

DEITER LEHMANN MORALES, SMD 1A02, Chair
JEREMY SHERMAN, SMD 1A04, Vice-Chair
ANTHONY THOMAS-DAVIS, SMD 1A06, Secretary
JAMES A. TURNER, SMD 1A09, Treasurer



Vacant, SMD 1A01
CARLO PERRI, SMD 1A02
STEPHEN COLEMAN KENNY, SMD 1A05
MUKTA GHORPADEY, SMD 1A07
DAVID SEGALL, SMD 1A09
BILLY EASLEY, SMD 1A10

OCTOBER 11, 2023

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar

Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES was present and called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Secretary GHORPADEY, was present. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the meeting was open to the public. The meeting was scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Comms. PERRI, SHERMAN, KENNY, THOMAS-DAVIS, SEGALL, TURNER, and EASLEY were present. A quorum was established.

Comm. TURNER moved to add an authorization for use of funds regarding preparation for hybrid meetings. It was added by unanimous consent. The Chair called for approval of the agenda, which was moved by Comm. SHERMAN. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The Chair called up the Consent Agenda, which included reading and approval of the prior minutes from the Commission's regular meeting on September 13, 2023. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

The Chair announced the resignation of Comm. GHORPADEY from the office of the Secretary. The Chair called for nominations from the floor for the office of Secretary. Comm. TURNER moved to nominate Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS. Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS accepted the nomination. The Chair closed the floor for nominations. With no other nominations, Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS was elected Secretary by acclamation.

The Chair opened the floor for *Community Announcements*.

The Commission first heard from Mr. Tavoris Culpepper from Pepco, who provided updates about the Capital Grid Project. The substation project is currently underway within the Commission's boundaries at Sherman St. and Harvard St. Mr. Culpepper advised that main construction activity should conclude soon, with additional phases of work to follow.

Ms. Niccole Rivero from the office of Ward 1 Councilmember Brienne K. Nadeau shared updated on public safety, including the confirmation hearing on the Acting Chief of Police. Ms. Rivero also noted that the Acting Chief would join Ward 1 residents for a public safety forum. She noted that Councilmember Nadeau has made a \$4.5 million investment in public safety for FY24, which began on October 1, 2023. She also noted that the next office hours of event for the Councilmember would be October 19, 2023, at Don Juan Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant.



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Comm. SHERMAN shared an update from District Bridges about the annual Columbia Heights Holiday Lights event.

The Chair opened the floor for *Committee Reports*.

Reporting on behalf of the Housing Justice and Zoning Committee, the Chair read out an update from Community Member Max Ewert, who chairs the committee, regarding new committee members and the next meeting in November. He noted that the committee is working with residents of Urban Village as next steps progress on redevelopment.

Comms. SHERMAN and SEGALL, reporting on behalf of the Small Business and Economic Development Committee, provided updates about presentation from the Food Policy Council on the DC Food Business Survey. The committee also adopted a standard settlement agreement document for use by the Commission with ABCA establishments. The committee also outlined additional work products they are working on, including a business directory and brochure. The committee highlighted the collaboration on Columbia Heights Movie Nights with Comm. GHORPADEY. The committee noted that its October meeting is cancelled.

Comm. KENNY, reporting on the Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces Committee, spoke about food vendor licensing updates with a presentation from Beloved Incubator. He shared that the Commission could be a convenor during the process of implementation, including working with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, in conjunction with the Small Business and Economic Development Committee. At the October meeting of the committee, members will hear about the priority bus lane project that may have impacts on Columbia Heights. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Comm. GHORPADEY, reporting on behalf of the Community Outreach & Events Committee, shared updates on the Commission's Columbia Heights Movie Nights series. She highlighted the third and final night of the series on October 20, 2023, and thank the local businesses that have contributed menu specials to support the event. She also highlighted a community outreach survey that is being circulated, as well as a community cleanup event that will be scheduled later this year. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Comms. PERRI and EASLEY, reporting on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, shared a brief readout of the Public Safety Summit the Commission hosted earlier in October. They noted communication with CVS corporate headquarters regarding the ongoing concerns around the store. They also noted that the committee will engage residents who attended to address their concerns shared at the summit. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 8:00pm



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Community Member Christine Miller reported on behalf of the Education, Youth and Family Committee, which she chairs. She highlighted presentations about combating bullying with attendees from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) and other educational agencies and offices. She spoke about the integration of bullying, absenteeism, and public safety. The committee will host office hours with offices affiliated with OSSE for resource sharing and counseling services. She highlighted that the committee is working to develop budget priorities for FY25. Miller noted the importance of the Safe Passage program and concerns with implementation. The next committee meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 7:00pm

The Chair opened the floor for *Community Presentations*.

The Commission heard from Ms. Portia Hurtt, DC Manager for Public Policy with Washington Gas about the DC Pipes Project. Ms. Hurtt provided a brief overview of Project Pipes. Comm. TURNER raised questions and concerns that Ms. Hurtt responded to, including a previous presentation from an advocacy group that was heard before the Commission.

The Chair called up *Official Business*.

Comm. KENNY introduced a resolution in the nature of a substitute to fix an error in a prior measure adopted by the Commission. The resolution, Reservations 309G and 565 Support Resolution, was moved by Comm. KENNY. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES introduced, along with Comm. SHERMAN, a voluntary agreement for approval. The voluntary agreement of Trini Vybez was moved by Comm. SHERMAN for approval. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Comm. GHORPADEY, introduced, along with Comm. SHERMAN, a voluntary agreement for approval. The voluntary agreement of The Coupe was moved by Comm. GHORPADEY for approval. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Comm. SHERMAN introduced an approval for authorization of funds for the District Bridges Holiday Lights Columbia Heights Sponsorship. The approval was moved by Comm. SHERMAN. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the approval was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer introduced an approval for authorization of funds in the amount of up to \$500 for hybrid meeting materials. In responding to a question from the Chairperson about the use of these funds, the Treasurer noted that funds would be used to purchase specific equipment after inventorying the Commission’s current equipment. The Treasurer noted that additional



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authorization may be sought as needed. The Treasurer moved for approval. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the approval for authorization of funds in the amount of up to \$500 passed unanimously.

Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS introduced a resolution, Resolution Requesting Office Space from the Mayor, along with a letter to accompany the resolution transmittal. Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved for approval of the resolution. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the approval was passed unanimously.

Comm. GHORPADEY and Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES introduced an approval to authorize the release of funds in the amount of \$3,000 for Project Giveback Thanksgiving Food Distribution. The Commission heard from Mr. Ranson Miller and Ms. Wendy Singleton regarding the need for these funds and how they will impact Columbia Heights and the District. Comm. GHORPADEY moved for approval. The Chair put forward the question on a voice vote and the approval was passed unanimously.

Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved to adopt the proposed Revisions to the Bylaws. Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved for approval. The Chair called the question, and on a voice vote, the measure passed. YEAS 8, 1 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS 0.

Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved to adopt the proposed Revisions to the Standard Operating Procedures. The Chairperson noted several amendments, which were called up in the following order:

Comm. TURNER filed two amendments, which were accepted as friendly by Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS.

Comm. EASLEY moved his Amendment #1 to Article III, Sec. 108: To strike the phrase "Committees will only consider matters referred to it by the Chairperson in order to make recommendations for action by the Commission" and re-insert existing text "Committees consider matters on behalf of ANC 1A in order to make recommendations for action by the Commission." After a second and debate, the Chair called the question, and by a voice vote, the amendment passed. YEAS 7, NAYS 1, ABSTENTIONS 1.

Comm. SHERMAN moved his Amendment #1 to Article III, Section 109, which was accepted as friendly by Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS.

Comm. SEGALL moved his Amendment #1 to Article III, Sec. 113: To replace the phrase in first line to: "Each Commissioner shall serve as an officer or voting member on at least one Standing Committee of the Commission." Once seconded, debate proceeded. After debate, Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved to amend SEGALL Amendment #1 to strike the section in its entirety. The Chair called the question, which was seconded. After a voice vote, the amendment passed. YEAS 7, NAYS 0, ABSTENTIONS 2.



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Comm. SHERMAN moved his Amendment #2 to Article III, Sec. 117: To strike section entirely: "A Commissioner or committee chair may request, in writing, that a subcommittee be established within any Standing Committee, and the Commission shall act on such a request. The request should specify the scope of the subcommittee jurisdiction and work and why its creation is necessary." Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS accepted the amendment as friendly.

Comm. SEGALL moved to limit debate to 1 minute per speaker per amendment, which was seconded. The Chair called the question, and by a voice vote, the motion passed YEAS 7, NAYS 0, ABSTENTIONS 2.

Comm. SHERMAN withdrew his Amendment #3 to Article III, Section 118: To strike the phrase "shall act on such request" and insert the phrase "shall vote to approve such request."

Comm. Sherman moved his Amendment #4 to Article IV, Sec. 125: To replace "Commissioners, by unanimous consent, may introduce measures for action or motions at any official meeting of the Commission or a committee on which they serve without prior notice" and re-insert existing language: "Commissioners, though strongly discouraged, reserve the right to introduce actions or motions at any official meeting without prior notice." Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved to amend SHERMAN Amendment #4 to strike the words "or motions." Comms. PERRI and KENNY are excused by the Chairperson from the meeting during this time. After being seconded and debated, the Chair called the question, and by a voice vote, the amendment passed YEAS 4, NAYS 2, ABSTENTIONS 1.

Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved to consider the next two amendments en bloc. By a voice vote, the motion passed YEAS 7, NAYS 0, ABSTENTIONS 0.

Comm. EASLEY moved his Amendment #2 to Article IV, Section 133: To add "Commissioners may defer to relevant committee chair(s) to handle incoming applications and negotiate agreements within their SMD if they so desire. Commissioners shall notify the Chairperson about this committee deferral." Following the initial debate, Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS moved to divide the previous question, which passed. YEAS 6- NAYS 1- ABSTENTIONS 0. Comm. SHERMAN moved to amend the motion by Comm. EASLEY, striking the phrase "Commissioners shall notify the Chairperson about this committee deferral." The motion to amend EASLEY Amendment #2 passed 5-1-1. After all debate was closed, the Chair called the question on EASLEY Amendment #2, as amended. On a voice, the amendment passed. YEAS 4, NAYS 1, ABSTENTIONS 2.

Comm. SHERMAN withdrew his Amendment #4 to Article IV to insert a new section after Section 138: "In the event of an SMD vacancy the Chairperson shall step in to address incoming applications for ABC licenses, BZA cases, and DDOT applications. The Chair may refer matters to



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a Commissioner neighboring the vacancy or relevant committee chairs for interim support until the vacancy is filled.”

The Chair called the previous question, to pass the Revisions to the Standard Operating Procedures, offered by Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS, as amended by Comms. EASLEY, SEGALL, AND SHERMAN. On a voice vote, the revised rules passed. YEAS 7, NAYS 0, ABSTENTIONS 0.

With no further business before the Commission, the Chair called the meeting to a close, noting that the next regular meeting of ANC 1A is Wednesday, November 8, 2023, where the Commission would hear from Councilmember Nadeau. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m.


Anthony Thomas-Davis, Secretary