

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Chris Hart, (Chair), ANC 6E01
Kevin Rogers, ANC 6E03
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E04
Ahmad Abu-Khalaf, (Secretary), ANC 6E05
Dale Prince, ANC 6E08
Ritanch Hans, (Vice Chair), ANC 6E09

Absent:

George Viedma, ANC 6E02
Dylan Forest, ANC 6E06
Davina Carson, (Treasurer), ANC 6E07

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Chris Hart with a quorum of 6 out of 9 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to approve the Minutes of the April 18, 2024 and May 1, 2024 ANC 6E Virtual Public Meetings as submitted. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Blackson).

4. MAYOR'S FY25 BUDGET PRESENTATION – DIRECTOR HEATHER McGAFFIN, OFFICE OF UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

*PowerPoint presentation provided and uploaded to ANC 6E website.

Highlights:

- o State of the District is strong – Crime is down.
- o This year's budget realities: Significantly increasing costs; Expiring one-time Federal funds; Slowing growth in revenues.

- Focus: Investments in **Public Safety** (Maintaining a Strong MPD, Supporting Rehabilitation and Reentry, Creating Public Safety Career Pathways, Preserving Investments in Prevention, Improving Readiness, Response, and Resilience); **Downtown** (Fill the Space, Change the Space, Bring the People); **Education** (Accelerating Learning, Building a Teacher Oasis, Ensuring Youth Safety and Well-Being, Reimagining High School, Creating Pathways to Family – Sustaining Careers).
- FY 2025-FY 2030 Proposed Capital Investments in Housing & Economic Development, Learning & Recreation, Transportation & Environment).

Q&A

- Commissioner Hart raised constituent concerns about 911 response times. Ms. McGaffin responded they have revamped their training program so that it is aligning with national standards and best practices. A Prospect Day has been implemented where people are brought in one time for pre-hiring test, interviewed on site, and background checks and psychological checks are done. We have 28 call taker vacancies and have 23 people starting.
- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked for clarification on next steps for passing the budget. Ms. McGaffin responded the budget goes to the City Council and then tomorrow they will actually take a vote. Then more work will be done and the budget will be adopted in late June. By July, it should be known exactly what the budget will be.
- Commissioner Nigro (ANC 2G) – **(1)** asked if the DC School Connect the same thing as the Safe Passage program. Ms. McGaffin responded DC Connect are the kids who need a ride to school. Safe Passage are the people that are helping kids to cross streets and get to places. **(2)** What's going on with 211? Ms. McGaffin responded Child and Family Services has taken 211 back over. It is still housed here with us at the Office of Unified Communications, but it is run by Child and Family Services, and that is a support line for families.

5. OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY – PRESENTATION ON THE RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN – Dr. Amber Hewitt, Chief Equity Officer

*PowerPoint presentation provided and uploaded to ANC 6E website.

Highlights:

- The Office of Racial Equity (ORE), within the Office of the City Administrator, was established by Mayor Bowser in 2021. It is charged with developing a framework to embed a racial equity lens into the development of government policies, programs and practices.
- A Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) maps out what steps the DC Government will take to reduce inequities and improve life for *all* Washingtonians.
- Racial Equity Action Plan Goals: (1) DC Government staff understand and are committed to achieving racial equity; (2) DC Government is committed to eliminating racial and ethnic inequities; (3) DC Government is committed to meaningfully engaging community in government decision-making processes and strengthening community partnerships; (4) DC Government is an equitable employer and engages in racially equitable hiring, promotion, and retention practices.
- For more information, go to: <https://ore.dc.gov>

Q&A

- Commissioner Hans stated on the ORE website, there is a pop up about signing up for the newsletter but it does not seem to go anywhere. Dr. Hewitt responded she will doublecheck about this and send out an email on how to sign up for the newsletter.

6. UPDATES FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN'S OFFICE
POC: Jeanne Mattison, Constituent Services Coordinator,
jmattison@dccouncil.gov; 202-724-8072

*Previously provided email to be shared with the community.

Highlights:

- Ward 6 Budget Town Hall rescheduled to Thursday, June 6, 2024 at the Northeast Branch Library.
- Cobb Park remains fully funded and on the same schedule. Construction expected to begin later this year.
- June 20, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – Councilmember Allen will hold Confirmation Hearing – new DDOT Director, Sharon Kershbaum.
- June 20, 2024, Councilmember McDuffie will hold a Public Hearing on Councilmember Allen's bill to add Mount Vernon Triangle to the Great Streets Program.
- The community should plan to attend Commissioner Blackson's Public Safety Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at Mount Airy Baptist Church, 1100 Capital Street NW from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Q&A

- Commissioner Nigro asked for assistance in scheduling an appointment with Councilmember Allen to discuss the potential jail at 501 New York Avenue NW.
- Commissioner Hart asked if it is possible to provide written feedback on the Confirmation Hearing for Sharon Kershbaum and was informed to email Kevin Whitfield at k.whitfield@dccouncil.gov.

7. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D (PSAs 101 and 102)
Captain Paul Hrebenak

- Crime stats overall down 50% compared to last year.
- Robberies down 30%.
- Violent Crime overall down significantly.
- Property Crime down as well.
- Did see a slight increase in Thefts from Autos.
- 1 ADW related to persons at the D Street Shelter at 2nd & D Streets.
- Robbery at N. Capital Street – individual on motor scooter was robbed.
- 1 carjacking.
- 1 shooting at Union Station where an individual tracked their stolen motor scooter to the area, confronted a person who then shot at him. Case is still open.
- Trying to get a handle on motor scooter issues. Rolling out training for all MPD officers regarding scooter safety and scooter related issues.

- Continuing bike patrol on 3rd Street, Chinatown, and North Capital Street.

Q&A

- Commissioner Rogers stated he was almost struck by an e-bike riding on the sidewalk on 1st Street and asked aren't e-bikes supposed to ride in the bike lanes. He was informed motor scooters, electric motorcycles, scooters, electric bikes, and bikes are not allowed to ride on the sidewalk.

8. UPDATE FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS) – Marcus Manning, Ward 6 Community Liaison, 202-538-1241, marcus.manning@dc.gov

- On May 20, 2024, the Department of Public Works (DPW) launched its Great Graffiti Wipeout that will take place for eight weeks in the various wards. Report any graffiti by calling 311. Ward 6 is scheduled for July 1, 2024.
- On May 29, 2024, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is hosting their senior festival featuring various vendors, live entertainment, health resources, etc. at UDC, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

9. NOTICE OF INTENT 24-133-TESD – PRESENTATION ON FINAL PLANS FOR NEW JERSEY AVENUE NW BIKE LANES (BETWEEN D STREET AND H STREET) [SMDs 6E07, 6E08]

Representative Present: Will Handsfield, DDOT

Visuals provided. Highlights below:

- This is the fourth segment of the project.
- Looking for opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, improve some of the crossings, reduce some of the vehicle crash risks, and add protected bike lanes.
- Going to have parking on one or both sides of the street.
- Closing all of 1st Street from F Street to New Jersey Avenue. Changing 1st Street to one way northbound from E to F Streets NW.
- Working with Georgetown University Law School.
- Making some changes to G Street NW; making turn restrictions on and off Massachusetts Avenue and vice versa for G Street NW.
- Now have Protected Bike Lanes, have a lot of different pedestrian improvements and signalization improvements, have a new plaza in front of Georgetown Law, and 1st Street is one way northbound.
- Notice of Intent open right now and ends June 15 or 16, 2024.
- Construction starts sometime this summer.

Q&A

- Commissioner Hart asked is the intent that left turns will be allowed from westbound Massachusetts Avenue to southbound New Jersey Avenue because right now that is a no left turn. Mr. Handsfield responded he will doublecheck with his colleagues and follow up.
- Commissioner Nigro (ANC 2G) stated that ANC 6E needs to make sure its constituents know what is going on. Commissioner Hart stated a lot of outreach has been done and 6E will continue to make the NOI available to the community.

[Commissioner Rogers drops from the call].

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Prince seconded that ANC 6E **support** the plans for New Jersey Avenue NW in the DDOT NOI 24-133-TESD with the caveat that the left turn maneuvers from westbound Massachusetts Avenue to southbound New Jersey Avenue are adequately accounted for to ensure appropriate traffic flow and that this be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

10. KING STREET OYSTER BAR, 22 M STREET NE – PUBLIC SPACE PERMIT APPLICATION [SMD 6E05]

Representative Present: Ethan Binghamen

*Visuals provided. Highlights:

- Application is to add an enclosed patio seating area in public space to the east side of the restaurant.
- Site Plan: A portion of it is in private space on the lot and then there is an extension over public space that the applicant is looking to have approved by the Public Space Committee.
- The application is purely looking for an extension of about 11 feet into the public space.

Q&A

- Commissioner Hart asked if the application is in TOPS yet and was informed no, they are working with the owner to get the application filed but today is the deadline for the July meeting.
- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf - **(1)** asked about the extension of the seating and was informed it is just the 11'6" extension into that DC public property and they are maintaining the 12' space as required by Public Space for access up through the site; **(2)** asked whether the applicant talked to the nearby property manager or tenants of and was informed yes, they have worked with the property manager and the engineer.
- Commissioner Prince asked if this is classified as a streetery and whether a fee is incurred. He was informed anything that extends into DC public space will incur a public space occupancy permit and an associated fee. In this case, it is an enclosed sidewalk café.

MOTION: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf moved and Commissioner Prince seconded that ANC 6E support the Public Space Permit Application in 6E05 submitted by King Street Oyster Bar, 22 M Street NE. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

11. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC ART PROJECT (PAST IS PRESENT CALLBOXES) – MULTIPLE LOCATIONS [SMDs 6E01, 6E08]

Representative Present: Mazi Mutafa, Executive Director, Words, Beats and Life, Inc.

- Submitting a proposal for the Public Art Building Community category of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.
- It is a Callbox Project that involves 12 different artists. It will recognize the history of the city by creating Callbox art that pays tribute to different things like people from history.
- Slides presented featuring the individual artwork and the address and the artist.

