

MINUTES

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee *Rescheduled* Meeting
Maury Elementary School (1250 Constitution Ave NE)
September 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.
- II. Introductions
 - A. Committee members present: Omar Mahmud, co-chair, Lara Levison, Elizabeth Nelson, Andrea Adleman
 - B. Commissioners present: Mike Soderman, ANC6A03
- III. Announcements: none
- IV. Community Comment: none
- V. New Business
 - A. Request to connect 808 Massachusetts Avenue to Constitution Avenue NE via rear driveway
 - i. Matthew Rufe (owner) and Bob Bell (landscape architect) described the request. The front of the house faces Massachusetts Avenue, and the back faces Constitution Avenue. Rufe proposes that he pay to have the light pole moved slightly, as well as pay for a curb cut, to add a driveway to connect to the back of the house. He sought to contact neighbors and got one reply from across the street, from the owner-occupied house there, and they sent a letter of approval.
 - ii. ***Motion: Mr. Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mike Soderman, recommending that the ANC write a letter to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) in support for this proposal for a rear curb cut onto Constitution Avenue from 808 Massachusetts Avenue NE according to the plans presented to the Transportation and Public Space Committee at the September 26, 2016 meeting on the condition that the owner assume any expenses required by DDOT, including moving the light post and installing the curb cut. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.***
 - B. Retaining wall and fence for 1400 C Street NE (Height is 66-70 feet)
 - i. Alister Thompson (owner) and Lacey Brittingham (architect) described the request. The fence around the property is an old chain link fence covered with ivy, and inside it the grade is 2 ½ feet higher than the sidewalk, making it hard to control rodents, and to keep the dog in the yard. Thompson proposes replacing the fence with a retaining wall of brick that would be four inches above grade level (above the level of the yard) to hold the earth in and then putting a wrought iron fence on top (32 inches high), resulting in a total height of 66-70 inches, compared to the statutory maximum of 42 inches. He obtained letters of support from the neighbor across the alley and the one on the diagonally opposite corner of Fourteenth (14th) and C Streets NE (SW corner). There are quite a few fences of similar or greater height on this block and the neighboring block. The DDOT (Public Space Committee) hearing is

October 27, 2016. Several neighbors at the meeting spoke up to say that they support it.

- ii. ***Mr. Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Committee Member Lara Levison, recommending that the ANC send letter of support for the project at 1400 C Street NE as currently configured in the plans presented to the Transportation and Public Space Committee at the September 26, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.***

C. Newly proposed DDOT Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program regulations. (<http://ddot.dc.gov/release/ddot-announces-proposed-rulemaking-revise-residential-permit-parking-rpp-program>)

- i. The Committee reviewed provisions of the proposed changes to the parking permit regulation, led by Mr. Mahmud, and made a number of recommendations.
 - 1. §2406 – The process for the Director to establish parking places for car-sharing vehicles does not have a community input component. Two recommendations: 1) DDOT should provide notice to and opportunity for the ANC to weigh in with community input. 2) If a metered spot is available, use that space for car-sharing rather than taking from the resident parking spots.
 - 2. §2434 – Designating RPP blocks. Recommendation: Residents who are not eligible for a parking permit should not be able to weigh in regarding a petition for RPP.
 - 3. §2434.1 - For DDOT to evaluate a block for RPP, the current evaluation schedule is between 7:00 am and 6:30 pm. In our experience, it is after 6:30 pm that residents are having trouble finding parking. Recommendation: DDOT needs to conduct surveys after 6:30 pm; surveys should be conducted to 9:00 pm.
 - 4. §2434.5 – For RPP, this section states that a petition is not necessary, and the Director may designate any block, when the certain specific criteria are met (lists various situations). Recommendation: The ANC be provided notice and opportunity for the community to weigh in before the Director makes a decision.
 - 5. §2437 - Resident-only parking section
The significant feature of the proposed changes is a new process for obtaining resident-only parking. The signs for resident-only parking are red signs, usually for specific days and times. This is different from RPP (Residential Parking Permit areas, the green signs that allow two-hour parking for non-residents). Designation of new areas as resident-only parking has largely been on hold for several years awaiting this proposal. The proposed process is that an ANC would petition for residential-only parking in the whole ANC, and then DDOT would make exceptions within the ANC. It is an all or nothing approach for the ANC. Committee Member Elizabeth Nelson commented that DDOT is trying to avoid a large number of petitions and taking an opt-out approach instead. Recommendation: We do not favor the all-or-nothing approach. The ANC should be able to list blocks to be excluded from resident-only parking

6. §2437.2. In this section, DDOT would conduct surveys for resident-only parking to 8:30 pm.

