

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 9, 2023**

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee, Roberta Shapiro, Dave Wethington, Robb Dooling, and Steve Moilanen were present. Commissioner Mike Velasquez was absent.

The meeting convened virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Chair Amber Gove called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC October 2023 meeting were accepted. The agenda for the November 2023 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

Community Presentations

Stop PROJECTPipes - Naomi Cohen-Shields, Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) & CCAN Action Fund

Ms. Naomi Cohen-Shields from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network presented on Stop PROJECTPipes, which is a project run by Washington Gas and impacts many DC residents; gas pipelines across the district are quite old, bringing a risk of methane leaks and gas explosions. The project launched in 2014 and is a 40-year accelerated pipeline replacement program in which ratepayers rather than gas companies pay for the replacements. The first phase of the program, which ended in 2019, cost \$141.24 million (\$30+M over budget), the second phase (2021-2023) cost \$150 million, and the request for 2024-2028 is \$671.8 million; this brings the total cost to people of around \$4.5 billion, or \$27,000 per ratepayer. While some claim that the project is reducing greenhouse gases, the truth is that this further investment in gas pipelines will result in more greenhouse gas emissions in the future, and this project stands in the way of DC's climate goals. Methane gas continues to be dangerous and data shows that hazardous gas leaks in DC's system have increased by 15% in the last 6 years. A better solution is to replace and repair the worst sections of the pipe, knowing that DC will electrify in the coming years. Another issue is that as DC electrifies, wealthier households will likely be the first to move off of the gas network, meaning the remaining ratepayers will be lower-income residents forced to bear disproportionate costs of the project. The campaign against PROJECTPipes is a three-pronged approach: involve the DC council, raise public awareness, and outreach and coalition building among the public. The Florida Avenue project has been delayed by PROJECTPipes, and it has caused damage to the foundations of several properties. Stop PROJECTPipes would like ANCs to pass a resolution against the project. Anybody with questions can contact Ms. Cohen-Shields at [naomi\[at\]chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:naomi[at]chesapeakeclimate.org).

Halcyon House Presentation on Impact-Driven Businesses - Mackenzie Loy, CEO, Homemade in DC and Emily Yu, CEO, AI Priori

Halcyon House is a community supporting impact-driven businesses, offering fellowships, mentorship, and funding. More information here: <https://www.halcyonhouse.org/>

Ms. Emily Yu shared a history of AI Priori, the startup that she runs, which is an online AI-powered platform that uses community centered data to help the public sector review their content at scale. AI Priori partners with nonprofits and community members, turning their experiences into data to provide deeper insights and more context. The DC-specific entrepreneurial experience provides immense access to local universities, safe spaces to connect and network with other entrepreneurs, and trusted mentors. Ms. Yu and Ms. Loy are

both part of the Opportunity Intensive through Halcyon House, which is tailored towards DC metro area start-ups and provides funding, AWS credits, pro bono support from Deloitte, legal support, and other assets. Accelerators such as Halcyon House are so important, especially for underrepresented small business owners; for example, in 2023, less than 3% of all US venture capital funding goes to women, and even less to women of color - there are very real challenges to scaling and success. Organizations like Halcyon House are aiming to change that. More information on AI Priori: www.aipriori.com

Ms. Mackenzie Loy, CEO of Homemade in DC, showcased the homemade marketplace, focusing on closing the racial and gender wealth gap through food entrepreneurship. There are several barriers to scalable growth, and Homemade in DC offers corporate catering and custom giftboxes made by women, people of color, and LGBTQ entrepreneurs. Homemade in DC offers vendors new high-value customers, consistent, high-volume orders, and a scalable platform. Ms. Loy has worked with forty entrepreneurs in the DC area and generated \$115,000 in revenue from new customers. More information on Homemade in DC: <https://homemadeindc.com/>

Consent Agenda

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

- ANC 6A protest the application of Jerk at Nite, Inc. t/a Jerk at Night at 1100 H Street NE (ABRA-126009) for a Class C Restaurant License unless a settlement agreement is reached prior to the protest deadline, and that the Chair of the ABL Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in this matter.
- ANC 6A take no action with regard to the application of Mochi, Inc. t/a DC Supermarket at 539 8th Street NE (ABRA-074927) for renewal of its Class B Retail - Grocery License.
- ANC 6A take no action with regard to the renewal application of DSAY Corporation t/a Adams Market at 700 F Street NE (ABRA-077168) for renewal of its class B Retail - Grocery License.

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for [Notice # 23-161-PSD - K Street NE Bike Lane Extension](#) (<https://ddotwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NI/pages/2225045537/NOI-23-161-PSD>) with the following additional requests: that DDOT consider removing the turn lanes in support of reducing vehicle speed; that DDOT explore options for pickup and drop-off areas on the 700 block of K Street NE; that DDOT review the turn radius at the intersection of 8th and K Streets NE; and that DDOT consider installing flex posts at intersections along the south side of K Street NE to prevent blockages.
- ANC 6A accept the TPS Committee inputs to the ANC 6A FY23 Annual Report.

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

- ANC 6A accept the EDZ Committee inputs to ANC 6A FY23 Annual Report.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for Special Exception relief pursuant to Subtitle H § 1202 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the matter-of-right uses of Subtitle H § 1103 to permit a financial services use on the ground floor of an existing, six-story, mixed use building in the NMU-5A/H-H (formerly NC-10) zone at 650 H Street NE (BZA #20990).

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for Use Variance Relief pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002 from the matter-of-right uses of Subtitle U § 301 to expand an existing restaurant use to the second floor, of a semi-detached, two-story with basement, commercial building in the RF-1 zone at 106 13th Street SE (BZA #20996).

Officer Reports:

1. The November 2023 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the three expenditures accrued in October: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Premium, (checks #276-278, respectively). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$40,217.39. After accounts payable totaling \$2,148.63 the closing available checking balance is \$38,069.03. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05, and petty cash remained at \$25. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Moilanen presented the Fiscal Year 2023 4th Quarter report, featuring an opening balance of \$33,559.04, disbursements of \$1,074.18, no receipts and an ending balance of \$32,484.86. The FY 2023 4th Quarter report was approved by unanimous consent.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

1. No report. COC did not meet in October 2023.
2. Commissioner Keya Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A appoint Paul Spires as a member of the Community Outreach Committee. The motion passed 6-0.
3. Next meeting: November 27, 2023 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

1. The October 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, November 28, 2023 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The October 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support in response to DDOT's Notice of Intent 23-107 to lower the speed limit from 25 to 20 mph on the 800-1400 blocks of East Capitol Street (segments within ANC 6A). The motion passed 6-0.
3. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Dave Wethington seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support in response to DDOT's Notice of Intent 23-108 to lower the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph on North Carolina Avenue NE between 13th Street NE and Constitution Avenue NE. The motion passed 6-0.
4. Commissioner Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Roberta Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support in response to DDOT's Notice of Intent 23-105 to lower the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph on 8th Street NE between Florida Avenue and East Capitol Street. The motion passed 6-0.
5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, November 20, 2023 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. The October 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 18, 2023 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A authorize Commissioners Gove and Dooling to finalize its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023. The motion passed 5-0 (Commissioner Moilanen left the meeting prior to the vote).

Commission Business

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) received some good news from the city manager, who said \$1.4 million will be allocated this year to improve the Sherwood recreation center. The center will also no longer be a hypothermia center, allowing it to truly serve as a recreation center for the community. The Commissioner walked some of the neighborhood streets to review the sidewalk issues and continued struggles. Together with Commissioner Velasquez, the Commissioner was able to get DOB to change the status of a vacant property to blighted.

Commissioner Dave Wethington (6A05) continues to focus on public safety issues; there have been a few occurrences that left residences concerned. The Commissioner had some discussions with an old colleague who is now on the TPS committee and hopes to bring MPD in to speak to the TPS to continue the conversation around public safety and emphasize cameras. The Commissioner also participated in a discussion with an advocate for Kingsman Dog Park, reviewed the funding allocated for the park, and is looking forward to continuing partnership with that group.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) is excited about the December 17th start of two 24-hour bus lines - the X2 and 92, which will make a difference to many service workers. The Commissioner is continuing to work on Florida Avenue matters and is as usual having issues with the Havana building and would love input on suggested next steps.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) is working with various business owners interested in vacant businesses along H Street. Sooner or later, the ANC may be reviewing licenses for marijuana shops. Unfortunately, public safety continues to be a major concern, and funding is being filtered from community organizations to support more police; the Commissioner echoes Councilmember Allen's longstanding position of a both/and approach to public safety. More pickup/drop-off zones are needed at businesses, to be balanced with disability parking spaces, which the Commissioner is proud to have supported in the past. If anyone needs help applying for a disability parking space, please reach out to the Commissioner at [robb.dooling\[at\]anc.dc.gov](mailto:robb.dooling[at]anc.dc.gov).

Commissioner Gove (6A04) flagged that if anyone knows of an organization working to support the wellbeing of residents, there are grant funds available through this ANC. The DC Tutoring and Mentoring Initiative will be at the Southeast Library this Saturday, concurrently with Eastern Market's 150-year celebration. The youth crisis in the city continues, with absenteeism at all-time highs. Eastern High School marching band held its homecoming parade and game. There have been several MPD safety discussions and walks, and the next movie night is Friday, December 8th. All of the ANC chairs across the city met virtually to think about how collaborating and sharing information. The Commissioner attended a troop meeting for the Daisies of Maury, who drew the ways that they get around their neighborhoods and have an extensive wish list including a bathroom, working water fountains, and an ice cream cart all at Lincoln Park.

Community Comment

Ms. Jen DeMayo, representative from Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen's office, noted that the Council confirmed Pamela Smith as the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and confirmed new leaders for the Department of Buildings, Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services, and others. Councilmember Allen also led an initiative to lower fines and speed up the start of enforcement for the Clear lanes program, which issues tickets to vehicles blocking bus lanes. Community members are encouraged to nominate individuals and businesses for the Brickie awards, happening on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. To nominate: https://www.charlesallenward6.com/2023_brickie_awards_nominations
To reach Ms. Demayo: [jdemayo\[at\]dccouncil.gov](mailto:jdemayo[at]dccouncil.gov).

MOCR Jake Stolzenberg announced several HBCU events and noted that the DC Stabilization Center was opened for anyone suffering from substance abuse. Mr. Stolzenberg is attempting to walk all of 6A and submit 311s for every brick issue. Mr. Stolzenberg can be reached at 202-341-3659 or [jake.stolzenberg\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:jake.stolzenberg[at]dc.gov).

Two community members from ANC 6C and one from DuPont Circle had questions about traffic safety, lack of handicap parking, and qualms about the K Street requests passed under this month's consent agenda and discussed their participation at the ANC 6A TPS committee meeting. The three callers were opposed to bike lanes on K Street and believe the request harms those with disabilities and is a request of convenience rather than of actual safety. One caller would like better representation, engagement, and notification of all meetings and agenda items, and raised questions about the process of the consent agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.