



APPROVED Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

May 14, 2024

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 14, 2024

Held In Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and Over Zoom

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Participating: Commissioners Avery, D’Andrea, Durkit, LaFortune, Mareino, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe

Absent: Commissioner Jayaraman

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Ryder proposed two changes to the agenda previously proposed: (a) delete item 6)b), “ANC 6B Resolution Supporting DC Legislation on Utility Shutoffs,” & (b) under “9) Planning and Zoning Committee,” reverse sequence of “BZA 21093: 138 E Street, SE” with “Consideration of CBA for Alley Closing in Square 762,” so the CBA item comes first. Commissioner Mareino proposed adding the Congressional Women’s Softball game as new item 6)b). Without objection, the agenda was so modified. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D’Andrea seconded to approve the agenda as modified. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioner Sroufe did not vote.

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D’Andrea seconded to approve the consent agenda as proposed. The motion passed 8-0. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

a. Minutes of the April 8 meeting as presented. Those minutes are linked to these.

b. Committee recommendations. From the--

1) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee: recommending the full ANC support the class A liquor-license renewal applications of--

a) B & O Liquors, Inc., trading as Chat’s Liquors, 503 8th St., SE (with tasting endorsement; ABRA 000200)

b) Wendim Veni, Inc., trading as 8th St. Liquor, 725 8th St., SE (with tasting endorsement; ABRA 125007)

c) Hayden’s Inc., 700 North Carolina Ave., SE (ABRA-000437)

d) RMG, Inc., trading as World Wine and Spirits, 1453 Pennsylvania Ave., SE (with tasting endorsement; ABRA-094605)

e) Ventura, Inc., trading as Albert's Liquors, 328 Kentucky Ave., SE (ABRA-077335)

f) NAI Saturn Eastern, LLC, trading as Safeway, 415 14th St., SE (ABRA 097707)

2) Transportation Committee: recommending the full ANC send letters to--

a) The District Department of Transportation (DDOT): the letters would--

1-- Share residents' comments on two Vision Zero projects, the--

a-- 13th Street/Independence Avenue/Kentucky Avenue Vision Zero Hardening Project (NOI-24-96-TESD) and--

b-- 15th Street and Kentucky Avenue Vision Zero Hardening Project (NOI-24-105-TESD).

The letter is to be drafted by committee chair Commissioner LaFortune.

2-- Urge DDOT to explore improving pedestrian safety by recalibrating the traffic light at the corner of 7th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., SE.

b) Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen urging the DC Council to explore ways, with-out expanding the program to national companies, to expand the eBike "Authorized Vendor List" to include locally owned retailers such as BikeWerks, the letter to be drafted by committee chair Commissioner LaFortune.

3) Planning and Zoning Committee: to send letter of support to the Historic Preservation Review Board regarding two applications in the RF-1 zone; from--

a) Gregorie Holeyman, to build a two-story side addition to an existing semi-detached rowhouse at 816 G Street, SE (HPA 24-209).

b) Jennifer Fowler, to build a second-story addition to an existing detached accessory garage on the same property as an existing attached, three-story principal dwelling at 138 E Street, SE (HPA 24-237).

c. Fiscal Year 2024 Second Quarter Financial Report. The report is linked to these minutes.

3. Announcements: from--

a. Commissioners.

1) Commissioner Mareino announced that--

a) The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has proposed renovating the fields at the Watkins Elementary School, 420 12th St., SE, fields DPR controls, and expects a formal Notice of Intent soon. Commissioner Mareino also reported that the fence around the basketball court has fallen down, and that the Department of General Services admits it rushed a previous repair. Neighbors should send comments to DPR, Commissioner Mareino (6b07@anc.dc.gov), or Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen (callen@dccouncil.gov).

b) Guerrilla Gardeners has spent hundreds of hours cleaning up the triangle parks on Kentucky Ave., SE.

2) Commissioner Ryder announced--

a) Guerrilla Gardeners have also cleaned up two parks in his district.

b) ANC 6B will next meeting at 7 p.m. June 11. Before then, committees and taskforces will meet as follows:

1-- May 20 at 6:30 p.m.: Public Safety Committee.

2-- May 28 at 7 p.m.: Executive Committee.

3-- June 3 at 6:30 p.m.: Southeast Library Task Force.

