



Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

June 13, 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

Held Over Zoom June 13, 2023

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Chair Edward Stillwell Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Participating: Commissioners Avery, D'Andrea, Jayaraman, LaFortune, Mareino, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe.

Absent: Commissioner Durkit.

1. Meeting Agenda.

At Commissioner Jayaraman's request, the motion to ask the ABC Board to extend the deadline on Extreme Pizza's entertainment-endorsement application was moved to the Consent Agenda. At Commissioner Ryder's request, DDOT's presentation on the 8th Street Bus Priority Project was moved to the first item under the report of the Transportation Committee. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioner LaFortune did not vote.

2. Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioner LaFortune did not vote. Items on the Consent Agenda included approval of--

- a. Minutes, as presented, of the May ANC 6B meeting.
- b. Appointment of John Schwab as ANC 6B03 Alternate Resident Member of the Task Force on Public Parks & Recreation Spaces.
- c. Committee recommendations.
 - 1) Alcohol Beverage Control Committee: recommendation that the ANC support the National Democratic Club's request for amendments to the existing Settlement Agreement (ABCA-000793). The new settlement agreement, complete with a signature from NDC's manager, is linked to these minutes.

2) Planning and Zoning Committee: recommendation that the ANC support Melissa Boyette's Board of Zoning Adjustment application, on behalf of Gregory and Christine Hein, to build a two-story rear addition and roof deck to 202 10th St., SE, an existing attached two-story structure with basement, all in the RF-1 zone (Square 969, Lot 22, BZA 20954).

3) Public Safety Committee: recommendation that the ANC urge the DC Council promptly to investigate the failures of the 9-1-1 system, either by a taskforce or by a special subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety.

3. Presentation of Richard Reyes-Gavilan, DC Public Library Executive Director.

DC Public Library Executive Director Richard Reyes-Gavilan gave a presentation about renovation of the Southeast library. He had the assistance of Martha Saccocio, library director of community engagement, and Jaspreet Pahwa, library director of capital projects.

a. Timing. For closing the Southeast branch, the library still targets this summer. But Reyes-Gavilan admitted he wouldn't bet his "life savings" on it. Before having a specific closing date, Reyes-Gavilan refused to notify current Southeast library patrons of the library's pending closing. He plans to announce the closing date at a community meeting he expects to hold 6 weeks before the branch closes. After the building closes, construction would begin 6-8 weeks later.

b. Interim services. Reyes-Gavilan urged all Southeast library patrons, during the years the Southeast branch is closed, to plan using the Northeast branch, which he insisted is only 0.7 miles from the Southeast branch. He did report that the DC Council has allocated \$191,000 for interim library services at the Arthur Capper Recreation Center, 1000 5th St., SE. But at Arthur Capper he would only commit to having a printer--not necessarily a copier or scanner; a laptop "vending machine," though he wouldn't commit to any minimum number of laptops; and two "digital navigators," but no regular library staff. Asked why he couldn't send current Southeast library staff to Arthur Capper, he claimed they'll have "other places to go," and that "digital navigators" are better than regular library staff anyway. He also complained that the new library budget cuts 20 staff positions, though he didn't claim those positions are currently filled. He also warned that, because the fiscal year starts October 1, and because the library will need months after that to make Arthur Capper suitable for interim services, Arthur Capper will have no library services until January 2024. Even then, he wouldn't commit to having services at Arthur Capper for any particular days of the week or hours in a day. He also wouldn't commit to making Arthur Capper a place library patrons can pick up or return library books. He blamed the "technical limits" of an "integrated library system." As an alternative, asked about expanding the library's program of delivering books directly to patrons, he referred to community-engagement director Martha Saccocio, who urged patrons to investigate the library's Center for Accessibility.

c. Renovation logistics. Asked whether the library had yet worked out arrangements with neighboring residents about use of their property during renovations, Reyes-Gavilan claimed he didn't have that information. Asked where construction vehicles will park

during renovations, and whether the sidewalks around the construction site will remain open for pedestrians, he referred to capital-projects director Jaspreet Pahwa. Pahwa pledged to answer those questions at the community meeting several weeks before the library closes. Reyes-Gavilan did promise, before closing the building, to treat the site for rodents.

