

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Miner Elementary School**

Minutes
June 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alberti, Beatty, Fengler, Holmes, Marshall, Robinson and Schultheiss
Absent: Commissioner Mack

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.

2. Minutes

The minutes for the March meeting were approved without objection.

3. Community Comments

Margaret Holwill spoke about plans she is working on for a Community Outdoor Market in a vacant space at 1356 H Street as a project to promote H Street businesses because of the challenges with the construction. Different events would be planned with the idea of making it a Town Square with a Farmers Market. Eventually they would like to form a non-profit. She can be reached at 543-1995.

Lance Brown reported on new traffic calming measures that are in the works. He said he had spoken with Derek Hardy at DDOT and more speed bumps are coming. He also reported that there was a rumor that there are 6A constituents who are being harmed by the conversion of 17th Street NE to a two-way street. Those rumors are not coming from the ANC, which is in support of the Capitol Hill Traffic Study's recommendation for a two-way street.

4. Community Presentation - Urban Forestry Administration

Simoun Banua, lead arborist of the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) gave a presentation on the mission and operations of the Urban Forestry Administration. He stated that the mission of the agency is to plant 4000 trees a year between the street and the sidewalk to promote water retention and air quality. He said that June 15th is the last day this year that trees can be requested.

Ms. Beatty inquired about the long wait for the removal of dead trees. Mr. Banua responded that there are about a thousand trees scheduled for removal. The removal, he said, is outsourced and weather and technological issues play a role, as well as there are finite amounts that can be spent. Removals are scheduled using a software program called Hansen, which provides a tracking number. However, when you check the number, there will be nothing posted until the job is completed. Ms. Beatty said she had called three times and received three different tracking numbers, and the process starts over. Mr. Banua said it takes 40 days to inspect the tree and eight to nine months to get it removed. Lance Brown reported that he too had made two or three requests, that the item had been closed out by the UFA but the stumps were not removed. Mr. Banua responded that there are 2500 stumps, and they are trying to get them out in order to plant new trees. In response to a question from Mr. Marshall, Mr. Banua said that summer youth employees were being used for tree work.

Elizabeth Nelson said that Mr. Banua had been extremely helpful in working with Trees for Capitol Hill in replacing a tree. Lance Brown reported that someone on Gale Street NE was not happy with having male and female ginkgo trees and cut them down without notice. Mr. Banua said that

gingkoes are too much of a nuisance for the city—last year every female tree bore fruit, and there were multiple residents complaining.

Mr. Schultheiss asked what kind of trees were being planted. Mr. Banua said that the Arborist has the final judgment on what trees are planted, and it depends on the size of the tree boxes, and the neighborhood. There are 80 different species that are used, and there is a list of species on the agency's web site. He said he can be reached at simoun.banua@dc.gov, 671-5133.

5. Officer Reports

Chair

Mr. Fengler presented a letter he had just received from the Public Charter School Board, short of the 30 days required notice, for a meeting to discuss charter school enrollment ceilings. There are ten schools on the list, with no addresses. He asked the ANC for suggestions on how to deal with it. The goal is to weigh in on behalf of the community. Mr. Robinson said that the problems include assessing capacity issues at each location because of the increase in the number of people, and a variety of zoning issues. Ms. Nelson mentioned that, for example, a lot of the problems with AppleTree had to do with zoning.

Ms. Beatty suggested that a four-member ANC task force be formed to meet only when an issue like this comes up. Mr. Fengler said he would give this to Ms. Nelson because the Community Outreach Committee deals with PTAs, in case there are schools in the ANC's area.

Vice Chair

Mr. Holmes reported that the HPRB voted against designating the Mead's Row buildings on H Street as historic. Evidently, he said, buildings are judged on a city-wide scale rather than based on their importance to the development of a commercial district or neighborhood. While very important in the growth of H Street, they don't stand out when judged by a city-wide standard. The owners, he said, wish to replace the buildings with a parking lot. This requires a special exception, since it is specifically banned under the H Street overlay. It will also require a curb cut.

He also reported that he and Mr. Fengler have been trying for months to meet with Councilmember Alexander to promote the ANC enhancement package adopted by the ANC. While four of the provisions were adopted in the last Council session, there are still many that would be of assistance in helping constituents. He said they will have to wait until she shows some interest in the topic. After she was appointed committee chair, Council Chairman Gray suggested she should be approached, but connections have never been made. At this point, he said, they will just have to wait until she's ready to focus on the ANCs.

