

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B Minutes of Regular Meeting for

March 9, 2021

All Commissioners were in attendance at the meeting. Forty-five agency representatives and community members were also in attendance.

- 1. Welcome. Chair Ready convened the virtual meeting at 7:05 and welcomed all those attending. He requested that Commissioners introduce themselves: Jennifer Samolyk (01); Jerry Sroufe, Secretary (02), Brian Ready, Chair (03); Kirsten Oldenburg, Parliamentarian (04); Steve Holtzman, Vice-Chair (05); Corey Holman, Treasurer (06); Edward Ryder (07); Peter Wright (08); Alison Horn (09); Denise Krepp (10). Noting that it was Women's History Month, Ready called attention to the essential work of women as ANC Commissioners and as Resident Members on the 6B committees
- 2. The <u>Meeting Agenda</u> was approved with two modifications: an item concerning the Cherry Blossom festival was added to "ANC Input on Other Concerns" (Holtzman); the presentation from representatives of DOEE, deferred from the February meeting was moved forward to insure that it received time on March agenda (Holman).
- 3. The <u>Consent Agenda</u> was approved unanimously (Holman, Horn). Items included on consent were: February minutes; minutes of the Handle 19 Special Call meeting; four recommendations for approval by the Planning and Zoning Committee (addresses listed at end of these minutes) and two approvals by the Transportation Committee: approved request to convert a two block street in 6B04 from one-way to two-way; and a letter to CM Allen supporting construction funds for the Pennsylvania Avenue/Potomac Avenue intersection study.

4. Presentations from Invited Speakers

A) <u>Alvin Jones</u>, Energy Program Specialist, Department of Energy and the Environment. Jones noted that 600 homes in the area represented by ANC 6B already have solar, but that there was no community solar in our area. What is the difference between solar panels on our residences and community solar? Jones explained that solar panels generating electricity that would benefit residents could be installed on large commercial building and school buildings. (For those living in typical row houses, most solar plans cost \$20,000 to install, but the owner pays only about \$2500, which is typically earned back in the form of reduced electricity bills in three years. Additionally, family units of two persons earning less than \$80K annually qualify for LIHEAP, making the program even more attractive. Commercial buildings and churches are also eligible for the program. A search for

the "DDOE solar panel" will reward one with access to an interactive program for calculating environmental -- how many trees saved -- and estimated cash savings generated by the installation of solar.)

B) <u>Andrew DeFrank</u>, Ward 6 Liaison from DDOT. DeFrank reminded Commissioners that the recent head of the Department of Transportation (Marootian) has become special assistant to the president for climate and science agency personnel in the Biden Administration, and that Evert Lott was the interim director.

Defrank covered a range of transportation innovations being instituted and/or evaluated in the area: car free bus lanes, slow streets, streateries, and miles of increased bike lanes. Defrank sought Commissioner support for two ongoing surveys: (1) the federally mandated Move DC survey, and (2) the annual alley repair and paving plan update for work to be completed in the spring. He volunteered the helpful information that 311 calls might be brought to his attention once a service number had been assigned; and he also that recommended that photos accompany 311 requests. Commissioners had questions about new procedures for requesting traffic studies or street improvements. Conventional wisdom seems to be that if a request for a modification (e.g., a speed bump) will impact only one street, that the ANC Commissioner may sign off on the request for a traffic safety assessment to support or deny the request; however, if the impact was to be larger (e.g., the ramp off I- 695) he full Commission should approve the request for a TSA.

Other questions raised by Commissioners were about the evaluation metrics used to make decisions (e.g., terminating the slow streets program); exorbitant length of time required to set up crosswalk signs; and ambiguity about the basis for rejection of some traffic slowing requests at intersections that seemed identical to intersections where they had been approved. Regarding one specific question – progress on conversion of two-way street to one-way in 6B10, DeFrank said that a TSA was in progress but would require a three month study – he pledged a report by June 10. Regarding a question about truck traffic on a posted street, he requested that details be sent directly to him. Concerns were raised also about enforcement of the slow street signs and barriers near St. Peter's School that tended to be ignored by drivers.

5. Commissioner and Community Speak-out. Commissioner Wright announced a "meet and greet" at Jenkins Hill School; Commissioner Samolyk announced a forthcoming walk-through of the Folger Park; Commissioner Oldenburg announced that the Pennsylvania Avenue street light and traffic light upgrades would be considered by the Transportation Committee at its April meeting.