4. Announcements.

Commissioner Sobelsohn announced Ana Unruh Cohen's resignation as ANC 6B03 Alternate Resident Member of the Task Force on Public Parks & Recreation Spaces. The Mayor's Office of Community Relations Ward Six representative Jake Stolzenberg announced a police-chief virtual town hall June 15. Commissioner D'Andrea announced the Peterbug Matthews Day 5K Race June 17. Commissioner Sroufe announced a meeting, on Thursday, June 29, at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, on the illegal use in ANC 6B of residences as places to operate businesses.

5. Committee and Taskforce Reports.

a. Alcohol Beverage Control Committee. Commissioner Jayaraman, committee chair, reported on his testimony before the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board. Regarding the board's proposed cannabis regulations, Commissioner Jayaraman's testimony raised concerns about the maximum amount of cannabis someone can buy at one time, the licensing of outdoor cannabis gardens, the license-renewal calendar, the lack of a preference for existing establishments and the operation of "equity" preferences, and the proximity of cannabis retailers to schools or recreation centers. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to urge the ABC Board to provide detailed written responses to the points made in Commissioner Jayaraman's testimony. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioner Avery abstained. The committee's written report is linked to these minutes.

b. Planning and Zoning Committee. Commissioner D'Andrea, committee chair, reported the committee's recommendation that the ANC support Melissa Boyette's Historic Preservation application, on behalf of Gregory and Christine Hein, to build a two-story rear addition and roof deck to 202 10th St., SE, an existing attached two-story structure in the RF-1 zone (HPA 23-356). Commissioner D'Andrea reported that the applicant has satisfied all the committee's conditions, in particular that the roof deck would not be visible from the street. Commissioner D'Andrea moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to approve the committee's recommendation. The motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner D'Andrea also reported the formation of a subcommittee to consider a proposal to close a public alley in square 762 in ANC 6B02. The committee's written report is linked to these minutes.

c. Transportation Committee. DC Department of Transportation Planner Andrew Grinberg made a presentation about the Eighth Street SE Bus Priority Project. Part of

Vision Zero--the plan by 2024 to have no serious traffic injuries, and by 2032 to have 75% of DC residents' commuting go by other than automobile--the Eighth Street project is scheduled to begin construction by fall 2024. It will go between East Capitol St. and M St., SE and will include bus-only lanes, traffic-signal priority for buses, and bus queue jumps. Buses will also have cameras to identify cars that violate the bus-only lane, and to support automatically issued tickets.

Commissioner LaFortune announced that, on June 14, Watkins Elementary School will host a public meeting on the Better Bus Network. Commissioner LaFortune moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded for the ANC to urge WMATA to maintain the full connectivity of the current 96 bus route in its Visionary Network map. The motion passed 8-0. The text of the motion is linked to these minutes, as is the written report of the Transportation Committee.

d. Southeast Library Task Force. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to urge the DC library system, during the years the Southeast branch is closed, to make books available to borrow and return at Arthur Capper Recreation Center, with copies of the resolution to go to members of the DC Council. The motion passed 8-0. The text of minutes for the most recent library taskforce meetings is linked to these minutes.

e. Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force. Commissioner Sroufe, taskforce chair, announced that he has appointed Eileen Dougherty vice-chair of the taskforce, and that the taskforce will meet on June 20.

f. Public Safety Committee. Lisa Matsumoto, committee chair, reported on the committee's discussion of and resolution on the city 9-1-1 system. A report of the June 12 committee meeting is linked to these minutes.

g. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Sroufe announced that the EMCAC Strategic Planning Committee will meet soon.

6. Treasurer's Report. The monthly financial report is linked to these minutes.

7. Administrative Matters.

Commissioner Ryder announced that work proceeds on the search for administrative support.

8. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Ryder moved to adjourn. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.