Recommendation: DDOT should survey to 10:00 pm. DDOT should give the evaluation results to the ANC and give them a chance to provide input.

ii. *Ms. Levison offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Soderman, recommending that the ANC send a letter to DDOT with the following comments on the proposed parking regulations:*

- *Section 2406 on car-sharing spaces: 1) DDOT should provide notice to the ANC and opportunity for the ANC to weigh in with community input, and 2) if a metered spot is available, take that space for car-sharing rather than taking from the resident parking spots.*
- *Section 2434 on designating RPP blocks: Residents who are not eligible for a parking permit should not be able to weigh in regarding a petition for RPP.*
- *Section 2434.1 on evaluating a block for RPP: DDOT needs to conduct surveys after 6:30 pm; surveys should be conducted to 9:00 pm.*
- *Section 2434.5 on the Director designating blocks for RPP: The ANC should be provided notice and opportunity for the community to weigh in before the Director makes a decision.*
- *Section 2437.1 on new process for designating resident-only parking: We do not favor the all-or-nothing approach; the ANC should be able to list blocks to be excluded from resident-only parking.*
- *2437.2 on conducting surveys for resident-only parking: DDOT should survey to 10:00 pm, and DDOT should give the evaluation results to the ANC and give them a chance for community consultation and input.*

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

D. Truck traffic on Eleventh (11th) Street NE

i. Larry Brown led the discussion on behalf of a coalition of neighbors in the 300-500 block of Eleventh (11th) NE. The problem started with the ramp was opened on Eleventh (11th) to the SE-SW freeway, resulting in more traffic on Eleventh (11th), especially during rush hours and southbound, including more big trucks. The neighbors petitioned DDOT to do a traffic study, which they completed in spring 2016. But DDOT said they can only prohibit truck traffic on a local street, and this section of Eleventh (11th) is designated as a “collector” street, even though the street (32 feet from curb to curb) is narrower than DDOT regulations require for a collector street (minimum of 36 feet curb to curb for a two (2) way street). The neighbors ask the ANC to support their request to the city asking for these blocks to be designated as a local street. The trucks are a safety hazard, and vibrations from them are causing infrastructure damage because there is little buffer between the street and the houses to dampen the vibrations. Vibrations caused a gas pipe to break apart and leak. Councilmember Allen has already sent a letter of support for our initiative to DDOT director.

ii. *Mr. Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Nelson, recommending that the ANC write a letter to DDOT asking that Eleventh (11th) NE (from*

Maryland Avenue to Massachusetts Avenue. NE) be designated as a local street and not a collector street, and that DDOT develop a traffic management plan that routes trucks on all appropriate streets, not including local streets. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

- E. Application for expansion of rear sun room of 543 Tennessee Avenue NE, which would extend into public space.
 - i. Request presented by Jennifer Fowler, architect for the owners, who have filed for zoning approval and assume they will need to go through the DDOT public space process. The expansion of the sun room would extend it at the basement level, which is a walk-out basement, and the first floor, into public space. The public space is “public parking”, i.e., their yard. The sun room will be within the restriction of four (4) feet from the property line into public space and fits within the parameters for a bay. The ANC requested that they talk to some near neighbors. They have not yet; they live in Connecticut. They own the adjacent property.
 - ii. ***Mr. Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Soderman, recommending that the ANC send a letter of support to DDOT concerning this use of public space, on the condition that the owner continue best efforts to get letters for support from the two neighbors and across the street, and that the door swing inward, and not out onto public space. The motion passed 4-1.***

- F. Consideration of new parking restrictions on the 800 block of Seventh (7th) Street NE
 - i. Mr. Mahmud explained that this area is next to the Apollo Building that will house Whole Foods. The project has to remove seven (7) parking spots to allow trucks in and out of the property. He spoke to DDOT about this today and asked them to take a fresh look at it to see if more parking can be retained. He also talked to Brandon Whitsit on the Development team, and Mr. Whitsit was very receptive to making changes that DDOT would find acceptable. DDOT and Mr. Whitsit will have a meeting on this.
 - ii. ***Mr. Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Nelson, recommending that the ANC send a letter to DDOT requesting that DDOT develop a traffic management plan for the Apollo project that removes fewer residential parking spaces to accommodate the entrance and exit of trucks from the property and also limits the prohibition on parking to the hours for loading. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.***

- G. Request for support of public space permit for 1663 Kramer Street NE (fence height approval).
 - i. The original fence that they are replacing, in front and alongside the house, was out of compliance because it was too high. On the side, there is seventeen (17) feet of public space from the sidewalk to the house, and a lot of activity in that area. There is a lot of parking around the property from the church, recreation center, etc. The new wooden fence is already completed in front, and the side is half done. Construction was stopped when they were told they needed a permit, because of the height of the fence, and because the fence is

supposed to be wrought iron in front of the house. They had done an online search, and sent in a postcard permit, and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) did not flag any problems. The hearing with DDOT is on November 17, 2016. The Committee was sympathetic to the fact that the owners built the fence without having been informed of the requirements by the contractor or the city, but the Committee cannot support waiving the requirements for the height and type of fence, since it would set a bad precedent.

- ii. ***The Committee passed a motion that the ANC send a letter to DDOT indicating it would only support a public space permit for a new fence to be installed at 1663 Kramer Street NE on the condition that the owner build a fence that complies with all applicable District regulations.***

VI. Additional Community Comment: none

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.