

General Commission Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Streamed via Zoom & Youtube

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:44 p.m. by Chairperson Holcomb

A moment of silence was held in memory of Mr. John Reeves, a community member who recently passed away, and for Commissioner Edwards' family, who suffered a tragic loss due to gun violence.

The roll was called, and it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Thompson-Wright, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Nelson, Commissioner Ruff, Commissioner Holcomb.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Hayes, Commissioner Edwards (excused), Commissioner Orendoff

2. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the evening's agenda was made by Commissioner Thompson-Wright and seconded by Commissioner Ruff.

The motion passed unanimously with amendments to table the approval of the previous meeting's minutes and bylaws change.

3. Public Safety Report

Lieutenant Jimenez from 6th District MPD

Crime stats for PSA 603:

Violent crime is down, with robberies reduced from 15 to 3 and homicides from 2 to 0.

Thefts are up, but all other crime categories are down.

Commissioner Thompson-Wright raised concerns about the effectiveness of the drug-free zone on Minnesota Avenue, noting insufficient police presence and displacement of drug activities.

Requested follow-up on the effectiveness of the drug-free zone initiative with updated statistics and dissemination of information regarding upcoming public safety initiatives.

Lieutenant Jimenez explained that the drug-free zone was a trial and stats are pending. He noted that police presence was intended to be consistent and the initiative aimed to prevent congregation and drug-related activities.

Commissioner Holcomb requested updates on other initiatives, including the club giveaway for vehicles, and efforts around the Minnesota Avenue Corridor to prevent crime displacement.

4. Administrative Reports

- Announced the launch of a new community accountability body to replace the current committee structure. More information will be provided in the coming days.

- Mentioned ongoing efforts to address the halfway house issue, with further discussions expected.

5. Commission Business

Treasurer's Report:

Budget Update:

Motion to approve a 5% increase for lease space, amounting to \$333, making the total \$6,993.

Motion made by Commissioner Thompson Wright and seconded by Commissioner Ruff.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Special Guest

Presenter: Ms. Delia Houseal, Vice President of the Friends of DC Streetcar**

Overview of the Friends of DC Streetcar organization, focused on advocating for transportation equity and the streetcar system.

Historical context of the DC Streetcar, including its inception by Marion Barry and subsequent developments.

Information on the proposed extension of the streetcar to the Benning Road Corridor, which would serve approximately 37,000 residents.

Discussion of the benefits and challenges of the streetcar extension, including potential impacts on traffic and transportation infrastructure.

The presentation included maps and visual aids depicting the current and proposed routes, highlighting the importance of the streetcar for transportation equity and environmental sustainability.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.