

Minutes – Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 4A
April 1, 2025 Regular Public Meeting

PLEASE NOTE: *In compliance with Robert's 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 Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. A quorum was present, and included the following Commissioners:

- Paula Edwards, 4A01 (Chair)
- Joan Hoyte, 4A02 (Vice Chair)
- Christian Hara, 4A03 (Secretary)
- Patience Singleton, 4A04 (Treasurer)
- Jeffrey Holliday, 4A05

1. Approval of Administrative Matters

- a. Approval of the April Agenda – Add Commr. Holliday. Amend to add under Commissioner/Community Discussions a vote on hosting a Special Meeting on April 9. Moved by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED.
- b. Approval of the minutes from March. The March minutes were moved to be approved with minor non-material changes and typos by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED.
- c. Approval of the contract for Vocal Inc. and authorize payment of \$2,000 by debit card. Moved by Commr. Edwards, seconded by Commr. Hara, VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED.
- d. Special Meeting Request. Commr. Hoyte would like to co-host a special meeting on April 9 at 7 pm with Commr. Hara to discuss the BZA request for 1330 Kalmia Road, NW. Commr. Hara will be presenting the requested letter of support for the name change of District Dogs to Molly's Dog Care. Aaron DeVane, the owner, will also present his proposal. Commr. Hoyte moved that ANC 4A approve the request to host a special meeting to address these two issues. Commr. Hara seconded the motion, VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions PASSED.

2. Government Agencies

- a. Yamileth Escobar from the Mayor's Office provided an update. She announced the Emancipation Day Parade and Festival on Sunday, April 13. The mayor is hosting her Annual Spring Clean on Saturday, April 19 and in Ward 4 the event will take place at 14th and Spring Road, NW. Also, if your neighborhood has had missed leaf collection or trash/recycling, please submit a 311 request. As of April 1, all DPW spring activities have started. The Mayor's Office is continuing to support any Federal employees who have lost their jobs. Commr. Singleton shared that she would like to co-host a neighborhood clean up in 4A.
- b. Kristian Smith, 4A Constituent Coordinator for the Councilmember's Office, provided an update. Kristian welcome Commr. Holliday to the Commission. He highlighted that the National Park Service has proposed ending the reversible lanes and they are holding a virtual hearing on Wednesday, April 2 from 6-8 pm. He encouraged everyone to attend. Additionally, the Councilmember has on her website resources for Federal workers impacted by Federal actions (janeseeward4.com/resources). Office hours are held every Wednesday at Fort Stevens Rec Center from 12-1 pm and Hattie Holmes Wellness Center from 1:30-2:30 pm. All are welcome to come to share any concerns. Finally, please sign up for the Councilmember's newsletter. Ward4news.com. Commr. Hoyte shared that in her SMD, she has been managing the new medical cannabis application process, and she has received no support from the Councilmember's office. She is very disappointed and would appreciate some support in the future on such matters. Kristian volunteered to be the liaison to the Councilmember going forward.
- c. Dr. Michelle Colson, Ward 4 SBOE Representative. Highlights from March include a traffic study meeting at LaSalle Elementary School regarding Riggs Road and some of the safety issues. Recess on the Hill was also very successful to get the senate to support the DC budget. Part two of Recess on the Hill is on April 7 from 9:30 am-3 pm. Dr. Colson also attended a Pre-Keep meeting to support Pre-K activities and how the DC budget challenges will impact this program. DC Paves held a safety meeting focused on school safety. This will also be the focus of the SBOE April meeting. This Friday, April 4 Coolidge High School will be hosting a health fair. Commr. Edwards brought up the zoning issues around licensed cannabis stores near schools. Commr. Hoyte added that the Principal of the San Miguel school wrote a letter opposing Kush Embassy and the understanding was the schools have no say in these decisions as the City Council has already decided the matter of location (number of feet away from a school).

