FINAL Approved 1/8/2024

Monthly Public Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm Washington, DC 20002

Register and enter: ANC5D

or

Dial: 301-715-8592 and enter: 889-3119-8671#

STANDING REPORTS & ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Welcome & Reports

• Call to Order & Roll Call

Comm. Sauceda-Guzman

07:00 PM

Present: Commissioners Arbuckle, Rhodes, Roblin, Cobb, Sauceda-Guzman, Henderson, McCullum, May; Absent: Blacknell. Commissioner Sauceda-Guzman confirmed that 5D has quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Commissioner Blacknell joined the meeting at approximately 7:20pm.

Comm. Sauceda-Guzman also reminded attendees that there will be no public meeting in December and ANC 5D will next meet on January 8th, 2024.

50 participants were engaged as of 7:55pm.

• Adoption of the Agenda

Comm. Sauceda-Guzman

07:05 PM

ANC 5D voted 8-0-0 (motion: Arbuckle; second: Cobb) to strike Lunas de Buenos Aires from the meeting agenda.

ANC 5D voted 7-0-1 (motion: Arbuckle; second: Roblin; abstention: McCullum) to add a presentation and voting action item related to a stipulated liquor license request from Jinya Ramen.

ANC 5D voted 8-0-0 (motion: Rhodes; second: Roblin) to add a presentation from Chesapeake Climate Action Network to the agenda.

ANC 5D voted 8-0-0 (motion: Sauceda-Guzman; second: Roblin) to adopt the agenda as amended.

| ANC 5D | 5D01: Hector Arbuckle | 5D02: Sebrena Rhodes | 5D03: Anna Roblin |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Commissioners | 5D04: Stephen Cobb | 5D05: S. Sauceda-Guzman | 5D06: Kathy Henderson |
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• Adoption of the Minutes

Comm. May

07:10 PM

ANC 5D voted 7-1-0 (motion: May; second: McCullum; opposed: Henderson) to adopt the October 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

• Treasurer's Monthly Report

Comm. Cobb

07:15 PM

Comm. Cobb reported an opening balance of \$31,134.63 and expenses of \$60.02, resulting in a closing balance of \$31,074.61. The primary expenses were for page protectors.

Comm. Blacknell joined the meeting at approximately 7:20pm.

Standing Presentations (5-8 minutes; 2 minutes for questions)

• Commissioner Reports (3 min each)

ANC 5D Commissioners

07:20 PM

- 5D01: Comm. Arbuckle has been working with DDOT on pedestrian safety concerns and is working to schedule a walkthrough of the Union Market area in November. Comm. Arbuckle also offered kudos to a constituent (Reginald Shaw-Richardson) who has been advocating for park space in Union Market.
- 5D02: Comm. Rhodes noted that the 150th birthday celebration in Ivy City was a success and also shared some information about Councilmember Zachary Parker's new environmental justice legislation, which specifically seeks to address issues with the National Engineering Products facility in Ivy City.
- 5D03: Comm. Roblin met a group of people who frequently spend time on Montello Ave. near Florida Ave. NE and offered to introduce them to other neighbors. Comm. Roblin is also expanding her SMD meetings to be general Trinidad meetings. The next meeting is on December 4th at Joe Cole recreation center. These meetings will typically occur on the first Monday of the month.
- 5D04: Comm. Cobb did not report any updates.

 The next regularly scheduled, public meeting will begin at 7PM on Monday, January 08, 2023.

| ANC 5D Commissioners 2023-2024 | 5D01: Hector Arbuckle | 5D02: Sebrena Rhodes | 5D03: Anna Roblin |
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- 5D05: Comm. Sauceda-Guzman shared that it has been a couple of busy months, with many public safety meetings and other neighborhood engagement, including collaborations with the Citizens Advisory Council and violence interrupters from Cure the Streets. They also shared that they are collaborating with Comms. Roblin and Cobb on a future traffic safety walk with DDOT, focused on Montello Ave.
- 5D06: Comm. Henderson shared that she was very happy to have hosted an event in collaboration with MPD and some other agencies in the parking lot of the CVS at Bladensburg Rd and Maryland Ave. NE. She is hosting a meeting with residents regarding residential parking, recently hosted a community cleanup, and is working on illegal dumping issues.
- 5D07: Comm. McCullum echoed sentiments from Comm. Sauceda-Guzman about safety around the holidays. Comm. McCullum partnered with Comm. Blacknell to host a fall festival on October 31, where they hosted more than 200 children—it was a great event with many community collaborators.
- 5D08: Comm. May shared that he is hosting a safety walk with DDOT on Friday, 11/17 at 10am, starting at 17th St NE and M St NE, and encourages residents to attend.
- 5D09: Comm. Blacknell shared that the groundbreaking at Spingarn is taking place on November 15th at 11am and encouraged residents to come out. Comm. Blacknell also shared that she had a great time on Halloween at the festival she co-planned with Comm. McCullum. She also wished everyone a safe holiday and Happy New Year.
- Public Safety Report

5th District

07:45 PM

Lieutenant Sharp joined from MPD's 5th District and shared some recent crime statistics. Lieutenant Sharp shared that it is his first time presenting to ANC 5D and noted that he works the midnight shift, but is happy to support residents with questions anytime.

Lieutenant Sharp answered various questions from members of the Commission and the public.

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◆ Executive Office of the Mayor Christopher Ingram 08:00 PM

No members of the Mayor's office were present for the meeting.

