down Benning Road.

Commissioner Dooling made a motion to recommend ANC 6A pass a resolution in support of extending the DC Streetcar to Benning Road NE and support for requisite funding in the FY 2022 budget. The motion was seconded by Phillips-Gilbert. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Discussion of possible letter to federal officials regarding the fence surrounding the Capitol Complex.  
The Committee discussed the fence around the Capitol Complex. [Secretary's note: At the time of the TPS Committee meeting, the fence extended across Constitution and Independence Avenues and completely blocked access via those roads to the rest of the city from the Hill. Subsequently the fences blocking the streets were opened, but the fence continued to block access to the Capitol grounds. Community members can only access the city by the sidewalk or road.]

Commissioner Dooling stated that ANC 6B has passed a resolution in support of removing the permanent fencing and suggested that ANC 6A also pass a resolution in favor of no permanent fencing. Commissioner Soderman stated that the fence has to come down. It is the people's house.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert made a motion to recommend ANC 6A pass a resolution calling for the removal of the barricade at the U.S. Capitol and send a copy of the resolution to Eleanor Holmes-Norton, the House and Senate Sergeant at Arms, the District's "shadow" Congressional delegation (the District's "shadow" delegation (Paul Strauss, Mike Brown, and Oye Olowela), President Biden, Vice President Harris, the Capitol Police, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and post a copy on the fence. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gentile. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Additional public space applications if received prior to the meeting: None

VI. Community Comment: None

VII. Adjourn meeting: 8:25 pm