

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C  
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 7:00 PM  
WebEx Teleconference  
Minutes - Final

Call to Order at 7:02 pm

Determination of Quorum and Introductions – J. Adelstein, M. Eckenwiler, P. Eguino, T. Goodman, J. Kelty, C. Kwan, L. Merkle present

General Information on Webex Teleconferencing  
Motion to Approve Agenda as corrected 7-0

Approval of May Minutes  
Minutes approved 7-0

Treasurer's Report for May  
No activity, account opened and closed with balance of \$50,631.40. Quarterly Report due end of June.

**Announcements**

1. Commissioner announcements – T. Goodman reports FY'24 budget includes funds for M Street tunnel traversing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> street, good news for residents *en route* to metro; P. Eguino, June 7 a resident of 360 H Street attacked by 5 juveniles in parking garage, car and wallet stolen, be vigilant; J. Kelty, no announcements; J. Adelstein, reports a rise in crime, car w/o wheels, robbery at 7<sup>th</sup>-Maryland-D, stay aware; L. Merkle, purse snatching at 2<sup>nd</sup> and F; C. Kwan, DDOT updating spring plan - survey for public input; FL Ave safety concerns to be addressed at a special TPS mtg 6/20 with DDOT and Wash Gas Reps attending for all interested residents; DDOT announced plans to repave 600 block K St. beginning June 26 for 2 weeks; M. Eckenwiler, road repair on 4<sup>th</sup> between E and F, June 26, with improved striping.

2. Organizational announcements  
Abraham Diallo, Office of the DDOT Director/Community Engagement Specialist/Ward 6 – introduction and offer to take questions.  
Comm. J. Kelty request for street cleaning on E St to assess a drainage problem.

Jamee Ernst, DDOT Project Manager, NY Ave. Streetscape and Trail Project – with aim to improve pedestrian and bike access along NY Ave from FL Ave to Bladensburg Rd along a 2-mile stretch; more details at a June 28 virtual public meeting.

Comm. T. Goodman requested information about how to get to NY Ave. That information not available. Will not be revealed until June 28 presentation. Public comment due early August.

JR Russ, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (*Not able to join – removed from agenda*)

3. Citizen Comments - Problems/Issues of Concern (up to 2 mins. each)  
**Idriss Bilaal.** 1100 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE 96 yr. old veteran facing problem with parking due to construction and other complications. Currently seeking proper documentation to establish credentials as a disabled veteran. Parking congested throughout neighborhood. Seeking ANC assistance.

Commissioner Discussion - ME: Is this Ward 5 or 6. TG: Council working to adjust RPP. ME: is this legal parking. No, often not. CK: It's a border neighborhood between 1 & 7; please send address for follow up after meeting.

**Ben Schweitzer.** What can be done about crime? Raising awareness of robbery at gunpoint, 5<sup>th</sup> & L in broad daylight, is there any benefit to the mayor's video surveillance grant program?

Commissioner Discussion – ME: video camera subsidy program still in place, Councilmember Allen planning to extend the program. JK: possibility that cameras will be extended to commercial properties, putting grant information in chat, happy to speak further offline and share extensive experience, but of little effect w/o a locally accountable prosecutor interested in advocating for citizens of the city. CK: two robberies recently in L Street followed by request for more police presence. JA: Jen DeMayo posted a link for rebate program in chat.

**Shad Gohn.** Resident, concerns with 1165 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE illegal rooftop structure; owner seeking another permit but no action after two decades dilapidated state, can ANC appeal Board's decisions on modifications?

Commissioner Discussion – ME: depends on scope/scale of modifications. TG: frustrating case, property owner gets permits and then does not act on them. JK: suggest ANC send letter to DoB, consider for next month's meeting.

## **Consent Calendar**

No items

## **Plenary Agenda**

*Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee* (Tony Goodman on behalf of Drew Courtney, Chair)

1. Chop Shop DC/Nice N Easy (stipulated license)

Two store fronts: Chop Shop DC carry out and Nice N Easy bar on Congress St. No residents immediately near, future apartment building on 3<sup>rd</sup> St NE.

### Commissioner Discussion

JK: preferable that this go through ABL committee first; all license petitions treated the same. Is this out of order because of a timing issue.

TG: Chair Courtney suggested moving ahead to the full ANC with stipulated license as the ABL committee not meeting in July – this is a temporary license pending a committee hearing.

JK: has applicant agreed to 6C standard Settlement Agreement terms. TG: will confirm.

