



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F**  
**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**One Commitment, Our Community.**

**General Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2026**  
Meeting Called to Order at 6:46 PM

The April 2026 General Commission Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F was called to order by Chairperson Tyrell M. Holcomb at 6:46 p.m. Chairperson Holcomb opened the meeting with a moment of silence in recognition of two young Ward 7 residents, ages 12 and 13, recently lost to gun violence in the community.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Thompson-Wright
- Commissioner Edwards
- Commissioner Hughes
- Commissioner Nelson
- Commissioner Orendoff
- Commissioner Ruff
- Chairperson Holcomb

Commissioner Cunningham was absent at initial roll call.

A quorum was established.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Commissioner Nelson moved adoption of the agenda. Commissioner Ruff seconded the motion.

Chairperson Holcomb noted that the finalized agenda included discussion regarding future ANC meetings as well as the FY26 Quarter 2 Financial Report.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Guest Presentations**

**Minnesota Avenue Main Street Presentation**

The Commission recognized Anwar Saleem and representatives associated with Minnesota Avenue Main Street regarding corridor revitalization efforts along Minnesota Avenue.

Mr. Saleem shared a vision focused on transforming Minnesota Avenue through public art, placemaking, corridor beautification, and community-centered investment strategies. He emphasized that Minnesota Avenue has historically not received the same level of economic development investment seen in other parts of the city and stressed the importance of changing both perception and opportunity within the corridor.

**Capital City DC Boys Club / Anacostia Murals Festival**

Dwayne, Executive Director of Capital City DC Boys Club, presented plans for the upcoming Anacostia Murals Festival scheduled for May 1 through May 18, 2026.

The initiative plans to install approximately 104 murals throughout Wards 7 and 8, stretching from Marion Barry Avenue to Division Avenue. Murals are expected on schools, churches, apartment buildings, office buildings, community businesses, and neighborhood spaces.

Discussion centered on:

- Expanding arts access east of the river
- Creating opportunities for Ward 7 youth artists
- Using murals as economic and community activation tools
- Long-term beautification efforts throughout the corridor
- Activating bridge infrastructure and underutilized spaces

Presenters discussed restoration of existing murals and potential additions honoring individuals who have made meaningful contributions to Washington, DC neighborhoods.

Chairperson Holcomb reflected on the significance of public art and community representation, specifically referencing the legacy and impact of former Mayor Marion Barry and the importance of ensuring women are equally represented in public art installations.

Mr. Saleem also presented conceptual visuals depicting future improvements along Minnesota Avenue, including murals, enhanced corridor aesthetics, and bridge activation concepts.

The Commission discussed the importance of creating opportunities for youth artistic expression within Ward 7 communities and acknowledged the broader role public art can play in strengthening neighborhood identity and economic opportunity.

No formal vote was taken during this presentation.

## **Washington Gas Update**

Representatives from Washington Gas provided updates and responded to community concerns related to utility work, HomeServe coverage, and rising utility costs.

Washington Gas representatives clarified that:

- Planned utility work generally includes advance notice to residents, including letters to constituents approximately two weeks prior to work beginning and seven-day parking restriction notices where applicable.
- The HomeServe program is an optional supplemental coverage program available to homeowners and is not directly tied to Washington Gas-funded infrastructure work.
- Frequently asked questions regarding HomeServe were shared with the Commission for community distribution.

Community discussion focused heavily on rising gas bills during the winter season.

Commissioners raised concerns regarding the financial burden placed on seniors and residents due to increased utility costs.

Washington Gas representatives acknowledged the concerns and directed residents to available assistance resources, including:



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- LIHEAP
- Washington Area Fuel Fund (WAFF)

Representatives noted that residents generally must first apply for LIHEAP assistance before qualifying for WAFF support.

Chairperson Holcomb discussed the possibility of hosting a future community open house focused on connecting residents with utility assistance programs and other available services and supports.

No formal action was taken.

#### **Hill East Parcels B1 and B2 Modification Presentation**

Layla Battista of Holland & Knight, representing Blue Sky Construction and Development, presented proposed modifications to the previously approved design review application for Hill East Parcels B1 and B2.

The modifications included:

- Increasing the number of family-sized three-bedroom units
- Reducing the number of one-bedroom units
- Reducing total unit count on Parcel B2 from approximately 141 units to between 130 and 136 units
- Removing approximately 14,000 square feet of proposed ground-floor retail space due to lack of market demand
- Relocating approximately 100 Saint Coletta parking spaces to Parcel A
- Potential phasing adjustments based on financing and market conditions

The development team confirmed there were no proposed increases to building height or density.

Commissioner Thompson-Wright expressed support for the modifications, noting the importance of increasing family-sized affordable housing opportunities within the area.

Commissioners discussed parking impacts, retail vacancy challenges, affordability, and broader community investment opportunities associated with the Hill East redevelopment.

