

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7 pm**  
**WebEx teleconference**

The chair called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Quorum**

A quorum of 6 out of 6 commissioners was present (Mr. Adelstein, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Eckenwiler, Ms. Healey, Mr. Kelty, and Ms. Wirt).

**Introductions**

The ANC 6C commissioners introduced themselves as representatives of their respective Single Member Districts.

**General Information on WebEx Teleconferencing**

Mr. Courtney, who is hosting this teleconference, provided instruction on how audience participants can be recognized to speak.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Wirt made several additions to the agenda: a discussion of H Street NE crime spillover into residential neighborhoods and a vote needed to correct the July ANC 6C minutes. The October agenda, as amended, was approved without objection. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Ms. Healey.

**Approval of the September Minutes**

The draft September minutes were approved unanimously. **Motion:** Ms. Healey/Mr. Eckenwiler. The October minutes, when drafted, will be posted on the website labeled as preliminary until the commissioners formally approve them at the next ANC full-Commission meeting. The procedure allows the public to see the minutes in a timely manner.

Ms. Healey asked for a vote to correct the July minutes showing unanimous approval to authorize the payment of the Hill Rag ads expenditure. The commissioners approved the motion without objection. **Motion:** Ms. Healey/Mr. Kelty.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer presented the ANC 6C report for September. The opening balance on September 1 was \$42,562.55. There was a District allotment of \$8,825.18, which included several quarters, and a National Capitol Bank interest payment of \$1.98. The closing balance on September 30 was \$51,389.71.

The FY22 Q4 report covering July, August, and September was approved unanimously. **Motion:** Mr. Kelty/Ms. Healey.

Ms. Wirt was authorized at the September meeting to secure a smaller Post Office box that costs less than \$216 for six months. She closed the larger box (P.O. Box 77876) and opened a new one (P.O. Box 75604) costing \$108 for six months. The lower cost was approved at the same September meeting.

Mr. Kelty mentioned that he is working with the OANC to provide documentation for two expenses that were rejected resulting in withholding allotments: a \$2,750 grant, Story of Our Schools, made in FY22 Q1 and resulting in withholding the FY22 Q3 allotment; and a \$15.16

reimbursement for website domain name services resulting in withholding the FY22 Q4 allotment.

### **Brief Community Announcements**

1. Commissioner announcements—Mr. Adelstein reminded constituents that ballots will be mailed to residents shortly and summarized the ways to vote. He also announced an October 28 deadline to submit nominations for civil rights awards to the D.C. Human Rights Commission’s Awards Committee. Mr. Courtney announced a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 19, 5:00 pm at the Swampoodle Terrace Park at Third and L Streets N.E. Music and light refreshments will be provided.
2. D.C. Sentencing Commission—Brittany Bunch described the Commission’s mission, which is to implement, monitor, and support the D.C. sentencing guidelines. This includes training, publications, and monthly meetings open to the public attended by the U.S. Attorney for D.C. and MPD.

### **Consent Calendar**

#### *Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABL) Committee (Mr. Steve O’Neal, chair)*

1. Sweet Sweet Kitchen, 500 H Street N.E.—Mr. O’Neal reported that the committee recommends protesting Sweet Sweet Kitchen on all three grounds (effects of the establishment on property values; effects on peace, order, and quiet; and the effects on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety) in order to negotiate a settlement agreement. Mr. Graham Grossman, a member of the ABL Committee, was authorized to represent ANC 6C on all matters pertaining to the application.
2. Vision Lounge, 707 H Street N.E.—The committee recommends protesting this application on the same three grounds, with Mr. Graham Grossman authorized to represent ANC 6C. Mr. O’Neal will coordinate with ANC 6A, as the establishment is located within 6A boundaries as of January 2023. Mr. Kelty mentioned he had checked with D.C. Department of Health officials, who said a tobacco exemption for a hookah bar will not be granted for this establishment due to new legislation banning sales of flavored tobacco.
3. The committee reviewed new renewals for alcoholic beverage service, had no concerns or comments about the renewing establishments, and recommends them for renewal, as follows:  
Wundergarten, 131 M Street N.E.; The Little Grand, 808 7<sup>th</sup> Street N.E.; Laos In Town, 250 K Street NE; Scissors and Scotch, 331 N Street N.E.; Uno Chicago Grill, 50 Massachusetts Ave N.E.; and Columbus Club in Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave, N.E.

#### *Transportation and Public Space Committee (Mr. Upright, chair)*

1. Open Streets Event—DDOT has held Open Streets Events around the District. A community member proposes no traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Florida and M Street N.E. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on a Saturday to be determined. The committee recommends support for this event.
2. Council hearing, Bill 24-433, Rightsizing Residential Parking Permit Parking Regulation Amendment Act—The committee recommends against using ANC boundaries for parking areas and suggests further study to determine how best to implement the bill. Mr. Eckenwiler asked to move this item to the plenary session of this meeting to allow additional discussion.
3. The Boiling Crab, 400 H Street NE—Ms. Wirt asked for an update on negotiations with the owner regarding changing the settlement agreement to accommodate changes in the trash collection area. Mr. Upright reported that he will meet with the proprietor next week.

*Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee* (Mr. Eckenwiler, chair)

1.616 Lexington Place N.E., HPA 22-486—Concept approval for rear and attic additions. Submitted materials were essentially construction drawings, not the materials needed to assess the application. There were no drawings of the front façade and no depiction in the plan of work between the front façade and sidewalk. The committee recommends substantial supplementation is needed to fully disclose the planned work for the front of the house. The committee expressed a desire for the applicant to return at a future date when documentation is complete.

2.401 K Street N.E., BZA 20813—After-the-fact permission for removal of an original rooftop cornice. The applicant claims the work satisfies the special-exception standard (compatibility with the overall character, scale, and pattern of the street front), although the committee believes removal of the cornice detracts from the streetscape. A second applicant claim is that he relied in good faith on the DCRA-issued permit to remove the cornice, which DCRA afterward flagged as illegal. The committee does not support these arguments and recommends opposition. Mr. Eckenwiler asked to be authorized to present testimony as part of the vote on this consent calendar item.

*Environment, Parks, and Events Committee* (Mr. Courtney, chair)

Reservation 315, park at 5<sup>th</sup> and I Streets N.E.—Transfer from National Park Service (NPS) to D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DCPR). It has been two years since the NPS indicated its approval to make this transfer of administration over the park. Mr. Courtney referred to a June 2021 letter one year after ANC 6C requested the transfer. The action lies with the mayor's office to request the transfer. The committee recommends a letter to the Mayor, NPS, and DCPR, with copies to Eleanor Holmes Norton and Council Member Charles Allen.

The commissioners voted unanimously to support the consent calendar. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Eckenwiler.

### **Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development, plenary session**

601 Massachusetts Avenue N.E., HPA 22-485—Concept approval to convert a one-story building, currently a dry cleaner, to a three-story building. Shortly before the committee meeting the applicant advised the committee chair that the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) has determined the structure to be noncontributing. As a result, the applicant plans to revise the application and appear in November to present plans for a raze and a new building on the site. The sense of the committee is that the original design was dull, unimaginative, and unsuitable for this highly visible corner lot. If the applicant does not seek appropriate adjustments and HPO does not accept ANC input, the committee recommends opposition. The commissioners voted unanimously to support the committee recommendations. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Kelty.

### **Transportation and Public Space Committee, plenary session**

Council hearing, Bill 24-433, Rightsizing Residential Parking Permit Parking Regulation Amendment Act—Mr. Eckenwiler clarified his position because the meeting scheduling conflict this month prevented him from attending the discussion of this bill at the committee. He stated the current parking zones are too large, and moving to smaller zones is the right approach. He recommends against using ANC boundaries, as they are political boundaries and change every 10 years. For the RPP system, small is good. He also suggests that DDOT should clarify the goal of the guidelines. He asked to be authorized to present testimony as part of the vote. The

commissioners voted unanimously to approve these recommendations. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/ Mr. Courtney.

### **Environment, Parks, and Events Committee, plenary session**

Update on NoMa Parks projects and future plans—With Swampoodle Terrace Park opening soon, the \$50 million designated for parks in NoMa has been spent. The new contact for NoMa parks is Brad Smith, director of planning and economic development at the NoMa BID. NoMa BID will continue to maintain these parks, and DCPR will be responsible for structural work. Mr. Courtney expressed gratitude for the new parks and noted that there is a small kitchen area with a cupboard in Swampoodle Terrace for events, and NoMa BID has the key. He also recommended forming a Friends of the Park for this park.

### **New Business**

Discussion of H Street crime spillover into residential neighborhoods, Mr. Kelty and Mr. McCann—A summary of recent events was given, including four instances of gun use in the past six weeks, armed guards posted at H Street businesses, and gifting cannabis, with customers coming from Virginia and Maryland to obtain cannabis. Also noted were an increase in public disturbance complaints, violent crime, and property crime (stolen tires), and a lack of police presence. The discussion that followed, with input from a number of residents who were attending the meeting underscored the need for D.C. leaders to take action, in light of possible juvenile gang activity, schools close by, and residents not feeling safe going out at night. A number of families have left the Hill because of the crime situation.

A camera at 6<sup>th</sup> and L Streets is not working properly and needs attention. (Charles Allen subsequently requested MPD attention to the camera.) The MPD home camera rebate program was mentioned as a deterrent available to residents. Other street cameras could be needed.

Ms. Wirt read an email from Council Member Charles Allen calling for action from MPD similar to its successful program along the U Street Corridor.

Potential actions were suggested, including improvement in prosecution of crimes by the U.S. Attorney for D.C. and a multi-agency, multiple tool approach. It was decided that identifying specific solutions is not the residents' job, rather a letter to D.C. leadership is needed to address the situation and express the urgency of the concerns. The commissioners voted unanimously to send a letter to the Mayor and the D.C. Council urging immediate action. **Motion:** Mr. Kelty/Mr. Eckenwiler. Mr. McCann and Mr. Kelty will draft the letter and circulate it among commissioners for comment.

Hearing no additional business, the chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm.