

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
September 14, 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.

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

Community Presentations

Deputy Director Sharon Kershbaum, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
Deputy Director of DDOT Sharon Kershbaum shared information about the Safe Routes to School program, noting that the FY 2024 budget includes a new dedicated team for safe transportation to schools and on sidewalk gaps - seven new planners and a new manager are being added to this team. The existing traffic and safety division is bringing on three new engineers. These teams will focus on 25 schools annually, but as schools continue to appear at the top of the TSI prioritization model, any asks that are within 350 feet of a school will also be looked at and bundled with other projects when appropriate. A Safe Routes to School website is being built and will feature a dashboard and other useful information for those interested. DDOT attempts to install the most effective and viable safety tools, especially at schools, and often this is a case-by-case basis; automatic traffic enforcement cameras, for example, are not always the best solution. In terms of bus priority projects, the timeline for H Street is still 2024, although there is no more definitive timeline, although several H Street businesses have been engaged in support of traffic calming and bus priority initiatives. Ms. Kershbaum encourages community members to continue submitting TSIs, which DDOT heavily relies upon, but there are also several other data sources and projects that DDOT uses to determine future projects. DDOT is planning to install an all-way stop at 11th and F Streets in Q1 FY2024, as well as a raised crosswalk at 11th and D Streets in addition to the measures already installed. More measures are necessary on 11th Street, particularly between F and H Streets, and the ANC would like to see the background data collected between Florida Avenue and East Capitol Street as well as gain insight into the decision-making process. Ms. Kershbaum noted that sidewalk repairs are important but complicated projects and DDOT is doing assessments all over the city to gather a holistic inventory of what is necessary. As part of the Pave DC plan, DDOT attempts to bundle as many areas as possible and fix the most spaces at once. The speed cameras that the ANC had asked for are still on DDOT's to-do list, specifically the westbound camera on H Street. Much more needs to be done on Florida Avenue, though the DDOT interventions are a step in the right direction. There

will be a new 311 soon for public space issues. Abraham Diallo is the Ward 6 DDOT Liaison and can be reached at Abraham.diallo@dc.gov.

Enora Moss and Mike Fessler, DC Smart Street Lighting Project

Enora Moss presented on the DC Smart Street Lighting Project, which will modernize 72,051 streetlights, convert streetlights to LED technology, add remote monitoring and control capabilities, reduce streetlight energy consumption, and eliminate 38,000 tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions. The timeline is as follows: project start and preparatory work in May 2022; rehabilitation work Q1 2023-May 2024; conversion work Q2 2023-May 2024; asset management through May 2037. The design and construction phase is happening in three groups - Wards 5,7,8, Wards 4,3,2, and Wards 1 and 6; work within an ANC will not last more than 14 days. By May 2024, all lights will be converted and asset management will be completed by May 2037. Community outreach and notification happens 45 days prior to start of work, 7 days prior, and 72 hours prior via emails to ANCs, door hangers, and information cards in businesses for everyone to be prepared for a temporary adjustment. These lights are not always as bright as the old lights - some are, some aren't, but the public places that need to be illuminated will be. Existing research shows that the change in lighting does not affect wildlife. For further information, community members can go to www.streetlights.dc.gov or reach the team at info@dcsmartstreetlights.com.

Consent Agenda

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

- ANC 6A take no action with regard to the application of TPK, LLC t/a The People's Kitchen at 816 H Street NE (ABRA-124821) for a Class C Restaurant License, and that the Chair of the ABL Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC represent the ANC in negotiating a settlement agreement with The People's Kitchen.

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

- ANC 6A send a letter requesting that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), in a timely fashion, perform an evaluation of the 11th and F Street (NOI # 23-157-TESD) and 10th and F Street intersections, meet with the staff of School within Schools @ Goding to discuss traffic safety, and make a proposal for raised crosswalks and other traffic calming measures.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT in response to NOI 23-162-TOA for the parking proposal at Maury Elementary School but requesting an adjustment of the restricted hours on the east side of the 200 block of 12th Place NE to 8:00 pm instead of 10:00 pm.

Officer Reports:

1. The September 2023 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the four expenditures accrued in July and August: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250.00 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Premium, and \$22.00 for web hosting for the year (checks #2067-#2070). The opening uncommitted funds available were

\$32,484. After disbursements and accounts payable totaling \$1,527,67, the closing available checking balance is \$30,911.33. 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 moved and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the 2023 Q3 quarterly report. Revenue for the quarter was \$4,064.57 and expenses were \$3,080.94. The motion passed 6-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach

1. The July 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - September 27, 2023 (4th Wednesday, 4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

1. The September 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, September 26, 2023 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space

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

Economic Development and Zoning

1. The June 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in support of a request for a Special Exception pursuant to Subtitle H § 1107.1(e)(2) and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the matter-of-right uses of Subtitle H § 1103 to construct a side and rear addition, and permit a fast food establishment use, to an existing, attached, two-story commercial building in the NC-14 zone at 1244/1246 H Street NE (BZA #20960). The motion passed 6-0.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to BZA in support of a request for a Special Exception pursuant to Subtitle C § 703.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the minimum vehicle parking requirements of Subtitle C § 701 to construct a new, attached, six-story with roof deck, 30-unit, mixed use building in the NC-15 zone at 1371/1375 H Street NE (BZA #20967). Christopher Martin noted that this is the site of Atlas Doghouse and a year ago the applicants submitted an initial request to incorporate 1365 H Street which was not accepted. They have now worked with neighbors and Atlas Doghouse to present a new plan for a facility with high standards of cleanliness and a five floor, 30-unit building on top of that. The unit sizes are increased to appeal to families and there are several environmentally friendly changes incorporated into the new design. The property is unable to provide the required parking because of access limitations but is well served by mass transit and neighborhood amenities. The applicant will include a transportation demand management plan approved by DDOT at least 30 days prior to the public hearing and the requested relief will not adversely affect surrounding areas. Atlas will be

enclosed and soundproofed and produce no noise or odor objectionable to nearby properties and animal waste will be placed in closed, qualified waste disposal containers to be collected at least weekly. The letter will be amended to include 609.1A special exception for dog use porting. The motion passed 6-0.

4. Commissioner Moilanen moved and Commissioner Roberta Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to BZA in support in support of a request for a special exception 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 two-story with cellar, rear addition, to an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit in the RF-1 zone at 314 9th Street NE (BZA #20947). The homeowners are asking for support for a two-story rear addition; currently there is an existing rear deck which will be removed and built over. The only relief being asked for is for a fifteen-foot addition; it is well below occupancy percentage. The goal is to fit another bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen. There is very little impact in the sun study between the proposed plan and the matter of right, most of which is in the yard. Several letters of support from neighbors including the two adjacent. The motion passed 6-0.
5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, September 20, 2023 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Keya Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) in support of Eastern High School's proposal for their annual homecoming parade on Friday, November 3, 2023. Eastern High School is proposing having the parade before the game on Friday rather than on Saturday; November 3, 2023 is the day the homecoming game takes place and it is the school's 100th anniversary. There is no school that day, hoping to increase attendance. The motion passed 6-0.

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) is ready for the H Street festival this Saturday and reminded community members of road closures. The Commissioner reflected on and urged the need for intentional racial justice work, especially as this festival is an event in a historically Black neighborhood.

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) praised Margaret Charles, the Department of Health (DOH) rodent inspector, for working diligently on the rodent problem in 6A03. The Commissioner met with a vacant properties inspector and got a great response on several infractions at 1100 F Street NE, which has been reclassified as blighted. The Commissioner also recognized Colin Hall, the new commander for the Metropolitan Police Department First District (MPD 1D) who has been responsive to the neighborhood on several issues including safety and noise violations.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) recognized Colin Hall and attended National Night Out as well as two safety walks and highly recommends the community walks to meet MPD and public safety team officials - there is one coming up this Friday starting in Lincoln Park, followed by the new Spiderman movie at 8:00 pm. The Commissioner was able

to support the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) block closure at Maury Elementary School for children to practice safe bike riding. There are now six speed humps behind Eastern High School and a 20 mph sign on East Capitol Street. President Biden and Jill Biden visited Eliot-Hine Middle School and shook all the students' hands on the first day of school.

Commissioner Dave Wethington (6A05) is grateful for the support of Chair Gove and outgoing commissioner Laura Gentile and for the warm welcome of the Commission. The Commissioner has introduced himself to the community and participated in a safety walk and encourages community members to join the safety walk this Friday.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) is learning about ANC best practices, especially Adams Morgan nightlife practices, hoping to bring that expertise and racially equitable practices to H Street NE, a historically Black neighborhood. There was unfortunately a break-in at a new business, but the Commissioner is looking forward to this weekend's H Street Festival which will be a fantastic opportunity to learn about and support the area's small and local businesses. The Friends of the Street Car is hosting a discussion on October 18, 2023 and community members can RSVP here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb6oT9Ap4Xhyf6gsRfolsJR0H_RWbKnTOjuB-6sd0ORcOkDw/viewform?pli=1 The Commissioner is now able to participate in the safety walk tomorrow and looks forward to seeing fellow Commissioners and community members there.

Commissioner Moilanen (6A07) is excited for the safety walk and movie tomorrow. There will be a 10th Street NE block party on the 200 block on Saturday September 30, 2023 and a celebration of the late Mr. Outlaw as well as a community service activity in the morning in his honor. The Commissioner is grateful for the years-long commitment to school modernization across the city, especially as his son has just started at School within School @ Goding (SWS) and recognizes there is still work to be done.

Community Comment

Ward 6 representative of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) Jake Stolzenberg also highly recommends the safety walk and Spiderman movie tomorrow and noted several upcoming events: Mayor Bowser is hosting the National Maternal and Infant Health Summit as well as 202 Creates, highlighting the creative community; Hispanic Heritage Month starts tomorrow and it is currently theater week. For more information about any of these events, Mr. Stolzenberg can be reached at [jake.stolzenberg\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:jake.stolzenberg[at]dc.gov) or (202) 341-3659. A curfew was implemented earlier this month for those under 17 years of age. Parents of schoolchildren should visit www.backtoschool.dc.gov to learn about programs across the city. Mr. Stolzenberg will be doing community walks again and Commissioners should reach out if they would like a mayor's representative to attend any event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.