



Minutes

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 9, 2025

Held in Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE and over Zoom
Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Approved at ANC 6B meeting October 15, 2025

Participating: Commissioners Gorman, Hughes, Krebs, Mareino, Pastore, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Wolanin.

Absent: Commissioner Sroufe.

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda. At the request of Commissioner Gorman, renaming the alley behind the Barracks Row fire station was moved from the Transportation Committee report to the first item under "ANC 6B Input on Other Concerns." Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Pastore seconded to approved the agenda as modified. The motion passed 8-0.

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. The motion passed 8-0. Items on the Consent Agenda included--

a. Adoption of the proposed July 8 meeting minutes. Those minutes can be found [insert link when it exists].

b. Written reports and minutes since July 8 of meetings of ANC 6B committees and taskforces. Those reports and minutes can be found [insert links when they exist].

c. Committee recommendations: from committees on--

1) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis: regarding the reapplication, for a Medical Cannabis license, of Aloha/Tobacco King, 539 8th St., SE (ABRA-129362), to--

a) Protest the reapplication, on the same grounds as the ANC's original protest, approved at the ANC's March 11 and April 8, 2025, meetings.

b) Hire attorney Kerry Verdi to represent the ANC in this protest.

2) Planning and Zoning: to--

a) Urge the Historic Preservation Review Board to defer, to October, its ruling on 624 C St., SE (HPA #25-326).

b) Support the applications of--

1-- 1341 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA #21372), for a parking exemption, on the explicit understanding that nothing BZA does should prejudice any pending easement litigation.

2-- 409 East Capitol St., SE, before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA #21333) and the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPA #25-323), for a use variance, but taking no position on other aspects of the applications.

3-- 730 11th St., SE rear, before the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPA #25-242), for approval of its Renovation plans.

3. Announcements: from--

a. ANC 6B commissioners: Commissioner--

1) Ryder announced upcoming ANC 6B meetings, including those of--

a) Full ANC: Wednesday, October 15, in person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and livestreamed, with links at anc6b.org.

b) Committees and taskforces.

1-- At 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE.

a-- And also livestreamed, with links at anc6b.org.

(1) Library Taskforce, 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 15.

(2) Public Safety Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 29.

(3) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 7.

b-- Only--

(1) In person: Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Taskforce, 7 p.m. Monday, September 15.

(2) Virtual, with links at anc6b.org.

(a) Executive Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 30.

(b) Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 8.

(c) Planning and Zoning Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 9.

2) Sobelsohn announced Anacostia Watershed Society's 2025 ANC 6B river boat ride, starting 11 a.m. Sunday, September 21.

3) Pastore announced that, on the weekend of September 13-14--

a) DC will host Art All Night.

b) The Capitol Hill Art League will sponsor the Capitol Hill Art Walk.

c) The Capitol Hill Foundation will organize A Literary Feast, dinners in private Capitol Hill homes, each dinner themed around a particular book.

4) Mareino announced, for the Planning and Zoning Committee, that the ANC has already approved the 418 4th St., SE, application before the Housing Preservation Review Board (HPA #25-324) and therefore the ANC need take no further action on this application.

5) Hughes announced that the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) plans safety improvements at the intersection of Potomac and Pennsylvania Avenues, SE, and that anyone wanting to provide input should email her at 6b09@anc.dc.gov.

b. Non-ANC commissioners.

1) Other DC government representatives.

a) Noah Glasgow, of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, made the following announcements.

1-- Art All Night on Capitol Hill will center both at Eastern Market and on H St., SE.

2-- Direct federal intervention into DC criminal-justice matters.

a-- Home Rule Act § 740: The president's power to compel the mayor to provide "the use of the Metropolitan Police force for Federal purposes" expires on September 10. The United States House of Representatives has not yet considered extending the takeover. Mayor Bowser has established the Safe and Beautiful Emergency Operations Center to manage the city's coordination with federal law enforcement. Meanwhile, DC police chief Pamela Smith has continued to make MPD deployment decisions.

b-- National Guard.

(1) General. Glasgow pointed out that the mayor has no control over the National Guard, that technically there is no "DC National Guard." The Secretaries of Defense and of the Army have direct control over the part of the National Guard that covers DC. However, DC and the National Guard do have a joint Government Operations Office to aid the National Guard with finance, government coordination, administration, human resources, procurement, and logistics.

Over 1,000 National Guard officers are patrolling DC. Glasgow promised to provide a more precise number. During their deployment, some National Guard officers are living at the DC Armory.

(2) Offer to aid in DC “beautification.” Glasgow professed ignorance of this offer. Even though DC’s National Guard director, Marcus Hunt, sent this offer from a DC government email address, Glasgow claimed that no one on the mayor’s leadership team knew of this offer before Hunt sent it out.

c-- Other possible federal interference. Glasgow reported that the United States House Oversight Committee is considering 14 bills in the fiscal-year 2026 budget that would make changes in DC’s criminal-justice system, but that none would reverse DC’s abolition of the death penalty.

b) Kimberly Kennedy, Southeast DC Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Allen, announced that, on September 17, the DC Council would take a final vote on two bills.

1-- Robert F. Kennedy Stadium. Councilmember Allen has supported DC’s RFK agreement with the Washington Commanders after getting a reduction of the number of parking spots, an increase in Metrorail funding, additional Anacostia River protections, and greater protection for the public fields at RFK.