Secretary

The Secretary had no report.

Treasurer

Commissioner Alberti presented the Treasurer's Report. The report shows that the opening checking account balance was \$22,525.85 and that the savings account balance was \$4,193.46. There was an allotment of funds from the District of \$6,0189.50, and interest payment to the savings account of \$1.03, leaving an opening balance of \$28,545.35 in the checking account and \$4,193.46 in the savings account. There were disbursements of \$550 to the Maury Elementary School PTA for a grant (Check #1414); \$224 to Roberta Weiner for taking and transcribing minutes (Check #1415); \$1500 to SABRA, WANG & Associates for a traffic study (Check #1416); \$400 to Heather Schoell for agenda assembly (Check #1417); and

\$157.15 to FedEx Office for copying (Check #1418), leaving a balance of \$25,714.20 in the checking account, and \$4,194.49 in the savings account. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to approve the expenditures. The motion passed without objection. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved /Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was approved without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to approve the allocation of \$12 for reimbursement for parking for Mr. Holmes. The motion passed without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion that \$600 be approved for copying for ANC materials, and that up to \$60 be approved for copying for each Committee's materials and each SMD's materials for the next month. The motion was accepted without objection.

6. SMD Reports

Mr. Marshall reported that a group of people on Wylie Street NE are planning a mini community garden with nine planters and nine plots. There is a brick wall, owned by Mr. Cunningham, on which a mural will be placed. **Motion:** Mr. Marshall moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion that the ANC support the project. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Robinson reported that there was a walking tour of Rosedale on May 30th that was just wonderful. The people doing the tour did a great job of researching the history of the neighborhood, and it was a very multi-cultural event.

Mr. Holmes reported that the DC Federal Teachers Credit Union issue had been resolved, and the Credit Union will be replacing its HVAC equipment and redoing its grounds.

Mr. Schultheiss reported that Maria Longhi has been badgering the DCHA to fix up its vacant properties, and the process has been started to get someone to look at the places and do something about them.

Mr. Fengler reported that he is still working to get permit parking for the west side of 10th Street NE. He also reported that he has had several complaints about valet parked cars taking up residential spaces. He has also learned that demolition for the fire house and police station will begin in the first quarter of 2010.

Mr. Alberti reported that the Maury Elementary School fundraiser was a huge success, and that the school is hiring a new principal.

Ms. Beatty reported that she is working with Viggy's to get them adhere to terms of their VA.

7. Committee Reports

ABL

The Star and the Shamrock

The Committee recommended that the ANC not protest the license for the Star and the Shamrock, 1341 H Street, NE if a voluntary agreement was signed prior to the petition date. The VA was signed. **Motion:** Ms. Beatty moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to not protest the license for the Star and the Shamrock. The motion was accepted 7-0-1, with Commissioner Alberti not voting.

Motion: Ms. Beatty moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to not protest the licenses of Family Liquors, 710 H Street NE; Jumbo Liquors, 1122 H Street NE; Master Liquors, 1806 D Street NE. The motion passed 7-0-1, with Mr. Alberti not voting.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Economic Development and Zoning

217 10th Street NE

This is a request by Michael and Jennifer Soderman for support at HPRB for an addition to the rear of a house at 217 10th Street, NE. The addition would not exceed the matter-of-right lot occupancy. In addition, structures on neighboring properties would project further back than the proposed addition. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend ANC approval of the application. **Motion:** Mr. Fengler moved/Mr. Holmes seconded a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to send a letter of support to the HPRB for an addition to the rear of a house at 217 10th Street, NE. The motion passed without objection.

1440 Maryland Avenue NE

Motion: Mr. Schultheiss moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to oppose the current design of 1400 Maryland Avenue, NE at the BZA and to authorize Commissioner Schultheiss to represent the ANC in this case before the BZA and to act as the ANC's agent with DAG Petroleum to resolve the remaining issues. The motion passed without objection.

Motion: Mr. Schultheiss moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to authorize any member of the Commission or Omar Mahmud to testify on the matter of 1400 Maryland Avenue, NE at the Public Space Committee. The motion passed without objection.

Electronic Copies of Current Building Permits

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation that a letter be sent to Linda Argo, director of DCRA, asking that electronic copies of approved building permits be distributed to ANCs at their request. The motion passed without objection.

Historic Designation for Building at NW Corner of H and 8th Street

Motion: Mr. Fengler moved/Ms. Beatty seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to request that HPRB designate the building at the corner of H and 8th Street an historic landmark.

Mr. Holmes reported that the Historic Preservation Office suggested that the ANC request the designation, but after the Mead's Row decision he is wary of moving forward with any designation. He asked to lay the motion upon the table. That motion passed 5-0-2, with Commissioners Beatty and Marshall abstaining.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Community Outreach

Ms. Nelson requested that ANC Commissioners provide their comments on meeting agenda distribution prior to the next Community Outreach Committee meeting on June 15th. She is concerned about identifying locations other than those currently listed. She would also like Commissioners to provide a count of how many copies of the ANC Flier they would like for their SMDs prior to the committee meeting, so that a proposal, including a cost estimate can be completed.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Transportation

Enhanced Residential Parking Zone Legislation

Mr. Mahmud discussed the Committee's request that the ANC send a letter supporting the Ward 6 Enhanced Residential Parking Zone legislation and requesting additional information on the visitor pass program, including an explanation of how it differs from the current process. Mr. Alberti suggested that the recommendation be broken into two motions, one to the Council and one to Councilmember Wells with the questions.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to send a letter to the City Council supporting the Enhanced Residential Parking Zone legislation. The motion passed without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to send a letter to Councilmember Wells requesting additional information on the visitor pass program including an explanation of how it differs from the current process. The motion passed without objection.

Proposed Valet Parking Regulations

Mr. Mahmud expressed the Committee's concern that there was no provision for ANC input into the application for valet parking and suggested requiring it in the proposed valet parking regulations. **Motion:** Mr. Fengler moved/Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation and send a letter to DDOT and the Public Space Committee suggesting revisions to the proposed valet parking regulations which would require permit applicants to provide 30 days notice of the application to the affected ANC, and require the DDOT Public Space Committee to consider ANC input when reviewing permit applications. The motion passed without objection.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Public Safety

Committee co-chair Rebecca Sibia presented a recommendation that the Public Safety Committee be authorized to participate in a supply and volunteer drive for the Rosedale Rec Center. **Motion:** Mr. Fengler moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to authorize the Public Safety Committee to become engaged in a supply and volunteer drive for the Rosedale Rec Center on behalf of ANC 6A. The motion passed without objection.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

8. New Business

Turning the Page

Motion: Mr. Fengler moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to send a letter to Turning the Page, thanking the organization for its generous donation of books to the Rosedale Rec Center. The motion passed without objection

Valet Parking

Mr. Marshall reported that his SMD was inundated from Thursday to Sunday morning with valet parked cars. He proposed that the area go to residential parking on one side and extended parking hours on the other, and asked that the ANC adopt a resolution he was proposing. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Schultheiss:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING EXTENDED RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT
HOURS OF OPERATION AND RESIDENT ONLY SIGNAGE**

WHEREAS residents of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 6A, Single Member District (SMD) 6A01, 6A02 and 6A06 are suffering from increased vehicular traffic on residential streets as a result of valet parking and customer parking along the H Street NE corridor which includes the 800 through 1400 blocks of K, I, H, G and F Street NE, and

WHEREAS Commissioners and residents have requested that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) intervene on behalf of residents by : 1/ increasing Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program hours of operation, and 2/implementing “Resident Only” restrictions on one side of existing RPP blocks, and

WHEREAS ANC 6A understands that DDOT cannot implement these procedures unless 51% of the households of each block request extended RPP hours and/or request the implementation of “Resident Only” parking restrictions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 6A requests that DDOT implement extended hours of RPP as well as install “Resident Only” signs on the side of these blocks as soon as residents provide the Department with the abovementioned requirements.

Mr. Schultheiss said that the Transportation Committee had asked for the same thing two years ago. Residents still have to go through the process of getting signatures.

Mr. Fengler said that the City Council has to be urged to adopt the new requirements. He suggested that the issue be revisited at the next ANC meeting.

9. Community Comment

Ms. Nelson announced that the Capitol Hill Garden Club has begun to advertise the availability of its bulbs.

Mr. Banua said that the best way to protect trees is for the ANC to keep an eye on them when developers start their planning.

Lance Brown suggested that some metered parking be considered for the numbered streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.