Q&A

- Commissioner Hart – **(1)** stated slides 1 to 6 are in ANC 6E. He asked whether Mazi is coordinating with the other ANC 6C for the other slides. Mazi responded he will follow up and work with ANC 6C; **(2)** asked what the deadline for the application is and was informed July 20, 2024.
- Commissioner Prince noticed another slide was actually in ANC 2C.

MOTION: Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Hans seconded that ANC 6E provide a letter of support for the Public Art Project for the Callboxes located within ANC 6E support the Public Space Permit Application in 6E05 submitted by King Street Oyster Bar, 22 M Street NE. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

12. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SPACE APPLICATION, 400 BLOCK OF K STREET, NW – Kenyattah Robinson, MVT CID

- Leading with Prather's Porch concept again. This is through Streets for People funding that MVT CID received through the DC Office of Planning. This is a new round of funding that MVT CID received.
- Working to get on the July 25, 2024 DDOT Public Space Committee calendar.
- We are trying to have all these funds deployed by September 30, 2024 which is the end of DC's fiscal year.
- 440 K Street NW – better known as Lyric 440K -- getting funding this round again from the DC Office of Planning through Streets for People Program which is designed to help activate through infrastructure investments.
- Asking for approval for proposed Prather's Plaza with a related public art sculpture to be determined for consideration at the July 25, 2024 Public Space Committee meeting.
- This proposal reflects a continuation in the series of public space interventions within streets, parks, alleys, and sidewalks on or near Square 516.
- Visuals and site plan presented.
- Wants the ANC to look at this as a series of investments that MVT CID has continued to make.
- Project will serve as valuable new pedestrian plaza and amenity to provide even more vibrancy to our sidewalks. It will provide an attractive, secure and not hostile barrier to separate vehicle and pedestrian activity, and the tables and chairs will transform the sidewalk into a plaza space that will serve as a place for conversation, relaxation, dining, cultural place making, in addition to being a nexus for the art activations on a 400 block of K Street NW and Prather's Alley.
- Asking ANC's permission to come back in a month once we have the art finalized.

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded that ANC 6E **support** the Mount Vernon Triangle CID's Public Space Application for Prather's Porch and that that support be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

13. UPDATE ON WEBSITE REVAMP PROJECT – Commissioner Abu-Khalaf

- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf shared the Draft RFP with the commissioners.
- He proposes budgeting up to \$2,000 for revamping the website.
- He also looked at requests for proposals for website design and building projects.
- The RFP would be released in June and would have a window of two months for accepting proposals for website developers. A selection would be made in September and then work on the new website would be completed by the end of the year.
- He added website elements with an emphasis on being user and mobile-friendly and easy for ANC 6E to manage and update.
- He also added that the website developer would be working on moving and adding the content from the old website to the new website.

Q&A

- Commissioner Hart – **(1)** stated he is not sure if the \$2,000 would cover design of the website and the hours needed for moving the content over; **(2)** asked are we hoping to have ongoing support for managing the website or would this be designed and handed over to 6E to keep up the domain name and website security, etc.; **(3)** stated the RFP should be reviewed by OANC legal counsel before it is released.
- Commissioner Prince – **(1)** asked if the website will be designed to be managed by 6E; **(2)** asked what the status of the template is.
- Commissioner Hart stated it looks there are three asks: **(1)** website design; **(2)** transferring the content; and **(3)** potentially webmaster hosting services. The second part is adding some sort of management system.
- Commissioner Hans suggested maybe launching it in January of next year after new commissioners are inducted.
- Joey Lindsay stated he has web development experience and what is needed is a list of elements of the previous site that are not liked and that ANC 6E wants to see changed. If ANC 6E decides to have it hosted externally, it is an ongoing cost.
- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf added that there are a couple of other commission websites that ANC 6E likes and perhaps they can be used as references in the RFP for inspiration for the new structure.

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Hans seconded that ANC 6E reallocate \$4,000 from the Purchase of Service line item to the Communication line item and that we also add \$4,000 from the General Funds line item to the Communication line item for a total of \$8,000 in the Communication line item. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

14. FY 24 Q2 QFR APPROVAL – Commissioner Carson

Tabled.

15. OPEN FORUM

- Commissioner Hart stated the OANC is offering a shared Zoom account and so ANC 6E no longer needs to procure its own individual Zoom account. He is waiting for confirmation from Kent on when that is actually going to be operational but that will be able to come out of 6E's budget.
- Commissioner Blackson stated she has some events coming up: **(1)** Movie Night, June 14, 2024, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Airy Baptist Church; **(2)** Safety Walk, June 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m., 14 M Street NW, instead of the safety meeting that takes place during the day; **(3)** Clothing Swap sometime in June.
- Commissioner Prince stated there is a Safety Walk in Commissioner Carson's SMD on June 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. and will start in front of the Sonesta Hotel.
- Commissioner Nigro (ANC 2G) stated we won our BZA appeal for 501 New York Avenue and so the project is delayed. The Government has two options: **(1)** they can go to the courts and appeal the decision; or **(2)** they can come before ANC 2G and ANC 6E. More to come. Commissioner Hart expressed 6E's appreciation for Commissioner Nigro's efforts.

16. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Blackson moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

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