#### **Motion**

Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved that ANC 7F support the modification to the design review approval from the master plan for Square 1112E, Lots 809 and 815 as presented by Blue Sky Development.

Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote:

- In Favor: 6
- Opposed: 0
- Absent: 1

The applicant agreed to provide draft support letter language for ANC review.

## **FY26 Quarter 2 Financial Report**

The Treasurer presented the FY26 Quarter 2 Financial Report.

Reported expenditures included:

- Personnel: \$350.00
- Direct Office Costs: \$0.00
- Communications: \$2,191.81
- Miscellaneous: \$124.03

Total Quarterly Disbursements:

\$2,665.84

Balances:

- Ending Checking Balance: \$22,627.63
- Ending Savings Balance: \$22,479.63

Discussion occurred regarding miscellaneous expenditures and communications-related expenses.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved approval of the FY26 Quarter 2 Financial Report with amendments to meeting minutes as needed.

Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 6-0

## **Future ANC Meeting Structure and Community Engagement**

Chairperson Holcomb led discussion regarding community participation, meeting turnout, and long-term engagement strategies.

Discussion included:

- The value of hybrid participation options
- Post-pandemic engagement challenges
- The importance of rebuilding in-person attendance
- Utilizing ANC Specialty Funds to support outreach efforts
- Door hangers, banners, and outreach materials
- Community canvassing and voter-style engagement strategies
- Capturing updated resident contact information

Commissioners discussed concerns related to campaign season overlap and ensuring outreach materials are clearly distinguishable from election-related campaign literature.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved that:

- ANC 7F meetings for May, June, and July 2026 be held virtually



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- ANC Specialty Funds be utilized to support a community engagement and turnout campaign, including marketing materials, banners, door hangers, and outreach efforts

Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 6-0

#### **Allen House Bus Shelter Request**

Residents from Allen House requested ANC support for installation of a bus shelter at the existing bus stop location near the property.

Residents expressed concerns regarding:

- Exposure to weather conditions
- Accessibility challenges for seniors and residents with disabilities
- Safety concerns while crossing the street to access nearby shelters

Commissioners discussed concerns previously raised by nearby property stakeholders regarding congregation near the site while also emphasizing the importance of accessibility and dignity for senior residents.

#### **Motion**

Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved that ANC 7F support installation of a bus shelter at the existing Allen House bus stop location.

Commissioner Ruff seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 7-0

#### **Secretary's Report and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

The Commission acknowledged receipt of February 2026 and March 2026 General Commission Meeting minutes.

#### **Motion**

Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved approval of the February 2026 and March 2026 General Commission Meeting minutes with the opportunity for amendments and corrections.

Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 6-0

#### **Community Concerns**

##### **Allen House Heating and Cooling Concerns**

Allen House residents raised concerns regarding excessive indoor temperatures within the building during unusually warm spring weather.

Residents shared concerns that indoor temperatures exceeded 85 degrees while building air conditioning systems remained inactive due to seasonal operational policies.

Discussion centered on:

- Climate-related temperature fluctuations
- Challenges within older multifamily housing systems
- Heating and cooling regulations
- Resident health and safety concerns for seniors and individuals with disabilities

Chairperson Holcomb acknowledged the seriousness of the concern and committed that ANC 7F would submit correspondence to the DC Council Committee on Housing encouraging broader discussion regarding climate-related heating and cooling policy adjustments.

## **Community Announcements and Agency Updates**

### **East River Family Strengthening Collaborative**

Dr. Daniels announced a Youth Fellowship Entrepreneurial Program for youth ages 16 to 24.

The application deadline is May 8, 2026.

Applications are available online and through local libraries.

Dr. Daniels also acknowledged the upcoming Ward 7 Democrats mayoral debate watch event scheduled at The Strand.

### **Ward 7 Democrats**

Chairperson Holcomb shared information regarding the upcoming Ward 7 Democrats mayoral debate watch event scheduled for the following Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Strand.

The event will include streamed debate coverage along with food and beverages for attendees.

### **Councilmember Wendell Felder's Office**

Representatives from Councilmember Felder's office introduced the new constituent services coordinator and shared several upcoming events, including:

- Earth Day Cleanup
- Office Hours
- Education Town Hall

### **State Board of Education Update**

State Board of Education Representative Ebony Rose Thompson provided updates regarding:

- Upcoming graduation requirement discussions
- DCPS budget hearings
- Concerns surrounding proposed budget reductions affecting:
  - Community schools
  - School nurses
  - Literacy supports
  - Teacher retention



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### Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services Update

Amber Wright from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services provided updates regarding Mayor Bowser's proposed budget and highlighted several Ward 7-related investments, including:

- School modernization projects
- Library modernization projects
- Recreation center investments
- RFK redevelopment funding
- Transportation infrastructure investments
- Housing and redevelopment funding

Updates were also provided regarding the Mayor's upcoming spring cleanup event.

### 11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made.

The meeting was adjourned at **9:02PM**