Designer Liz Clark and applicant Charlie Stockton available for questions/presentation.

ME: What hours are you proposing? Owner: 8/11:30am-3-4am(?)

JK: 6C standard Settlement Agreement stipulates 2am cut-off for all business. Owner: 2am fine.

JK: will there be hookah? Owner: No.

CK: will there be loading of food and beverage on Congress St. Owner: M-T between 6:30-8:30am or late at night on Congress and we have partnership with garage.

CK: Because it is an alleyway, request special vigilance and concern for safety. Owner: there is an alleyway for deliveries, will exercise caution.

TG/ME: Motion to support the stipulated license; JK: the owners should go through the committee;

ME: the permanent license will go through the committee. Motion as discussed and modified carries 7-0.

*Transportation and Public Space Committee* (Mark Kazmierczak on behalf of Michael Upright, Chair)

1. 8<sup>th</sup>/H St. NE Bus Priority Project – from 3<sup>rd</sup> St up through starburst intersection, DDOT turning outer lanes into 24 hr transit lanes, increased safety but some trade-offs in efficiency, committee largely in

favor of DDOT proposal, no motion at this time from committee but general support. NOI expected this summer, committee intends to submit resolution at that point.

Commissioner Discussion

JA: One lane eastbound/one lane westbound, and no left turns on H Street, rather one must make 3 right turns to head north/south; this has not been well received.

2. 400 H St NE (TOPS #416664) - The Boiling Crab – enclosure for trash, no changes since ANC approval, no action required tonight, ANC letter going out.
3. Capitol Hill Village – Roberta Shapiro survey to report sidewalk issues, i.e., needed repairs, falls, injuries. Appreciate help promoting survey, doing their own site surveys to record needed sidewalk repairs, please send 311 report number to Cap Hill Village.
4. Union Station Expansion Project – New preferred alternative design reviewed at the TPS Committee meeting with a representative from Union Station design team. TPS Committee recommends a letter from the ANC supporting the preferred aspects of the redesign proposal.

Commissioner Discussion

ME: would like to hear more about the extra 15 bus slips, PUDO. CK: Currently room for 39 bus slips, and room for an additional 15 bus slips if they remove some of PUDO, but this should be an extraordinary circumstance, 1-2/year. JA: A hard copy of the document can be read at the northeast public library behind the reference desk. JK: what is a bus slip. CK: a parking stall for a charter bus to on board/drop off passengers. Former commissioner Christine Healey: In addition to Comm. Kwan's explanation, the preferred alternative plan would have fewer bus slips than currently available, and the point of contention concerns the extra 15 slips and when to use them. The charter bus drivers would like the 15 extra slips to be available during Cherry Blossom season, any demonstration or political rally or other peak season, 5-15/year. CK: Working with Design Rep on logistical issues as the Union Station project moves forward. JA: Consulting parties meeting later this month, former Comm. Healey and Comm Adelstein invited as consulting parties.

ME/JA move that commission adopt the committee's recommendations and transmit the proposed letter 7-0.

*Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee (Mark Eckenwiler, Chair)*

1. 504 F St. NE (BZA 20923) – applicant/owners seeking 7 ¾' 3-story rear addition. Architect presentation of the project, shadow study, letter of approval from neighbor at 506. Mr. Bak, 502 F St. protesting the application on the basis of a buildout at rear 500 F St., further the wall of a house on 5<sup>th</sup> St. abuts the end of his property. Vista from rear of his property would be reduced to walls, sun minimal.

Commissioner Discussion JK: Sympathetic, but BZA routinely approves, likely to approve. Tree removal might help, shadow study could inform decision. Architect: the standard is "unduly affected" and we don't believe the addition would unduly affect the neighbor. JA: Agree, the Board is likely to approve, but Mr. Bak gave a very persuasive presentation, have no problem opposing as "our homes are our castles." PE: Why a build-out rather than a 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Architect: Already 3 stories, probably not approved, so we went with a build out. JK: as a compromise perhaps remove the pergola. ME: a minor point. Mr. Bak: agree minor, still opposed.

ME/JK move that the ANC adopt the PZE recommendation to support with the caveat about decking over the trellis.

ME: there are three criteria to be considered: light, air, and privacy; did not see significant impact in this case. PE: I saw significant impact to light. LM: Can we defer on a vote and move to the BZA.