• Ward 5 Councilmember's Office

Oliver Stoute

08:10 PM

Oliver Stoute joined from Councilmember Zachary Parker's office. Mr. Stoute shared that he and his family enjoyed the fall festival hosted by Comms. McCullum and Blacknell. He also shared that CM Parker's office is hosting a holiday turkey giveaway on November 20th at the Langston Golf Course parking lot. Mr. Stoute reported that the Council will be hosting a hearing on CM Parker's School Improvement Act and that CM Parker recently introduced the Environmental Justice Act of 2023. Finally, Mr. Stoute shared that the Ward 5 holiday party takes place on December 14th at City State Brewery.

COMMISSION ACTIONS

Requested Presentation (5-8 minutes; 5 minutes for questions)

PEPCO Benning Rd. Citizens Ad. Grp. Ronald Lester

08:20 PM

PEPCO was not present for the meeting.

• Phyto Management LLC

Grace Hyde

08:30 PM

Grace Hyde joined from Phyto Management LLC. Ms. Hyde is the Director of Operations for Phyto Management LLC, which is a medical cannabis retailer in Ward 7, with plans to expand its retail presence to Union Market. Phyto's cultivation and manufacturing operation is located in Kenilworth and employs 28 full-time employees. She also provided a brief overview of the regulations covering cannabis dispensaries, which are licensed by ABCA. Ms. Hyde took some questions from the Commission and the public.

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Voting Actions (10-15 minutes; 5 minutes for questions)

• ABRA Hours Extension Lunas de Buenos Aires 8:45 PM

Removed from the agenda per the amendment during the adoption of the agenda.

• EDENS - HPRB/Support Request

Will Couch

9:00 PM

Will Couch joined to present on behalf of EDENS, a developer based in the Union Market area. EDENS' offices are located on 5th St NE north of Morse St NE, above Politics & Prose and the Village Cafe in Union Market. EDENS has an outdoor terrace that they are eager to repurpose, making it more tolerant of various seasonal conditions by constructing an all-season aluminum and glass structure on the existing terrace. The structure will partially obscure the historic facade on their building, including historic concrete medallions, though EDENS is attempting to mitigate the effect of the obstruction by making it semi-transparent. EDENS asked ANC 5D for a letter of support for their request to the HPRB.

Members of ANC 5D expressed concerns about the obstruction of the facade and potential establishment of precedent, which might allow other businesses along the 5th St NE corridor to construct similar structures that might further obstruct the facade.

ANC 5D voted 1-7-1 (motion: Arbuckle; second: Cobb; opposed: Roblin, Rhodes, Sauceda-Guzman, Henderson, McCullum, May, Blacknell; abstention: Cobb) AGAINST offering a letter of support to EDENS.

• Trash Committee Request

Comm. Roblin

9:15 PM

Commissioner Roblin requested that the Commission consider purchasing tools for the Trash Committee and also that the Commission consider providing food for volunteers. Comm.

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Sauceda-Guzman noted that ANCs are not able to purchase food for limited community events and that the Trash Committee should instead seek donations from local businesses.

Comm. Henderson questioned whether ANC 5D can properly purchase tools for the Trash Committee and Comm. Cobb clarified that based on his understanding, that sort of expenditure is permissible.

Comm. McCullum suggested that the ANC seek community contributions from local hardware stores, including Home Depot, Lowe's or Jenk's Hardware on Bladensburg Rd. NE. Comm. Cobb agreed with that suggestion. Comm. May suggested the Trash Committee put forward a list of tools or supplies that are needed and Comm. McCullum suggested that members of the Commission send suggestions to Comm. Roblin.

[UPDATE: after the meeting, the Office of ANCs informed ANC 5D that tool purchases *are* permissible, but seeking donations is not permissible]

ANC 5D agreed to revisit Trash Committee resource requests at the January 2024 public meeting.

• Stipulated Liquor License Request Jinya Ramen

Tahmina joined from Jinya Ramen to request support for a stipulated liquor license. Tahmina shared that Jinya is an authentic Japanese ramen chain with locations throughout the D.C. area. Tahmina provided a brief overview of Jinya's locations and renderings for their planned location in Union Market, where they will be able to seat up to 143 guests. Jinya does not yet know its opening date in Union Market, nor do they have all details about security plans, etc.

ANC 5D voted 9-0-0 (motion: Sauceda-Guzman; second: Arbuckle) to table the request from Jinya Ramen until a future meeting when they have more details regarding their timeline to open, security plans, and so forth.

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Chesapeake Climate Action Network
 Naomi Cohen-Shields

Naomi Cohen-Shields joined from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network to discuss her organization's opposition to PROJECTpipes, a 40-year-long Washington Gas initiative to replace all of the city's gas lines (currently cast iron) with new pipes (primarily plastics). PROJECTpipes repairs are paid for by Washington Gas ratepayers—in short, ratepayers pay for more than consumption, they also pay for infrastructure. Washington Gas is currently asking the D.C. Public Service Commission for approval to institute significant rate increases.

In total, PROJECTpipes will cost \$4.5 billion, approximately \$27,000 per ratepayer over the life of the project. According to Ms. Cohen-Shields, the project will prolong D.C.'s reliance on methane gas and limit D.C.'s ability to make a transition to electric energy supplies. Chesapeake Climate Action Network is advocating for a solution that prioritizes critical repairs, but otherwise focuses on an electrified future. Ms. Cohen-Shields also noted that this is a financial equity issue because wealthier households will transition to electricity faster than low-income households, thus exacerbating rate increases for the lowest income families.

Ms. Cohen-Shields requested that ANC 5D consider passing a resolution opposing PROJECTpipes.

Community Feedback & Questions (10-20 min)

9:30 PM

Adjournment

9:45 PM

ANC 5D voted 9-0-0 (motion: Sauceda-Guzman; second: Rhodes) to adjourn the monthly public meeting at 9:40 pm.

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