

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
October 13, 2022**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Keya Chatterjee, Robb Dooling, Brian Alcorn, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Mike Soderman, and Laura Gentile were present. Commissioner Phil Toomajian 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 6A September 2022 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the October 2022 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Community Presentations:**

**DOEE's Solar for All - Angela Simmons, Community Engagement and Advancement Manager, GRID Alternatives**

Ms. Angela Simmons gave an overview of GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit agency based in California with offices across the country whose goal is to bring the benefits of clean energy to underserved communities. The organization partners with DOEE to offer solar installations at no cost to qualifying homeowners and renters (with homeowner permission) through the Solar for All program. The program aims to bring solar to 100,000 income qualified households by 2032; steep roofs, roofs without sunlight, inaccessible roof rafters or main service panels, and old roofs all prevent solar installation. GRID Alternatives also runs an employment and training program, Solar Works DC, preparing residents for careers in solar through hands-on training. GRID Mid-Atlantic offers a referral bonus of \$200. Funding for installation comes from third party lenders and grants; the third-party lenders are then the recipients of any Solar Renewable Energy Credits. Interested community members can find more information at the following websites or call (202) 602-0191:

[www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic](http://www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic)

[www.gridsolar.org/midatlantic](http://www.gridsolar.org/midatlantic)

**Installation of Residential Pollinator Gardens - Thorne Rankin, Co-Founder, DC Natives**

Ms. Thorne Rankin from DC Natives presented about the organization, noting that they are a grant-funded organization that installs pollinator gardens and are heavily focused in Ward 7 but would like to expand into Capitol Hill. The gardens consist of native plants, allowing local ecosystems, including insects and birds, to thrive. They combat the rapid decline of insect species. DC Natives encourages community members to build gardens, help neighbors build gardens, and to volunteer with the organization. When planting, DC Natives advises 3 species for 3 seasons and in groups of at least 3 of each variety of plant. Representatives from the organization will bring plants, soil, and mulch and help plan and plant the garden as long as residents have cleared the area. Interested individuals can reach Ms. Rankin at

[thornerankin\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:thornerankin[at]gmail.com) and get more information on this Google form:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWJ8SzTFtmFPmmwLrUyaDEW68Cw2RlTWlkUAbH26GzPirwMA/viewform>

## Consent Agenda

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

### Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to ABRA for the Class C Tavern license renewal of The Pursuit Wine Bar and Kitchen at 1025 H Street NE (ABRA-113810).
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to ABRA for the Class C Tavern license renewal of VibeZ on H at 1378 H Street NE (ABRA-117753).
- ANC 6A send a letter of opposition to ABRA regarding the Class C Tavern license renewal of Bar Bullfrog/Bullfrog Bagels at 1341 H Street NE (ABRA-112890) unless a settlement agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ANC, the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee, and ABL Committee member Krisch, represent the ANC in this matter.
- ANC 6A send a letter of opposition to ABRA regarding the Class C Tavern license renewal of The Queen Vic at 1206 H Street NE (ABRA-083930) unless an updated settlement agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ANC and the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee represent the ANC in this matter.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to ABRA for the Class C Tavern license renewal of Mythology, Lore, & Dirty Water/Beetle House DC at 816 H Street NE (ABRA-095033).
- ANC 6A take no action with respect to the substantial change request of Ocean Lounge at 1220 H Street NE (ABRA-114106) to add a Summer Garden to their existing license.

### Community Outreach (COC)

- ANC 6A edit the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) language (page 4, section IV. D) to add new text (noted in italics below):  
Committee Chairs, and/or the Commissioner for the specific SMD, may jointly recommend the removal of any committee member who has three or more unexcused absences without good cause within a 12-month period *or about whom the ANC has received one or more complaints of significant concern that may be considered inconsistent with the ANC 6A Code of Conduct or other reasonable standard.*

### Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

- ANC 6A send a letter to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) requesting that School Parking Zone permits cover a radius that does not extend to

neighboring ANCs should any permit be issued to Capitol Hill Montessori or other schools that are more than a few blocks away from the adjacent ANC.