ME: this is an expedited review application, applicant is asking the board to decide on the submissions without a hearing, this is provided for in the regulations. Mr. Bak can apply for party status and the board would be required to set the matter for a hearing so that he can be properly heard

in a public forum. It is important to take action now in order to provide input to the board when it reviews this on the papers at its July 12 meeting. This is a meeting, not a hearing, which would be several months from now. JA: Was the PZE Committee privy to Mr. Bak's concerns when they took their vote. ME: He did not attend the meeting or present, which is why this is on plenary rather than consent.

ME: those in favor of the motion please raise your hand, motion carries 4-3.

2. BASIS DC charter school (non-voting) – plans for new primary school site 300 block I Street NE – questions about transportation impact, trash collection, etc. TG: discussion of new bike lanes in that area, would like to add to next TPS Committee meeting, before too much planning starts in that block.

*Environment, Parks, and Events Committee* (Joe McCann, Chair) No new business

*Grants Committee* (Victoria Lord, Chair) No new business

### **New Business**

1. Proposed letter on Better Bus Network routes – ME: routes 208 and 211 in question. Chair Eckenwiler reviewed draft letter expressing concerns related to routes, specifically routes in violation of DC regulations, environmental/vibrations within historic district, feasibility of navigating narrow streets and tight corners. Running buses long hours into the night in residential neighborhoods, and past schools during pick up/drop off, disruptive and potentially dangerous for pedestrians. Bus routes 208 and 211 seem to be solutions in search of a problem, and do not serve the communities through which they are routed.

TG: Buses should be routed to main routes, and two-way streets. JA: interested to hear what the committee who organized this had to say. JK: I remember buses from 2000 extremely disruptive on 6<sup>th</sup> St, now we have speed bumps; intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and F is a regular crash site. I am not supportive of buses on 6<sup>th</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. CK: thank you for work on letters, and the work by Councilmember Allen. Cannot support letter as is. It sounds like support for transit but not in my neighborhood. PE: I agree with Commissioner Kwan. JK: We live in a transit-rich community.

ME: Agreed, I chose to buy a house where I did, close to Union Station and pretty much a hub for any other mode of transportation I might want to choose, and near Mass Ave and H St, this is not a desert. Neighbors are profoundly in opposition to the routes. We are not in Loudon County, people are not lacking for transit, we are literally 2 blocks or less from being able to get somewhere. If this were really materially improving access, that would be one thing, and we can agree to disagree on this issue.

LM: For years I used only public transportation. But these routes do not make sense to me. Riders trying to get from Fort Totten to Union Station do not want to be on a slow route through the narrow streets of a residential neighborhood to get there, and the neighbors who live there don't need a bus. I thought these buses were free for people who needed to get to work/appointments. TG: DC could not offer free bus fare because VA and MD would not compete. New routes vastly increase bus service in our neighborhood, and I want to be on record supporting that. It would increase the hours and frequency of many of the bus lines in our city on FL Ave on 8<sup>th</sup> St. on N. Cap., on H St., we could have buses going 24/7. That is a large increase in the bus service we are getting and if the compromise for the ANC is we want more service but shift this one line a couple of blocks to the west then I think that's a good trade off because we'd be getting more service. Second St. is a very

busy area. Vast majority of my constituents served directly out their front door by buses heading down 3<sup>rd</sup> to M, then 2<sup>nd</sup> to Union Station.

JA: There is a slight ring of NIMBYism to it. Charles Allen is hosting a town hall tonight. Not sure I can wholly adopt everything in the letter tonight.

ME/JK move that ANC submit to the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment as our testimony our letter with a copy to WMATA.

ME: Comm Adelstein to your point, let me know if there are specifics in the letter we can address.

TG: I recommend 3 paragraphs be stricken. I want to make sure the overall tone of this is "We want more bus service." JK: Do we. TG: I want more bus service. My constituents want bus service. 24 hr bus service is something that would be super useful and having a clear and better way of getting from here to Ivy City would be fantastic, serving the massive growth around NoMa Metro would be great.

PE: Of course, we do. I ride buses all the time. JK: Maybe we should talk about the bus experience.

TG: Better roads, going faster, blinds, electric buses would make it better; but we are only talking about the routing. The council and DDOT are working on other aspects. I'm happy to work on other aspects, such as electrification. LM: For 07, 01, 06 the routes are good it seems. TG: There could be better routing. If we could get on board for 24/7.

ME: All those in favor of the motion, with softened language, 4-3.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm