

ANC 6B

MINUTES OF MARCH, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Brian Ready welcomed commissioners and members of the community and called on commissioners to introduce themselves. All ANC6B commissioners were present. (Votes totaling fewer than 10 indicate that a commissioner(s) was temporarily out of the meeting room.)

At this ANC meeting there were numerous letters and resolutions crafted. For convenience they are presented as a group at the end of the minutes (item #16). Each action includes the name of the commissioner designated to respond to any follow-on requests for additional information on the topic.

2. Approval of the Agenda

One item was removed from the agenda as it had been approved previously (710 E Street). Commissioner Holman moved approval of the agenda, second by Commissioner Sroufe. The motion was approved 10-0. *As always, approval of the agenda was followed by a round of high-fives and fist pumps.*

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda were highlighted by Chairman Ready. Commissioner Jayaraman moved approval, second by Commissioner Sroufe (motion approved 10-0).

4. Presentation

Gabriel Robinson, Director, D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles, briefed the ANC on the new requirements and procedures associated with the Real ID requirements and took general questions. He noted that the Real ID legislation was passed following 9/11 and the discovery that bogus drivers' licenses had been used by terrorists. The basic requirement is that everyone have a drivers' license with a black star on the face page by October 2020, as evidence that they had been officially verified. He said that over 80 percent of DC drivers were now in compliance, and that special hours and procedures were planned to reach everyone. He also indicated that the licensing branch of DDOT was likely to be closed in face of the CV-19 epidemic because (1) it was not considered an essential agency, and (2) due to the close contact of city workers and the public in the verification process. If the office is closed the deadline for verification will be extended.

Several commissioners expressed frustration with the administration of the Real ID program on two counts: (1) its poorly designed and occasionally inaccurate communication about the process of obtaining this certification, and (2) the necessity of making more than one trip to the agency office to achieve success. Commissioners also raised questions about the security of information collected by the agency in this process and challenged the need to maintain a permanent record (e.g., photocopy) of personal information.

Other commissioners asked about recent Residential Parking Permit misallocations in their Single Member Districts. Director Robinson referred these questions to the Department of Transportation and recommended a review of the DDOT parking regulations. (Note: doing so is instructive: e.g., the fine for misrepresenting one's address in order to gain an RPP is only \$300.)

At the conclusion of this lengthy discussion Chairman Ready called attention to the important agenda items still to be discussed and urged brevity during the Community Speak-Out.

5. Community Speak Out

Commissioner Krepp called attention to her continuing struggle to receive publicly discussed information from the DGS and her recently submitted FOIA request. This topic is an action item later in the agenda.

Commissioner Samolyk expressed concern about flyers being posted throughout her SMD by Crown Castle regarding city-wide cable and installation of 5G transmitters. She noted that while Mathew Marcou, DDOT's Associate Director for the Public Space Regulations Division (PSRD), has indicated that no sites had currently been approved, there was an existing map of planned areas for transmitters on the Crown Castle website, and DDOT Director, Jeffrey Marootian, has signed already an agreement with Crown Castle stipulating the permitting process to be used. (ANC 6B previously has provided a resolution on the topic of transmitter placement in which they sought an opportunity to be engaged in placement decisions.)

Joseph Barsey (?) provided an update on the Federal Douglas Memorial Street Bridge, scheduled to open in the Fall of 2021, and soon ran into difficulty with the ANC Commissioners because he was unprepared to discuss the hiring issues at the site that had been raised at previous meetings. Commissioners asked about meeting the requirement that 51 percent of new hires be DC residents, about the adequacy of recruitment for training programs, and about success in working with returning citizens. The ANC plans to review these topics again at its June meeting and will invite Mr. Barsey to attend to provide the requested information.

Commissioners raised several questions with staff from the Mayor's Office and the office of CM Allen about the implications of the Coronavirus for the District. Tyler Williams, Ward 6 MOCRS, and Naomi Mitchell, Community Liaison for CM Allen, provided perspectives about the likely impact of the Coronavirus on the DC government and Council, as well as the likely impact on schools and merchants. Williams said that there have been numerous meetings across the government to work out how the city would respond to these challenges. She said that a food distribution plan for school lunches had been established and that she would inform the ANC about the detailed plan. Williams also told the ANC that stations for washing hands were going to be provided across the district in those areas where homeless congregated.

Mitchell noted that that it was likely that the schedule of planned budget hearings and other Council meetings would be postponed or redesigned so they could be conducted online. She reported on several pieces of legislation that CM Allen has been working on: red flag provisions and "ghost gun" legislation, as well as proposals to assure equitable and safe bus and metro transportation during the crisis.

Commissioner Samolyk informed the ANC that she had learned from Monica Merk, Encampment Coordinator, Office of the Deputy Mayor, that the city plans to install two public restrooms on a pilot basis. The ANC planned to address this topic as an action item later in its agenda.)

