



**Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6B**

**May 9, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

Held Over Zoom May 9, 2023

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Chair Edward Stillwell Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

1. Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Durkit seconded to amend the proposed agenda to make the National Democratic Club's application for a modification of its settlement agreement the first item under the report of the Alcohol Beverage Control Committee, and to rename that committee the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee. Commissioner Sobelsohn raised a point of order regarding the timeliness of a motion to rename the committee. Without a ruling on the point of order, the motion to amend the agenda passed 8-0. Commissioner Sobelsohn abstained. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Avery seconded to amend the proposed agenda to delete his nomination of John Schwab to the Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force, and to add approval of the April minutes to the Consent Agenda. The motion to amend passed 9-0. Commissioner Jayaraman moved/ Commissioner Durkit seconded to approve the agenda as modified. The motion passed 9-0.

2. Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Avery seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. The motion passed 9-0. Items on the Consent Agenda included approval, from the--

a. Alcohol Beverage Control Committee: of applications of--

1) Lola's, LLC, t/a Lola's, 711 8<sup>th</sup> St., SE, for an entertainment endorsement to its Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License (ABCA-086141).

2) Mason & Greens DC, LLC, t/a Mason & Greens, 400 8<sup>th</sup> St., SE, for a Retailer's Class "B" Full-Service Grocery Store license (ABCA-123414).

b. Planning & Zoning Committee: approval of the application of Jennifer Fowler, architect for Jared Bomberg and Marita Starr, to

build a rear-deck addition to an existing attached two-story dwelling unit at 706 15<sup>th</sup> St., SE (Square 1077, Lot 95, RF-1 zone, BZA 20905).

### 3. Presentations.

a. Interim Director Shirley Kwan-Hui of the DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP) spoke about Mayor Muriel Bowser's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The budget proposes spending \$19.78 billion in "gross funds," which includes \$10.68 billion in "local funds," \$41.773 million for DLCP itself, and \$10 million added to funds already allocated for renovation of ANC 6B's Southeast branch of the DC Public Library. Commissioner LaFortune noted that Interim Director Kwan-Hui can collect a salary as interim director for only 180 days after the effective date of her appointment.

b. Alyce McFarland spoke on behalf of the Education and Community Outreach team of the DC Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA). The OTA helps all DC tenants, from application through eviction, and manages a tenant hotline, 202-719-6560.

### 4. Announcements.

Kimberly Kennedy, representing Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen, announced introduction of the Helping Small Business Recover and Thrive Act and the Fair Meals Delivery Act.

Commissioner LaFortune announced that, under the new Pennsylvania Avenue reconfiguration, cars can park in the bus lanes except during rush hour towards the Capitol in the morning and away from the Capitol in the afternoon.

Commissioner Avery announced that, on Monday, May 8, the ANC issued a Request for Proposals for administrative services, requesting responses by May 23.

Commissioner Sobelsohn announced that an unveiling of new street signs for Navy Place (the former Ellen Wilson Place) will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> St., SE, between G & I Streets, SE, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 11; and that Anacostia Park, at Anacostia Drive and Good Hope Road, SE, will host the Anacostia River Festival from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 20.

Commissioner D'Andrea announced that Guerrilla Gardeners will sponsor a walk Saturday, May 13, along Virginia Avenue, SE, from 3<sup>d</sup> St. to 7<sup>th</sup> St., SE, then along I St., SE, to Potomac Ave. at 13<sup>th</sup> St., SE, to Potomac Circle, ending with free live music in Potomac Triangle Park, Potomac Ave. at 13<sup>th</sup> St., SE from 5-7 p.m.

Commissioner Sroufe announced that, on Friday, May 19, Eastern Market will commemorate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and that, on May 23, the ANC's Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force will hold a planning meeting.

## 5. Committee and Task Force Reports.

a. Alcohol Beverage Control Committee. Commissioner Jayaraman, committee chair, chaired this portion of the ANC meeting. A copy of the committee's May report is linked to these minutes.

### 1) Applications of--

a) National Democratic Club, 30 Ivy St., SE (ABCA-000793). Club manager Zac Hoffman presented the NDC's application to amend its existing settlement agreement to extend its hours to sell alcohol, to include 7-2 a.m. Sundays-Thursdays and 7-3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Commissioner Avery moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to table the application's consideration until the June ANC meeting, to give NDC additional time to consult with its neighbors. The motion passed 9-0.

b) I Egg You CH, LLC t/a I Egg You, 517 8<sup>th</sup> St., SE, application for a new Retailer's Class "C" restaurant license (ABCA-124054). The ANC 6B Alcohol Beverage Control Committee recommended protesting the application to provide time to negotiate a settlement agreement. Committee Chair Commissioner Jayaraman reported I Egg You's counsel's agreement with that recommendation. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to accept the committee's recommendation and to designate Commissioner Jayaraman to specify protest grounds and to represent ANC 6B on this application before the Alcohol Beverage Cannabis Board. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioners Ryder and Avery abstained.