3. Community/Commissioner Discussion

- a. Fern Street Townhomes (Parcels A-G) Update: Vicki Davis and Kenza Sjelmassi from Urban Atlantic, together with Sarah Vonesh and Emily Aig from VHT. Vicki gave a presentation on Parcels A-G. Toll Brothers was the previous design and construction firm, and NV Homes took over the project. They are the firm responsible for the Aspen Street Townhomes. The presentation shared the new slightly revised designs. The project is located at Fern Street to the north, Dahlia Street to the south, Georgia to the east and 12th Street, NW to the west. Vicki went through images of the design changes. There is no change in the total number of units, which is 141. There will be 35, 22' x 32' townhomes; 94 stacked townhomes (two stories over two stories); and 12, 20' x 40' townhomes. This is also the second time they have presented to the community as a special SMD meeting was held on March 25, 2025. They are presenting to the HPRB on April 10 and would like to request a formal letter of support from the ANC. Commr. Hara has prepared a letter of support. Commr. Hoyte asked what the price ranges are for the homes and Vicki replied that 8 percent of the units will be priced as affordable. Commr. Hara moved that we support a letter of support to the HPRB for the revised design of the townhomes. Commr. Holliday seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. PASSED
- b. Revised Settlement Agreement Approval for Juneberry Garage. Commr. Hara moved to approve the Revised Settlement Agreement. Commr. Hoyte seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. PASSED
- c. Amended Settlement Agreement for Pere Wine Bar. ABCA asked us to remove Article 7 in the Parks Standard Settlement Agreement. Commr. Hara moved to approve the Revised Settlement Agreement. Commr. Holliday seconded the motion. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. PASSED
- d. 1840 Primrose Update (Will Teass, Managing Principal at Teass Warren Architects). This is a subdivision of the lot and because of their proximity to Rock Creek Park they must present the preliminary design to the ANC before submitting it to the Commission of Fine Arts. Proposal to add two single-family homes to the lot. Once they receive approval, they will come back to present the final approved design.
- e. DC Water Lead Free DC Presentation (Sean Moore). Sean gave a quick update and presentation on the program. They do have a virtual dashboard where community members can get more information (dcwater.com/lead). This is a free service to replace the lead line, both on public and private property.
- f. Office of the People's Council Utility Rates (Cheryl Morse). Cheryl will speak to the Washington Gas rate increases and she is the Ward 4 liaison. Commr. Edwards would like the Office to come back and address the third-party

contractor services at a future meeting. Also attending is Ade Adenyi, an attorney with OPC, and she discussed the rate increase. She shared the fact sheet that the OPC has created on Formal Case Number 1169. There will be two opportunities to testify at the community hearings on April 21 and April 29.

- g. Bottle Bill Discussion (Former Councilmember Yvette Alexander, presenting on opposition to the bill; she is representing the alliance for small businesses such as corner stores and bodegas in DC). B26-0058 "Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act of 2025". Councilmember Nadeau's intention was good but there are a lot of issues with this bill. The bill was referred to both the Business and Economic Committee and the Environment Committee as it impacts both areas. Yvette's concern is the potential increase in the cost of beverages and the jurisdictional issues as neither Maryland nor Virginia have similar laws in place. The cost of coding the bottles is prohibitively expensive for the bottlers. Additionally, there is a burden on small businesses who will have to provide refunds. Also, where does this bill leave those who already recycle those bottles. These are questions that need to be answered. Littering is already against the law in DC. Ms. Alexander is asking for the ANC to oppose this bill, though she disclosed that Ward 4 Councilmember Lewis George is a co-sponsor of the bill.

3. Community Concerns

- a. Dr. Fraizer O'Leary posted that Mrs. O'Leary's Books is still operating. Please get in touch with him at 202-236-2184 or at OMAN@aol.com to donate any books.

Commr. Singleton moved to adjourn the meeting and Commr. Hara seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. PASSED

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Prepared by: Christian Hara

Approved on: May 6, 2025

Attested by:


box SIGN 46PRPWQP-4PX665P8