6. Alcoholic Beverage Committee Discussion and Actions

The ABC Committee recommended approval of a substantial change request by Trusty's bar at 1420 Pennsylvania Avenue, to add as many as three units of Dragons' Assent. The motion was approved, 10-0 (Holman/Ready). The discussion involved the distinction between games of skill and games of chance, the latter being illegal. Trusty's manager, Mark Menard, said that players must be 21 years old and that winning stakes would be small. Commissioner Jayaraman noted that several other taverns hoped to install the pay-out devices also but have not yet filed applications.

The ANC approved a motion to defer the Roost application until the April meeting by mutual agreement with the applicant. (10-0, Holman/Waud).

The ANC dispensed with the reading of the prepared report provided in the ABC agenda materials.

7. Planning and Zoning Committee Discussion and Actions

An application for a building addition to 1330 K street was divided into three parts for consideration by the ANC: (1) request for approval of a 40 day extension in order for the owner to request variance for an alley exception; (2) request for a special exemption to exceed size of an accessory building; and (3) request for variance for extension of the proposed building beyond the 10 foot limit from the end of the neighboring building. The 40 day extension was approved (10-0, Sroufe/Ready). The request for approval of the larger accessory building was approved (8-1, Holman/Waud). The request for the building extension exception was approved (9-0, Holman/Waud).

The ANC dispensed with the reading of the prepared report provided in the agenda materials.

8. Transportation Committee

The ANC dispensed with the reading of the report of the March 4 meeting of the Transportation Committee that was provided in the agenda materials. However, several action items were addressed, including those resulting in letters being sent to District agencies as reported below (see Item #16).

9. Hill East Task Force

Commissioner Krepp called attention to the lack of transparency regarding development plans for Reservation 13 and about the DC agencies unresponsiveness to community concerns. Commissioner Holtzman observed that attentiveness to community concerns was not limited to Hill East but had been characteristic of policy development in the Eastern Market Metro Plaza as well. Following discussion, the ANC approved a motion to send a letter to Keith Anderson, DGS Director, emphasizing the need for additional, timely information. (10-0, Krepp/Clark).

10. Livable Community Task Force

Commissioner Holtzman, chair of the task force, announced that construction in the park was to begin in March and that signs had been posted alerting the community to this activity. It was planned that the work would be completed and the park reopened in April of 2021. Holtzman noted also that the plan was to have a break in construction in late summer of 2020 when the park was far enough along to declare a recess and have it opened for limited public use over the school vacation period.

11. Working Group on Barracks' Road

Commissioner Jayaraman, chair of the task force, reported on developments within the task force. He called attention to the meeting planned for Monday, March 16. The task force recommended approval of a letter to support the Mayor's request for funding to provide affordable housing and to assist the homeless. The motion passed 9-0-1 (Ready/Krepp).

The ANC dispensed with the reading of the prepared report provided in the agenda materials.

12. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee

The ANC dispensed with the reading of the prepared report provided in the agenda materials.

13. Treasurer's Report

The ANC dispensed with the reading of the report provided in the agenda materials. The balance following the most recent ANC allotment from the DC Government was \$69,000.

14. Administrative Matters

A brief discussion of progress being made on creation of a new website to provide much greater ease of operation was undertaken by the Commissioners. Community representatives were invited to log on and comment on the graphic and menus being explored for the website.

The ANC also discussed ongoing problems with its malware subscription and determined that a committee including Commissioners Holman and Ready, and any other commissioners wishing to work with them, would meet with Barbara Fleming to prepare a recommendation for action for the April meeting.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, and the meeting room chairs rapidly being removed, Commissioner Oldenburg moved to adjourn at 9:35 PM.

16. Summary of Actions Taken by Vote

- a. Transportation Committee related letter raising questions of the National Capitol Planning Commission regarding the Monument Area streetscape and lighting planning that will impact streets, residential areas, and parks in ANC6B. Addressed to Rebecca Miller, correspondent identified is Commissioner Oldenburg. Passed 10-0 (Ready/ Samolyk).
- b. Hill East Task Force related letter to Director Anderson and others requesting more specific information about plans for Reservation 13 (current use of existing buildings, construction schedule, financing, retail, roads, and affordable housing. Correspondent identified, Commissioner Krepp. Passed 10-0 (Krepp/Clark).

- c. Resolution supporting Mayor's call for funding to support affordable housing and homelessness from Barracks' Row Main Street Task Force. Passed 9-0-1 (Ready/Krepp). Correspondent: Commissioner Ready.
- d. Letter to Tyrone Garrett, Director District of Columbia Housing Authority, requesting information regarding Potomac Gardens Housing Plans and recommending a build-first approach. Correspondent identified: Commissioner Waud. Passed 10-0 (Waud/Krepp).
- e. Resolution in support of Friends of Virginia Avenue Park request to DPR that it be granted status as a Park Partner. Passed 10-0 (Oldenburg/Sroufe).
- f. Letter related to Transportation Committee activity requesting information about traffic study connected in concert with installation of a traffic light at 16th and Independence. Correspondent: Commissioner Krepp. Passed 7-3. Krepp/Samolyk.
- g. Letter to Councilmember Todd requesting action on Sexual Harassment Data Collection and Reporting Act of 2019. Passed 9-0-1 (Krepp/Holtzman). Commissioner Krepp is the correspondent identified.