### **Officer Reports:**

1. The October 2022 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the six expenditures accrued in September: \$765.89 for September webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, two payments of \$58.29 for Zoom Pro/Webinar, \$216.00 for USPS Box Renewal and \$196.02 for Web Hosting Services (Checks #2033-2038, respectively). The ANC had \$5,077.19 in uncashed checks (Checks #2026, #2027, #2031, and #2032). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$29,527.70 and ANC6A received an OANC allotment of \$10,891.12. After disbursements totaling \$1,544.49 and cashed checks and the OANC allotment, the closing available checking balance is \$33,797.14. Commissioner Alcorn offered an amendment to the report to include an additional disbursement of \$4,452.00 to the Hill Rag for 2023 ANC6A meeting advertisement; OANC advised ANCs to pay certain 2023 bills now if possible. After this amendment, new closing funds are \$29,345.14. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05. Petty cash remained at \$25.00. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Mike Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the FY22 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter budget as presented in the agenda package. The motion passed 7-0.
3. Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the FY22-23 Budget Plan as presented in the agenda package. The proposed plan has been open to Commissioner and community comment for a month, and while ANC 6A can vote to approve and adopt the plan, it can be changed and updated at any time. The motion passed 7-0.
4. Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert seconded the motion to renew and redocument the service agreements with ANC 6A's community volunteers who perform package, prep, and web and meeting minute services. Both volunteers to serve for another year. The motion passed 7-0.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Community Outreach**

1. The September 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 24, 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The September 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee thanked Co-Chair Ian Stanford for his committee service and noted that he moved out of ANC 6A and will no longer be serving on the committee.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 25, 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

#### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The September 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.

2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of an Open Streets event on 8th Street from Florida Avenue NE to M Street SE.

ANC 6A resident Mark Sussman shared a proposal for an Open Streets 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE/SE event, noting that there has never been an Open Streets event in Ward 6. Open Streets offers communities the opportunity to experience their city streets in new ways as the event temporarily loses roadways to vehicles and provides safe walking, biking, and skating spaces. ANC 6A and ANC 6C TPS committees support the proposal and ANC 6B is meeting next week. The proposal is for a 2-mile span from Florida Avenue NE to M Street SE and includes several small businesses in Ward 6. The event would be on a Saturday from 9:00 am to either 1:00 or 3:00 pm and bring foot traffic to local businesses and include several activities for community members. Mr. Sussman reported that, according to DDOT, this event would not greatly interrupt the popular 90s bus services. Mr. Sussman is hoping for joint ANC letters of support to DDOT, then DDOT will decide and coordinate logistics with the ANCs.

Commissioner Soderman moved Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion that ANC 6A table this discussion and decision until the November 2022 meeting. The motion failed 2-5. Commissioner Robb Dooling moved and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that the proposed letter be edited to amend the event ending time to 3:00 pm rather than 1:00 pm to align with other ANCs' letters of support. The motion passed as amended 6-0-1; Commissioner Soderman abstained.

3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT expressing concern about need to provide ANCs with adequate opportunity to review and provide comment on school applications for street parking permits under the School Parking Zone program for School within School (SWS) at Goding and other future applications and that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting that signage for south side of G Street NE (adjacent to Sherwood Recreation Center), which is currently not RPP parking, be adjusted to permit holders of the School Parking Zone permits for School-Within-School to park there.

The Commission and community agreed on the community benefit of supporting teachers and the need for better communication from DDOT, comments which will be included in the letter. The motion passed 6-1-0; Commissioner Dooling opposed.

4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 17, 2022 (3rd Monday)

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. The September 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for Special Exception zoning relief pursuant

to Subtitle E § 205.5, Subtitle E § 5201, and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4 to construct a third story addition, and a two-story with cellar rear addition, and convert to a flat, an existing, semi-detached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 726 11th Street NE (BZA 20814) in the RF-1 zone on condition that the owner make best efforts to get a letter of support from the neighbor at 724 11<sup>th</sup> Street. *Scheduled for BZA hearing on 12/07/2022.*

The developer has made contact with the neighbor and has received no objection, but has not gotten an official letter of support. The addition will only extend two feet past the neighboring building and there will be no shadow to the south; there is an alley to the north. The motion passed 7-0.

3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion ANC 6A send a letter of support to HPRB for historic relief to construct a third floor partial addition and roof deck at 813 Massachusetts Avenue NE (HPA 22-439) on condition that the owner make best efforts to get letters of support from 807 and 811 A Street and 811 and 815 Massachusetts Avenue, and the owner do a site-line survey from A Street, similar to the one done from Massachusetts Avenue already (from the perspective of 807 A Street). Scheduled for HPRB Hearing in October 2022.

The owner has received two letters of support and has made best efforts to receive the same from remaining neighbors. The motion passed 7-0.

4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 19, 2022 (3rd Wednesday)

## **Commission Business**

### **New Business:**

1. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support for DDOT's request to consolidate the B2 bus stops on 14th Street NE from three to two stops, with a preference for retaining the stops at 14th and D Streets NE and 14th Street and North Carolina Avenue NE in their current locations. The request was made as part of the traffic calming proposal for the 1100-1500 blocks of C Street NE, which includes moving bus stops to prevent drivers from using the bus bays to jump the red light.

Commissioner Gove noted that she has spoken to community members around the bus areas and has not heard objection to removing the bus stop, and Commissioners Keya Chatterjee and Dooling noted that, according to DDOT, removing certain bus stops actually increases ridership as routes become faster and more streamlined. Some residents expressed concern about removing the stop and are curious whether other stops will be removed. There is currently no infrastructure other than a trash can at the bus stop being removed. The motion passed 7-0.

2. Commissioner Dooling moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A appoint current ABL member Erin Sullivan as Co-Chair of the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee. The motion moved 7-0.

### **Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) reported two robberies and has seen an increase in Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)MPD cars on street corners, but not on bike or foot patrol. The Commissioner would like to see DC support young people, divert crime and encourage community members to be cognizant of their surroundings and to report anything suspicious to MPD. There is a block party on 10<sup>th</sup> Street next weekend.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert (6A07) is continuing to work on multiple concerns in her community and is organizing a third annual Christmas basket giveaway.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) is grateful to the ANC and her SMD neighbors for all of their support and work during a personal family tragedy. The Commissioner encourages drivers to avoid driving on Halloween if at all possible and reminds everyone that the COVID-19 vaccine is still available for free in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) concurred that there has been an increase in package thefts and encourages a neighbor network to pick up packages for each other when possible. The Miner Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) had their first in-person meeting recently since the pandemic and he congratulated their success in this endeavor. The Commissioner invites everyone to visit Atlas Theater and will be participating in a trash pick-up this weekend.

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) attended a community crime meeting that was called in response to recent gun discharge in ANC 6B and continues to support the efforts of installing a camera in the area. The Commissioner heard neighbor concerns about a blighted property at 212 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE which has been reported to the Department of Buildings. November 2022 election ballots have been mailed out and he encouraged residents to be mindful that they received the correct ballots, as redistricting may have impacted that. There is no declared candidate for the Commissioner of ANC 7D07 position; the position will be decided by write-in votes.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) reported that the recent 11<sup>th</sup> Street community walk was a successful one with roughly 25 community members walking and sharing concerns with the MOKR and DDOT representatives. DDOT reported that there were ten times more cars going south than north and requests that all accidents are reported to them. The Commissioner hosted a community cleanup with various candidates from ANC 6A.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) promoted MPD's anonymous tipline - (202) 727-9099 - and was on the scene of a recent armed robbery. The Commissioner reiterates the need for holistic approaches to crime and will continue working with MPD; as always,

community members are encouraged to install security cameras and be reimbursed up to \$500.00. The C Street project is progressing well and she asked that community members continue raising concerns and questions. The ANC received notice that the city plans to extend the ANCs' ability to conduct virtual meetings, but the Commission is considering hybrid meetings as well. MPD is hosting the Addams Family in Lincoln Park at 6:00 pm and the Commissioner will be hosting a sidewalk-palooza at 5:00 pm. Della Barba Pizza on East Capitol Street NE had a soft opening and will currently only be offering takeout. The Eastern High School Blue & White Marching Machine had their homecoming parade and the Commissioner is grateful to the community for the last-minute street closure.

### **Community Comments**

Willie Smith encourages visiting the Rosedale community and will be reaching out to Commissioners for their participation.

Mr. Brett Astmann is running for ANC 7D07 Commissioner; he has been a Capitol Hill resident for 12 years and wants to ensure his community has a strong voice in upcoming issues and projects. He can be reached at brett7d07[at]gmail.com.

Commissioner Dooling noted that if the upcoming recall election for ANC 6A04 does result in a recall, there will be no Commissioner in that SMD for two months and the work of that Commission would have to be shared among the rest of the serving Commissioners, who are already at capacity with their own SMDs. Commissioner Dooling requests that residents consider this and vote in the November general election.

Jen DeMayo reported that the Department for Hire Vehicles emergency law was passed, giving the Department authority to enforce laws and fines when delivery drivers block traffic lanes or crosswalks. Ms. DeMayo joined Councilmember Charles Allen at a groundbreaking of the Paxton, a new all-affordable building at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Benning Road NE to be delivered in 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.