4-- June 4 at 7 p.m.: Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee.

5-- June 5 at 7 p.m.: Transportation Committee.

6-- June 6 at 7 p.m.: Planning and Zoning Committee

3) Commissioner D'Andrea announced that, following a walk on 11th Street, SE, with Councilmember Allen and representatives of DDOT, Commissioners D'Andrea, LaFortune, and Ryder, have prepared a list about the 11th Street corridor's safety, a list the Transportation Committee will consider at its June meeting with the aim of sending it to DDOT.

b. Others in DC government: from the--

1) Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services: Jake Stolzenberg reported the opening of a new government-services hub in Anacostia, along with the current hub on H Street, NW, in Chinatown, where residents can meet with staff for various departments, such as the Department of Human Services. He invited DC residents to review the mayor's proposed fiscal-year 2025 budget at budget.dc.gov.

2) Councilmember Allen's office: Kimberly Kennedy announced an appropriation of \$100,000 for managing the Eastern Market Metro Plaza, including its playground.

4. Other ANC Concerns.

a. Gasoline tax. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to urge the DC Council to consider raising the gasoline tax to fund the DC Circulator and other transit and pedestrian infrastructure. The motion passed 8-0.

b. Congressional Women's Softball Game. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded for Commissioner Mareino to write and for the ANC to send DPR a letter endorsing the Congressional Women's Softball game, scheduled for 5:30-9 p.m. June 26 at the Watkins Recreation Center, 420 12th St., SE. Representing the softball game's organizers, Atalie Ebersole promised that the organizers will make sure that pedestrians have access during the game to sidewalks on both sides of 12th Street, and that tickets will both encourage attendees to use Metrorail and specify that Potomac Avenue is the closest station. She also noted that organizers have scheduled the game when school won't be in session, to avoid any effect on parents' dropping off or picking up children at the nearby Watkins Elementary School. The motion passed 8-0. Tickets are \$11.54 and can be purchased at congwomensoftball.org.

5. Reports of Committees and Taskforces.

a. Planning and Zoning Committee.

1) Alley Closing in Square 762. Commissioner D'Andrea moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to approve a resolution to support the application of Clear Plains, LLC, to close a portion of the alley system in Square 762 (S.O. File No. 23-01974), based on a community-benefits agreement reached between the applicant, Clear Plains, LLC, and the committee; to send the resolution along with a letter and the community-benefits agreement text to the Office of the DC Surveyor, with copies to Ward Six Councilmember Allen and Clear Plains; and to urge that Councilmember Allen ensure that any legislation approving the alley closing include the terms of that agreement. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to amend the motion to delete, from the community-benefits agreement, article II, section 3, which would have committed "a representative of the ANC," until "the DC Council votes to approve or reject the alley closing," to "periodically contact DC's Ward Six Councilmember to urge Council approval of the alley closing." The motion to amend the motion passed 8-0. The underlying motion passed 5-1, with Commissioner Avery opposed and Commissioners Durkit and LaFortune abstaining. The resolution, and the community-benefits agreement, as modified, are linked to these minutes.

2) Project at 138 E Street, SE. Commissioner D'Andrea moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to support Jennifer Fowler's application, before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA 21093), to build a second-story addition to an existing detached accessory garage on the same property as an existing attached, three-story principal dwelling at 138 E Street, SE. The motion passed 6-0, with Commissioners Avery and Ryder abstaining.

b. Southeast Library Task Force.

1) New member: Commissioner Avery moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to confirm Commissioner Durkit's appointment of Sarah Moore as the taskforce's Resident Member for ANC 6B05. The motion passed 8-0.

2) Letter to DC Public Library. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to send a letter, drafted by Commissioner Sobelsohn, to the director of the DC Public Library, with a copy to Ward Six Councilmember Allen, urging the director to fulfill his promise to consider expanding or shifting hours for the Arthur Capper Recreation Center library facility (which DCPL calls the "Tech Express") to have hours on the weekend and additional weekday evenings. The motion passed 8-0.

3) Minutes of the taskforce's April 25 meeting are linked to these minutes.

c. Other committees. Other May reports of ANC 6B committees are linked to these minutes.

6. Adjournment. Commissioner Ryder moved to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.