

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G Street NE
Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm

I. Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm.

II. Introductions:

- A. Committee members in attendance: Chair Elizabeth Nelson, Jeff Fletcher, Hassan Christian, Maura Dundon, Caitlin Rogger
- B. Commissioners in attendance: Amber Gove (6A04), Brian Alcorn (6A08)

II. Announcements: none

III. Old Business

- A. Initial discussion of means to improve safety and accountability for shared bikes, scooters and mopeds.
- B. The Committee discussed requiring e-scooter companies to affix identifiable tags to each device. This would allow residents to report unsafe or illegal usage to the company, which could then apply any appropriate contractual terms (fines, suspension, etc.) to the user. Additionally, the city contracting process for all motorized micromobility/share devices (scooters, mopeds and cars) could require the companies to have effective penalty schedules and complaint resolution policies to receive and act on such complaints from residents. Companies that have effective complaint resolution policies and a proven history of effective self-policing could also receive priority in contracting.

Ms. Roggers and Commissioner Gove expressed the desire for equity between forms of transit, as well as avoiding measures that would create barriers for residents to use non-car transit.

A community member expressed concern about lack of micromobility user education about DC rules, such as riding on sidewalks and yielding to pedestrians.

The Committee will ask DDOT to be present for the next discussion of this issue.

IV. New Business

- A. Maintaining public access to pocket parks.

Ms. Nelson introduced the topic saying that she and Ms. Gove had received email from residents saying that they did not feel comfortable accessing specific pocket parks in 6A04. Commissioner Mike Soderman (6A03, not present at the meeting) has reported issues with maintenance and access at a similar park in his SMD. All three parks are federal reservations as laid out in the L'Enfant Plan. Title is held by the federal government; jurisdiction has been transferred to either DDOT or DPR.

- 1. The two parks in 6A04 are: 1) Reservation 267 (triangle bounded by Tennessee Avenue and 13th Street NE, north of Constitution Avenue) and 2) Reservation 266 (the corresponding triangle south of Constitution Avenue). The Reservation in 6A03 is formed by the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Constitution Avenue NE.

2. Ms. Nelson explained that neighbors feel uncomfortable using these amenities because of physical (e.g., fencing, landscaping) or psychological barriers (concerns that they will be confronted about being in the space). She suggested that a low impact solution might be to simply post notices at these locations, words to the effect that the sites are open to the public., This would require very little expense or effort and would have minimal effect on existing landscaping.
3. Joyce West, who received permits from DDOT to landscape the southwest third of Reservation 266 acknowledged having previously sought a restraining order (denied) against someone walking his dogs in the park and took legal action against another individual whom she said was damaging the plants and made a rude gesture to her daughter. She is responsible for maintenance of that portion of the park and believes that if the public (especially those with dogs) had freer access, the landscaping would suffer. She does not think it would be fair to post notices at the park adjacent her property unless similar notices are posted city-wide.
4. Phil Paparodis, whose property abuts Reservation 266, was also present. Currently, a chain link fence encircles the outer perimeter of the park with the only access through his yard. He reported trying to gain title to the parcel some years ago but the deal fell through due to the opposition of Ms. Nelson among others. He has planted several trees, now well-grown, at the site and said the Ward 6 Arborist had advised him that the trees would die if the roots were trampled by public use or dogs urinated on them. He does not think it would be reasonable to have unlimited public access so close to his house, as would be the case if the fence were removed or a gate installed. Mr. Paparodis stated that these Reservations are designated in the L'Enfant Plan as "green space", which he says is an indication that they were not intended to be used as public parks. He also shares the view that notices should not be posted.
5. Ms. Nelson pointed out that, as Mr. Paparodis indicated, the Reservations were established by the L'Enfant Plan and are therefore concentrated in that area - not city-wide. In particular they are prevalent on Capitol Hill. So, city-wide signage is unnecessary and the requirement might discourage DDOT (or DPR) from adopting such a recommendation.

At their October 2019 meeting, the TPS Committee will continue the discussion. A DDOT representative will be asked to attend.

- B. Consideration of proposing specific "micromobility corral" locations.
- Ms. Gove made the motion: ***TPS recommends that ANC 6A propose the following as potential micromobility corral locations: the 1400 block of H Street NE, at the intersection of H Street, Maryland Avenue, and 15th Street in the existing no-parking striped zone; 10th and H Streets NE (on 10th Street north or south of H Street); and 8th and H Streets NE (on 8th Street north or south of H) Street in the no parking zones near the intersections.*** The motion was seconded by Ms. Rogger and passed unanimously (7-0), including the two Commissioners present.

Although not mentioned at the meeting, the nomination of corral locations is done on-line, rather than by letter.

- IV. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.