

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Zoom Meeting
March 13, 2025**

Present: Commissioners Dave Wethington, Jeff Giertz, Stephen Kolb, Roberta Shapiro, and Paul Spires were present. Commissioners Mike Velasquez and Amber Gove were absent.

The meeting convened virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Dave Wethington called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC February 2025 meeting were accepted subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary. Commissioner Roberta Shapiro moved and Commissioner Stephen Kolb seconded the motion to amend the agenda to move the item currently listed under 'New Business' to the Treasurer's Report section. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Wethington moved and Commissioner Kolb seconded the motion that the agenda be amended to include Public Space Permit application #11123226 for a New Sidewalk Café Enclosed at 1001 H Street NE under 'New Business'. The motion passed 5-0. The agenda as amended for the March 2025 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

The community received meeting notice via listservs, the Hill Rag, ANC website, X, and Facebook.

Community Presentations

Zoning Regulation Change Affecting Ability to License Group Homes for Foster Youth over the Age of 18 - Priscilla Hall, Resource Development Specialist, Office of Planning, Policy and Program Support, Child and Family Services Agency

Ms. Priscilla Hall from Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) reviewed zoning changes affecting the organization, noting that CFSA is responsible for child welfare and care and placement of DC's foster children. In DC, children can remain in foster care until they attain permanency, leave foster care, or turn 21. While in care, CFSA provides older youth opportunities to develop life skills and gain access to housing. CFSA petitioned before the Zoning Commission to amend the definition of a youth residential care home, which currently is a facility providing arrangements to those under 18 years of age. The proposed change would expand the definition to include those 18-20 years of age and in the care and custody of the CFSA or its successor agency. As the definition currently stands, CFSA housing cannot receive DOB Certificates of Occupancy. Expanding the definition would allow CFSA to continue licensing group homes for older youth and will align zoning regulations with DC law, which allows for the licensure of group homes for older youth. The hearing about this issue is scheduled for May 1, 2025; ANC 6A will consider issuing a letter of support.

RiverSmart Homes (RSH) - DC's Residential Stormwater Management Program - Shannah Cumberbatch, RiverSmart Homes Environmental Protection Specialist, Department of Energy & Environment

Ms. Shannah Cumberbatch shared information about RiverSmart Homes, DC's stormwater management program under the Department of Energy and Environment since 2008. Staff from RiverSmart Homes assess properties and determine the best management practices to install either for free or for a small fee. The homeowner then gets partnered with a nonprofit organization and a contractor; the time from application to installation is about a year. There

are five different infrastructures, from rain barrels to rain gardens and shade trees. The goal of the program is to reduce flooding and diminish the amount of stormwater ending up in public waterways. Ms. Cumberbatch can be reached at 202-253-4489 or [shannah.cumberbatch\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:shannah.cumberbatch[at]dc.gov).

Website: <https://www.riversmarthomes.org/>

Sign up: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes-application>

Maintenance for existing RSH:

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/project/riversmart/riversmart-maintenance-assistance-program/>

Consent Agenda:

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

ANC 6A and ANC 6B send a joint letter to DDOT requesting a traffic study around Lincoln Park.

Officer Reports:

1. The March 2025 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Shapiro reviewed the expenditures accrued in February: \$846.19 for webmaster services, \$300 for notetaking, and \$75. The opening uncommitted funds available on March 1 were \$20,734.68. After accounts payable and two restored allotments of \$4,624.95 and \$3,624.95, the closing available checking balance is \$27,763.39. OANC has disallowed a 2024 grant for \$1,000, which resulted in the diminishment of the Q2 allotment; a motion is before the Commission to formally appeal this to the OANC Director. The savings account has a balance of \$100.05. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent. Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Paul Spires seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed 5-0.
2. Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Jeff Giertz seconded the motion that ANC 6A send an official Letter of Appeal to the Director of OANC asking for reconsideration of the denial of ANC 6A's 2024 grant of \$1,000 to Guerilla Gardeners. The purpose of the grant was to hold a public, community event to plant Tulips around the periphery of Sasha Bruce House. The appeal letter should capture the public benefits of this grant. The motion passed 5-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

1. No report. Committee did not meet in February 2025.
2. Next meeting: March 24, 2025 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis (ABC)

1. No report. Committee did not meet in February 2025.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 25, 2025 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The February 2025 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 17, 2025 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. No report. Committee did not meet in February 2025.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, March 19, 2025 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business:

Commissioner Wethington moved and Commissioner Kolb seconded the motion that ANC 6A empower TPS Chair Bloomstine to review Public Space Permit application #11123226 for a New Sidewalk Café Enclosed at 1001 H Street NE and approve or submit any necessary revisions. The request was received March 11, 2025 and the review date is March 31, 2025. The motion passed 4-0.

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Spires (6A01) reported that several businesses including Queen Vic and The Pug will have St Patrick's Day celebrations. There is some vandalism on cars along I Street.

Commissioner Giertz (6A04) noted that there is a new brewery coming to the 1300 block of H Street where H Street Country Club used to be. The Commissioner has heard complaints about an increased amount of litter and acknowledged that a number of neighbors are feeling impacts from actions that the federal government has taken in the last two months. The best way to handle this is to stand strong and keep fighting for the people of the city and the Commissioner encourages fellow elected representatives to continue doing so.

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) is happy to report that the vacant and blighted 73-unit building on 7th and F Streets has been purchased and is being rehabilitated to be returned to service with 73 apartments. The new owners have asked to come to an EDZ or ANC meeting to present their plans and have also reached out to neighbors for them to have a contact throughout the construction process.

Commissioner Kolb (6A07) stated that there is an application to open a medical cannabis dispensary at 313 8th Street NE but after much back-and-forth on the application and protests, the establishment no longer has standing in this case.

Commissioner Dave Wethington (6A05) reported a delay in the permit evaluation for Kingsman Dog Park renovations and that DC Water is filling in several manholes around 13th Street. The Commissioner echoed concerns about potential upcoming budget cuts.

Community Comment

Ms. Jen DeMayo from Councilmember Allen's office reported that Congress is poised to cut \$1.1B of DC's local funding as DC is being treated like a federal agency and being held to FY24 spending. This would have a very serious impact including layoffs, hiring freezes, and reduction of public work and Ms. DeMayo urges community members to continue calling senators and voicing concerns. DC has a beneficial earned income tax rebate for lower wage working families. Last month Councilmember Allen introduced a bill that would stop credit cards and banks from including tax and tip on the swipe fee, both of which are passed directly to either the government or employees. The Ward 6 spring clean will be on April 5.

MOCR Marcus Manning encourages the community to look at <https://fedsupport.dc.gov/> for information on unemployment, job insurance, and other resources. DC Human Resources Office is holding a hiring fair tomorrow in Ward 6 at 800 Florida Avenue NE from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. The mayor's annual spring cleanup is on April 19, 2025. Learn24 is hosting Summer

in the City at MLK library on Saturday, March 29, 2025. It is an opportunity for parents to explore out-of-school programming and resources. More information here: www.Sitc2025.eventbrite.com. The Office of Safety and Engagement is introducing their community outreach team.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.