2-- Rental Act amendments. The Council will try to balance getting new housing with preservation of current affordable homes and tenants’ rights. Anyone with suggestions should contact the Allen office’s legislative director, Antonio Nunez, at (240) 372-1556.

c) Captain Adam Crist, of the DC Metropolitan Police Department, began by noting that federal appointees prosecute all “big crimes,” and that the president appoints all DC judges. He also reported on--

1-- Crime statistics, including that, since this time last year, ANC 6B has had a reported--

a-- 42% drop in violent crimes, with only violent crime in the past 30 days.

b-- 50% drop in robberies and carjackings.

c-- 19% increase in motor-vehicle thefts, especially from delivery drivers. MPD won’t pursue the suspect of a nonviolent motor-vehicle theft.

d-- 29% drop in property crimes.

2-- MPD’s relationship with federal law enforcement. Crist reported that DC has 30 different law-enforcement agencies.

a-- Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Crist claimed MPD doesn’t know the number of ICE arrests. He suggested a request under the Freedom of Information Act. He claimed that MPD isn’t stopping people for their immigration status, but that if ICE does, “we can’t stop them.”

b-- National Guard. Though he admitted he “can’t say for certain” if the National Guard has caused a drop in reported crimes, he did note that the National Guard is a “visible deterrent.” He admitted MPD will “take whatever help we can get” and that it works with the National Guard “all the time.”

2) Non-government representatives.

a) Sidney Davis announced two events regarding “trauma, resilience, and wellness,” a--

1-- Reception September 26 from 6-8 p.m. at 2000 K St., NW.

2-- Rally in Lincoln Park September 27 from 9-11 a.m.

b) Claire August of the Sierra Club announced “Sun Day” on Sunday, September 21, from 1-5 p.m., to feature homeowners who’ve installed solar energy. For further information go to sundayindc.org.

4. ANC 6B Input on Other Concerns: Renaming--

a. Alley behind Barracks Row fire station. Commissioner Gorman moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to support renaming the alley behind the Barracks Row fire station, 414 8th St., SE, between 8th and 9th Streets, SE, after Stephen Shipp, a firefighter who died April 15 from occupational cancer incurred from firefighting. The motion passed 8-0.

b. Brent Elementary School. Commissioner Wolanin moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to support renaming Brent Elementary School after Gardner Bishop. Robert Brent (1764-1819), a slaveowner and

DC's first mayor, signed Black Codes forbidding non-white people from dancing, quarreling, "playing at any game of hazard," or even walking DC's streets after 10 p.m. By contrast, Gardner Bishop (1909-92), a civil-rights activist, led the fight to desegregate DC's public schools, a fight that culminated in a landmark 1954 companion decision to *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*. Bishop was the choice of those who responded to the school's solicitation of new school names. The motion passed 8-0.

5. Committee Reports: of the Committees on--

a. Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis.

1) Liquor-license applications: of--

a) Awakening Bar & Grill, 520 8th St. SE, for a stipulated license pending negotiation of a settlement agreement (ABRA-133651). Commissioner Gorman moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to grant the stipulated license. The motion passed 8-0.

b) Balkan Concepts, trading as Ambar, 523 8th St., SE, for a license renewal (ABRA-090240). An ANC protest is pending. Settlement negotiations are underway. Attorney Kerry Verdi represents the ANC. For three years, Ambar has been in violation of its current settlement agreement. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Pastore seconded to file a complaint, with the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration, about Ambar's ongoing violation, contingent on advice from Verdi. The motion passed 8-0.

2) Commercial diversity on Barracks Row. At its April 2025 meeting, the ANC voted to instruct the committee to report on "measures to preserve commercial diversity on the part of 8th St., SE, known as 'Barracks Row,' including the possibility of a moratorium on licensing new medical-cannabis retailers and 'fast food restaurants' as defined in Title 11, Chapter 1 of the DC Code." Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to postpone that report until the ANC's October 2025 meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

b. Transportation: Commissioner Hughes moved/Commissioner Pastore seconded to write DDOT a letter supporting the Hill Family Biking proposal for a protected bicycle lane on 11th St., SE. The motion passed 8-0. For details of the proposal, go to <https://ggwash.org/view/100840/family-biking-matters-a-proposal-for-a-safer-11th-street-se>.

c. Planning and Zoning.

1) Application for 409 East Capitol St., SE. The maximum lot occupancy for 409 East Capitol St., SE, is 60%. The owners have applied, before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA #21333) and the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPA #25-323), to expand occupancy to 70%. A substantial number of neighbors spoke to oppose the expansion. The committee also recommended opposition. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Pastore seconded to follow the committee's recommendation and urge BZA and HPRB to reject the applications. The motion passed 6-2. Commissioners Mareino and Hughes voted "no."

2) Commercial diversity on Barracks Row. At its April 2025 meeting, the ANC voted to instruct the committee to report on measures to preserve commercial diversity on Barracks Row. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to postpone that report until the ANC's October 2025 meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

6. Report of Southeast Library Taskforce: Commissioner Hughes moved/Commissioner Pastore seconded to confirm Commissioner Hughes's appointment of Sylvia Randolph to the taskforce. The motion passed 8-0.

7. Postponement of Remainder of Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Wolanin seconded to postpone the remainder of the agenda to the September 30 meeting of the Administrative Committee. The motion passed 8-0. Postponed items included--

a. Monthly financial report.

b. Updates from working groups on ANC 6B--

1) Standing rules.

2) Policy on awarding financial grants.

c. Proposed bylaw amendments on--

1) Committee Vice-Chairs.

2) Adoption of Standing Rules.

8. Adjournment. Commissioner Ryder moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn to adjourn. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Prepared by: David Sobelsohn

Approved on: October 15, 2025

Attested by:



Edward Ryder, ANC 6B Chair