### 2) Expanding Jurisdictions to Cover Cannabis.

Commissioner Jayaraman announced a virtual hearing at 10:30 a.m. June 7 by the newly renamed Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis Administration to consider proposed cannabis licensing and regulation. Commissioner Sobelsohn proposed discussing, at the ANC's June meeting, renaming the ANC 6B ABC committee to include cannabis. Commissioners Mareino and LaFortune proposed holding a special community meeting to discuss cannabis regulation.

b. Planning and Zoning Committee. Commissioner D’Andrea, committee chair, chaired this portion of the ANC meeting. A copy of the committee’s May report is linked to these minutes.

1) Project at 235 12<sup>th</sup> St., SE (RF-1 zone, HPA 23-286). This application, currently before the Historic Preservation Review Board, requests approval to add a third floor and roof deck to a current two-story rowhouse, and to add a second story--to be used as an office or artist’s studio--to an existing detached garage. The committee recommended support for the application. Jennifer Xu and Jeremy Kittrell represented owners Amit Singh and Tomas Vassar. They presented results of a “flag test” on the roof, showing the invisibility of the proposed third floor as viewed from across the street, and a new design for the garage addition, showing that it no longer will include a full bathroom, making it difficult ever to serve as a residence. They also reported that DC Historic Preservation will conduct its own “flag test” on May 11. Commissioner D’Andrea reported that the Capitol Hill Restoration Society supports the application. In response to objections raised by adjoining resident Abbott McCartney, Kittrell agreed that, if the HPRB approves using brick for the garage’s addition, the developers will use it. Commissioner Durkit moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to support the application. The motion passed 9-0.

2) Alley Closing in Square 762, between 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Streets, SE, and between Pennsylvania Ave. and C Streets, SE. This is a proposal to close the northeast portion of a current alley system in Square 762, abutting lots 823, 842, and 843, in order to create a private court. Commissioner Sobelsohn suggested that, when an applicant proposes converting currently public space to private use, the ANC insist on an enforceable agreement to provide specific community benefits in exchange for the conversion. Commissioner D’Andrea reported that the applicant has agreed to postpone consideration of the matter until the ANC’s June meeting, pending further discussion of the proposal with the applicant.

c. Transportation Committee. Commissioner LaFortune, committee chair, chaired this portion of the meeting. A copy of the committee’s May report is linked to these minutes. Commissioner LaFortune reported that, by May 9, the DC Department of Transportation will have already posted the signage it’s going to post regarding the reconfiguration of Pennsylvania Ave., SE, to include bicycle and bus lanes.

d. Southeast Library Task Force. Commissioner Sobelsohn reported on the April 13 budget hearing of the DC Council’s Committee on Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs. Six ANC commissioners, including Commissioners D’Andrea, Sobelsohn, Durkit, and Mareino, plus commissioners from Wards 7 and 8 and members of the ANC taskforce, all testified at the hearing. Current options include buying a bookmobile, available for about \$75,000; renting the former DC COVID-19 space at 507 8<sup>th</sup> St., SE, for which the owner wants rent of \$20,000 per month; and using currently vacant rooms at the Arthur Capper Recreation Center, 1000 5<sup>th</sup> St., SE. Since the city already owns the recreation center and would not have to pay rent, since the recreation center is actually in Ward 8, and since the Council committee chair also represents Ward 8, the recreation center is a leading candidate. Minutes from the April 23 and May 7 taskforce meetings are linked to these minutes.

e. Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force. Committee chair Commissioner Sroufe reported that the taskforce will hold its initial meeting in person on the second floor of 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, on May 23 at 7 p.m.

f. Committee on Public Safety. Committee Chair Lisa Matsumoto cancelled the committee's April meeting. The committee will next meet on May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

g. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Sroufe reported that the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee is working on a strategic plan, to include new signage and a security system.

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

7. Administrative Matters.

Commissioner Ryder led a brief discussion of the option of holding hybrid meetings, for which commissioners would meet in person but participants would also have the option of meeting virtually. No one on the ANC could identify any guidance on this issue from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

8. Adjournment. Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to adjourn. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.