

Minutes – Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 4A
November 6, 2024 Public Meeting

PLEASE NOTE: In compliance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition, §48, page 468, the minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A are a record of the actions taken by the Commission, not a record of what people said during the meeting. Accordingly, comments made by commissioners or members of the public will not be recorded in detail in the minutes.

The meeting was held virtually through Zoom. Commissioner Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm. A quorum was present, including the following Commissioners:

- Paula Edwards, 4A01
- Joan Hoyte, 4A02
- Christian Hara, 4A03
- Patience Singleton, 4A04
- Candace Tiana Nelson, 4A06
- Zack Bolton, 4A07

1. Approval of Administrative Matters

- a. Approval of Agenda - Add Rhizome to the agenda, moved by Commr. Bolton, seconded by Commr. Singleton, VOTE: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED
- b. Approval of Minutes for October - Moved by Commr. Bolton seconded by Commr. Singleton. VOTE: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED
- c. Approval of the FY2024 4th Quarter Financial Report - Commr. Singleton detailed items of the budget, moved by Commr. Singleton, seconded by Commr. Hara. VOTE: 5 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstention PASSED

2. Government Agencies

- a. Yamileth Escobar, Ward 4 Manager - Mayors Office: leaf season updates: do not put leaves into trash bags, DPW will not pick those up. Open enrollment. Making sure DPW/DGS are at Shepherd Park field and paying attention to issues there. Commr. Edwards is clarifying updates to equipment repair at Shepherd Park.
- b. Barbara Rogers, Councilmember's Office - Beginning of Oct. is start of 2025 fiscal year. Many of the bills in FY 25 budget are starting to go into effect. STEER ACT has gone into effect cracking down on repeat reckless drivers from MD and VA. ERAP registration will open to new applications Nov 20th at noon, several changes to ERAP please check. LIHEAP Registration is still open, energy bill assistance is available as a one-time benefit. Annual Thanksgiving turkey drive on

Nov 23 11a-1pm. Office hours at Ft. Stevens Rec Center every Wednesday noon-1pm. Commr. Hoyte asking for 4A's well-wishes on new baby to be forwarded. Commr. Edwards inquiring re: I83 budget approval by the council.

- c. Frazier O'Leary, Ward 4 BOE Rep - Oct 9th hearing on nurses resolution that was submitted to put a nurse in every public and charter school, resolution has been moved forwards. Oct 29th hearing on teacher retention, 87 people signed up to testify. Tonight's board business meeting presentation from state superintendent. December panel on cell phone usage in schools upcoming. November council hearing on special education, advising community to bring questions to this meeting. Will still be collecting books (over 55,000 books collected in the last 4 years).

3. Community/Commissioner Discussion

- a. Grant Application for Project Give Back, Commr. Edwards - Citywide program that gives out Thanksgiving food and items to DC residents, applying for a grant to expand outreach in 4A. Presentation by Ransom Miller III, founder and chairmen. Celebrating 30 years of service. 100 percent volunteer-run. Goal is to provide 5,000 food baskets to families in need. Commr. Edwards asked how many food baskets will benefit 4A, the number was stated as 100. OANC will need specific numbers. Commr. Hoyte clarifying that the money that our ANC will provide will go towards our constituents. Commr. Edwards wishes to table this matter until the costs that will service 4A are detailed and revised. VOTE: 1 aye, 2 nay, 3 abstain. FAILS. Commr. Edwards amended the motion to approve up to \$3,000 contingent on approval of budget by OANC to direct expenses to ANC 4A required to be submitted by 11/11/24, seconded by JH. VOTE 5 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstention PASSED
- b. Medical Cannabis Retailer: Kush Embassy, Commr. Hoyte - Application of Kush Embassy to obtain a license to operate a medical cannabis retail location on Georgia Avenue in ANC 4A. Presentation given by Shahin Nassirzadeh (Mr. Nassir), representative of Kush Embassy and Barry Doyle, assisting in the presentation. Comm. Hoyte asking why move to Shepherd Park? Mr. Nassir replied that he wanted to serve an up-and-coming community in a safe and educated way. Clarified that they are only allowed to serve adults 20 YOA and older, younger people are not permitted. Commr. Hoyte concerned about proximity to school. Mr. Nassir does a geosurvey to ensure they are far enough away from these sensitive areas, which this business is. Commr. Hoyte is concerned about the new lighting on the property which has become disturbing to surrounding residents at night. Mr. Nassir explained the remedies they have taken to mitigate the concerns from the community, open to continued input on

this issue. Question about the large area of the store, Mr. Nassir explained that they will only be using 3,000 ft/sq of the 10,000 ft/sq. Mr. Nassir explained parking and pedestrian management. Several community members spoke on this topic, generally in opposition to this establishment. Mr. Nassir is agreeable to enter into a settlement agreement with ANC 4A. Commr. Hoyte moves to protest the application of this establishment in order to begin the process of a settlement agreement, seconded by PE. VOTE 5 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstentions PASSED

- c. Rhizome DC, Commr. Hoyte - Moving to SMD 4A02. Invited to tell more about the business. Layne Garrett, Executive Director, program director. Rhizome is a creative art space (concerts, workshops, exhibitions, etc.) non-profit community organization. Commr. Hoyte inquired about asbestos removal. Layne detailed hours of operation (ends by 10pm) and parking (intentional in securing a location that is public transit-friendly).

3. Community Concerns

Strong opposition to Building 15 on Aspen St. by participating neighbors.
Concern of litter at Ft. Stevens ball field.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.