

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

Minutes

October 8, 2009

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

Present: Commissioners Alberti, Holmes, Mack, Marshall, and Robinson

Absent: Commissioners Beatty, Fengler, Schultheiss

In the absence of Chair Joe Fengler, the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair David Holmes.

1. Approval of agenda

Mr. Alberti asked to have the appropriation of funds for minutes taking and the appropriation of funds for agenda packet preparation added to the Treasurer's Report. The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.

2. Minutes

The minutes for the September meeting were approved without objection.

3. Community Presentation

Early Stages

Justin Thomas and Sam McCormally made a brief presentation on Early Stages, a new pre-school program of DCPS, located on New Jersey Ave., NE, planned to provide assessments and evaluations in learning for 3-5 year olds, and empower their parents to making good decisions about appropriate services and schooling for their children. They are in the process of making an aggressive effort to identify prospective students, and trying to capture those who are not yet in school. They can be reached at samuel.mccormally@dc.gov.

4. Officer Reports

Chair

Mr. Fengler was not present.

Vice Chair

Mr. Holmes reported that he and Omar Mahmud had attended a meeting at Councilmember Well's office with representatives of the Department of Transportation (DDOT) to discuss the number of outstanding issues with DDOT in both ANC 6A and 6B. He said that three of the items had been completed—a traffic calming study for the 1300 block of G Street that had been requested in November '08; a speed hump request for 1200, 1300, and 1400 blocks of E Street, requested in August '08; and Stop sign study and 13th and F Streets NE, requested November '05, complete and installed.

The outstanding issues and their status are:

9th and E Streets and Maryland Avenue NE: improve lights and pedestrian walk signal, requested in March and April '08 – status: will change;

Traffic calming study for 800-1000 block of G Street, requested in November '08 – status: complete at the end of October;

Traffic calming study for 600 block of 9th Street NE, requested in November '08 – status: complete at end of October;

Traffic calming study for 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 blocks of 13th Street, requested in March '08 – status: denied humps.

Traffic calming study for 800 and 900 blocks of 12th Street NE, requested in March '08; status – October;

Request for study of angle parking in 500 block of Emerald Street, requested in June '08; status – October;

Transportation audit for 1600 block of Rosedale Street, requested in May '08 – has not been done;

Review of paving in public space at 901-903 D Street, requested in May '08; status – never got a response;

Request for pedestrian safety improvements at uncontrolled crosswalks at 10th and Maryland Avenue, requested in March '08; status - working on it, will do; and

Request to expand parking pilot program in the H Street Entertainment and Arts District (generally 12th to 15th Streets, H to F Streets NE) to just RPP residents from 7 am to 8:30 pm, with no two-hour exception, requested in November '08; status – needs petition.

Secretary

Mr. Schultheiss was absent.

Treasurer

Commissioner Alberti presented the Treasurer's Report for September. The report shows that the opening checking account balance was \$23,493.51 and that the savings account balance was \$4,196.68. There was an allotment from the District government of \$6,019.50, and an interest payment to the savings account of \$.71, leaving a balance of \$29,513.01 in the checking account and \$4,197.39 in the savings account. There were disbursements of \$712.39 to Minuteman Press for ANC flyers (Check #1429; \$300 to Joy of Motion dance for a grant (Check #1430); \$200 to Heather Schoell for the September 2009 agenda package (Check #1431); \$127.50 to Roberta Weiner for transcription of July 2009 minutes (Check #1432); \$65.94 to FedEx Office for photocopying (Check #1433), leaving a balance of \$28,107.18 in the checking account. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/ Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to approve the expenditures. The motion passed without objection. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved /Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was approved without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion that \$600 be approved for copying for ANC materials for each of July and August, 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.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to allocate up to \$200 per month for the taking and transcription of ANC 6A minutes. The motion passed without objection.

Motion: Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Holmes seconded a motion to allocate up to \$200 per month for the preparation of the ANC monthly agenda package.

Mr. Robinson suggested that the issue should be revisited. He said he would like to see it further discussed. Mr. Alberti said that it is a reasonable expense, and the allocation can be changed as needed. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Alberti highlighted the fact a new budget was included in the agenda package for review, with discussion to be held next month.

5. SMD Reports

Mr. Robinson reported that there was drug activity at 15th and A, 16th and A, and Constitution and A. He also said there is a Good Humor truck going from block to block and making stops from 8-12 p.m. that needs looking into. He reported another instance of drug activity in the alley between 16th and 17th and East Capitol Street, and the alley should have lighting.

On the Eastern High School renovation, he said there is an issue with construction workers parking on residential streets, and that parking will be moved to an appropriate location. He also reported that the asbestos removal will soon be completed.

He reported that he and Ms. Mack had attended the September 30 groundbreaking of the Rosedale Recreation Center. He noted that CSOSA had presented an award to Ms. Mack, and she was applauded by the Commission.

Finally, he noted that the issue of vacant properties should be addressed and the ANC should press the Council to take action.

Mr. Marshall reported that there had been a lot of drug activity across the street from his house, but the 1st District MPD had taken action and things have improved: the drug house that was the focus of the activity went into foreclosure, and the block is being transformed into something nice.

6. Committee Reports

ABL

The ABL committee did not meet in September.

Economic Development and Zoning

H Street Connection

Dr. Ronneberg reported that the developers and architects of the H Street Connection met with the EDZ Committee, and was generally pleased with the concept of the project. They discussed the design and massing, amenities, parking and vehicular access. There were several concerns expressed about the H and 8th Streets modern façade, including the materials being proposed. They will be returning to the committee with responses to concerns.

Motion: Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the committee's recommendation that the ANC request more details on the 8th and H Street façade of the H Street Connection redevelopment and its materials. Mr. Holmes asked whether a formal request was needed and it was decided that Dr. Ronneberg would write a letter. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved that the original motion be withdrawn. It passed without objection.

The Committee's second recommendation was laid aside until all the recommendations on the building are made.

1347 Constitution Avenue NE

This is a request for support for a Historic Preservation Review Board application for two distinct projects on the same building: a two-story rear addition with a deck. There are no zoning issues. They have requested but not yet received letters of support from their neighbors. **Motion:** Mr. Alberti moved/Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to support the project, contingent on receiving letters of support from the neighbors. The motion passed without objection.

The second project is to enlarge the basement access to the building. The design will incorporate the original ironwork or replacement ironwork if the original is too deteriorated to use. The retaining wall at the stair bulges out and has to be replaced. **Motion:** Mr. Robinson moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to support the basement entrance project at 1347 Constitution Avenue NE, strongly suggesting that the owner keep or restore the cast iron steps. The motion passed without objection.

1603, 1605, 1607 Rosedale Avenue NE

This is a request for the ANC's support of the owner's attempt to have the properties reclassified as residential properties rather than, as currently, vacant.

The owner of the building, according to her attorney, tried diligently to sell the properties, but unsuccessfully. She has begun renovating them in order to make them more attractive, and is requesting a letter of support from the ANC to invoke the "hardship" clause in the vacant property tax law so they can be classified as Class I rather than Class III for tax purposes. **Motion:** Mr. Robinson moved/Ms. Mack seconded a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to support the owner's request for a letter of support for a hardship tax exemption for her properties.

Mr. Alberti, in response to a question, was told that the properties had been vacant since 2005 and 2007. Lyle Blanchard, the owner's attorney, said the owner had been marketing the properties since 2008. He said there is a requirement in the hardship agreement that mandates that she maintain the properties. Mr. Alberti expressed concern that the ANC is being asked to weigh in on a private matter between the owner and the City. Dr. Ronneberg said that a letter of support from the ANC is required. Mr. Alberti said he didn't understand why as it is not a matter for the good of the community. Mr. Marshall asked what would happen if the owner did not get the waiver, and was told that she would have to pay property taxes and not have the money for the upgrades she is doing. Mr. Holmes said he was not comfortable doing this, and he agreed with Mr. Alberti. Dr. Ronneberg said that the owner has plans ready to go. Mr. Marshall said that there are clear benefits to the community in fixing up the houses, and Ms. Mack added it will create a safe environment, and as the SMD representative, she has no objections. The motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Alberti in opposition.

Dr. Ronneberg asked for authorization to hold more than one meeting in November because of the number of issues they will have to cover. There was consensus that there was no need for ANC authorization.

BZA Case 17977

This case was received by Dr. Ronneberg on short notice and the committee will not have time to comment or recommend on it before a scheduled October 27th hearing. It is a request for a second floor addition. He recommended that the ANC oppose it because it hasn't had time to consider it. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Ms. Mack seconded a motion that the ANC oppose BZA 17977 unless the EDZ committee votes not to oppose the project. Mr. Alberti said that his problem with the motion is

that there are no grounds on which to oppose. Mr. Holmes said that it would just be a placeholder so that the ANC could exercise its great weight at the hearing. Mr. Robinson said he objected to abdicating the ANC's role in ratifying zoning decisions. Mr. Alberti suggested that the ANC can be silent, and it won't count against the owner. The motion failed 2-3, with Commissioners Alberti, Marshall and Robinson in opposition.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Community Outreach

The committee made no recommendations.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Transportation

Mr. Mahmud reported that he had spoken with the owner of 921 12th Street and the owner had withdrawn his request for a public space permit. He said the developer may have submitted the old application which had already been approved.

The Committee's report was accepted without objection.

Public Safety

There was no Public Safety report.

7. New Business

DDOT Notification to ANCs about Handicapped Spaces

Mr. Holmes said that it was important that the ANC remind DDOT about its responsibility to notify ANCs about the location of handicapped parking spaces in their areas. He suggested requesting a review of existing reserved parking spaces and No Parking Entrance spaces. **Motion:** Mr. Holmes moved/Mr. Alberti seconded a motion that ANC 6A reminds DDOT of the ANC reporting requirements in Title 18, §2406.10 and §2406.13 with respect to reserved handicapped and car-sharing street parking, and requested a review of existing reserved parking spaces and of No Parking Entrance spaces, and request s DDOT to present their findings to the ANC and discuss the agency's policy with respect to these spaces. The motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.