

AGENDA

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G Street NE
August 27, 2018 at 7:00 pm

- I. Called meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- II. Introductions (5 minutes)
 - A. Committee members in attendance: Chair Todd Sloves, Elizabeth Nelson, Marc Brumer, Jeff Fletcher, Andrea Adelman, Caitlin Rogger.
 - B. Commissioners in attendance: Mike Soderman (6A03)
- III. Announcements - none.
- IV. Community Comment (5 minutes) - none.
- V. New Business
 - A. DDOT Public Space Committee permitting for small cell wireless internet infrastructure - 20 minutes
 - i. Chair Todd Sloves provided a brief explanation of the issue and what small cells are. He explained that DDOT reached out on Friday to invite ANCs to a stakeholder meeting on September 6, 2018 at the Old Council Chambers to provide an overview of the process.
 - ii. Ms. Elizabeth Nelson clarified that DDOT would not themselves install the cells, but just permit private companies to do so in public space. She said in-person comments will be accepted at the DDOT Public Space Committee's public hearing on October 15th, but written comments must be provided by October 5, 2018.
 - iii. Commissioner Mike Soderman provided some background information on how the technology works because he works on projects in other cities rolling out small cell networks. He clarified that he has no contractual ties to the process in DC and is not involved in it through his employment in DC in any way. He explained that it is important to ensure that the encasing of the small cell unit be aesthetically pleasing in historic districts. He also pointed out that DDOT's draft regulations allow for much more leniency in alleys. He said the boxes in the diagrams provided by DDOT seem much smaller than the norm. He also raised concerns about the proximity of placement to windows and houses. He said that the radio beams can be focused very accurately, but it must be ensured they are all installed and calibrated properly so no one is put at risk. Finally, he clarified that there is also an underground component to the installation that will require quite a bit of digging up and disruption.
 - iv. Mr. Jeff Fletcher asked Mr. Soderman if different carriers are willing to locate their small cells on the same pole. Soderman clarified that they cannot actually co-locate cells; each cell needs its own location. Chair Sloves pointed out that this could mean hundreds of poles of cells throughout neighborhoods.
 - v. Mr. Brumer asked what rights property owners have. Given that cells need a direct line of sight between one another, he asked what would happen in

the case of trees growing in the way. Would a homeowner on whose property the tree sits be responsible for trimming it? What would happen if a homeowner wanted to add an additional level to their home? Could a company object because of interference with the cells? Mr. Soderman said these are all good questions and DDOT has not provided clarity on that.

- vi. Mr. Soderman quoted from DDOT's own document a line reasserting the importance of public space and the city's prerogative to maintain its integrity. He says this indicates ANC's input ought to be taken seriously.
- vii. Ms. Andrea Adelman asked if the permitting was only for new poles or also adding cells to existing ones. Mr. Soderman clarified that it was both.
- viii. Ms. Nelson said that regardless of what ANC 6A's comments are on the merits of the guidance, the ANC should assert that ANCs should have at least sixty (60) days from the date of notice to provide comments. She also said ANCs should have a second opportunity to comment on any revised regulations.
- ix. Mr. Sloves asked who would be able to attend the September 6, 2018 meeting on ANC 6A's behalf. Mr. Soderman said he would attend, Ms. Nelson said she would go as well, but Mr. Fletcher could serve as a back-up. Mr. Sloves also said he was happy to pinch hit if needed.

Recommendation: Ms. Nelson moved that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT's Public Space Committee asserting that ANCs should have sixty (60) days from the date of notice to provide comment on the small cell guidelines proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fletcher and passed unanimously, 7-0, with the support of Commissioner Soderman.

- B. Recommendation regarding traffic safety and changes at intersection of Eighth (8th) Street NE and D Street NE - 10 minutes
 - i. Mr. Soderman gave an overview of DDOT's proposed changes at this intersection. On the ANC 6C side of Eighth (8th) Street, they plan to put in forty (40) feet of fifteen (15)-minute parking and install approximately twenty (20)-feet of bulb-outs to prevent parking too close to the intersection, which impedes the line of sight of pedestrians.
 - ii. Mr. Sloves recounted ANC 6A's history of requesting this intersection be converted to a four (4) way stop and explained that Councilmember Charles Allen had recently written to DDOT reiterating the need to do this to ensure pedestrian and driver safety at the intersection. He suggested ANC 6A should send a letter of its own reiterating these points and endorsing the Councilmember's letter.

Recommendation: Ms. Nelson moved that the committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT endorsing Councilmember Allen's letter regarding safety improvements at Eighth (8th) Street NE and D Street NE and reiterate the need to convert the intersection to a four (4)-way stop. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caitlin Rogger and passed unanimously, 7-0, with the support of Commissioner Soderman.

VI. Additional Community Comment (time permitting)

- A. Ms. Adelman noted that at a recent meeting of the Bike Advisory Council, DDOT Director Marootian said DDOT would not have community engagement representatives for each ward that directly report to him. She said we should find out who our ward representative is and engage them. She also pointed out that the top bike/pedestrian person at DDOT is someone who our community knows well from his work on the Maryland Avenue redesign project - George Branyan. She said he will be a good ally on issues of bike and pedestrian safety.

VII. Adjourned meeting at 8:03 p.m.