Community member John Schwab called attention to the nightly gospel broadcasts, highly amplified, from the intersection of 8th and D SE. Commissioners Sroufe, Holtzman, and Oldenburg reviewed their efforts to resolve this problem. There is legislation pending to regulate amplified sound in the District, but Council Chair Mendelson

has alerted commissioners that it will be difficult to pass without concerted community advocacy.

Community member Tiffany Davidson announced a forthcoming meeting to protest the fencing of the Capitol at Eastern Market on Saturday at 10:00 AM; Ashley Mitchell, South Capitol Bridge Builders, announced that the new bridge would open on October 1.

- 6. <u>Actions Related to Work of the Alcohol Beverage Control Committee.</u> A motion to approve a letter to ABRA requesting a delay in the protest deadline for the Ugly Mug until April 30 was approved unanimously (Ready/Sroufe). The request is to modify the Settlement Agreement to include Sports Wagering and Games of Skill endorsements.
- 7. Actions related to Work of the Planning and Zoning Committee. The special exception sought by Chipotle (413 8th SE) for a 12 year extension was discussed by commissioners, residents, and management. Following many discussions a plan has been developed that satisfies all parties. A motion to recommend approval of the extension was approved unanimously (Holman/Ready). It was understood that the approval would incorporate architectural drawings and also text depicting required trash handling procedures. A motion for approval of the zoning relief sought for 1819 A Street, SE (BZA 20437) passed unanimously (Krepp/Holman). A construction plan is to be developed under the leadership of SMD Commissioner Krepp.

Following a presentation from community member Brian Wise the Commission agreed that DCRA appears not to have followed its regulations in granting approval for the conversion of a single family home into an apartment building. A motion was made for ANC6B to appeal the decision of the DCRA and to designate Holman and Samolyk as the Commission's representatives for the protest. Following discussion, the motion passed with one abstention, 9-0-1 (Holman/Sroufe). It was explained that if DCRA challenges the appeal following the presentation of facts and evidence it will go before the BZA for resolution.

- 8. Actions Related to Work of the Transportation Committee. The 2022 proposed budget will cut transportation services across ANC6B. Commissioner Horn explored the issue and drafted a letter calling attention to the problems created by reducing service at a time of school reopening and also the hoped for restart of the hospitality industry whose workers are dependent on public transportation. A committee motion to send the approved letter to WMATA and the Mayor was introduced by Chair Oldenburg and passed unanimously. It was determined that the letter should be sent to the Coronavirus 19 Task Force chairs, also. Chair Oldenburg moved to write to DDOT requesting that speed bumps be installed on the 100 block of F street at Duddington Place. Approved unanimously (Oldenburg/Samolyk). Committee Reports
- 9. <u>Hill East Task Force</u>. Oral presentation included recent information, received after considerable effort, about the response to RFPs for development in Reservation #13. There was a discussion of whether it would be appropriate for ANC6B to meet with the developers submitting proposals in the area. It was concluded that this would be a permissible action only

if all submitters were invited to meet with ANC representatives while developing their proposals.

- 10. <u>Livable Community Task Force.</u> No written report was provided but there was oral discussion of progress made on Eastern Market Metro Park development and a temporary installation request (discussed below).
- 11. EMCAC. A written report was provided in agenda materials, but was not read or discussed.
- 12. <u>Capitol Hill Barracks Row Improvement Group</u>. It was announced that a meeting was being scheduled with notices to be sent out on Friday.
- 13. <u>Financial Report</u>. The Commission approved expenditure of up to \$350 for running announcements in Hill Rag and neighborhood guide. Unanimous (Holman/Ready). There were no other expenses during the reporting period.
- 14. Other ANC Concerns. Commissioner Holtzman reported that DC Parks and Recreation was seeking permission for a temporary installment of a fiberglass sculpture (i.e, a giant cherry blossom) to be placed in the splash pad from March 18 through the end of the Cherry Blossom Festival. a motion to approve the request was passed unanimously (Sroufe/Ryder).
- 15. <u>Adjournment.</u> Commissioner Oldenburg adjourned the meeting at 10:29; the Commission will reconvene on April 14.

Respectfully, Jerry Sroufe, Secretary

Planning and Zoning Consent Items

i.HPA 19-03: Southeast Library Landmark Nomination; Historic Landmark nomination under national criteria A (History) and C (Architecture); Applicant: Beth Purcell, Capitol Hill Restoration Society [6B03]

ii.BZA 20422: 610 South Carolina Ave SE; Special Exception to construct a one story addition to two-story building (Square 0875, Lot 0037); Owner: Michael Hsu and Seema Gajwani; Michael Fowler, mike@fowler-architects.com; Hearing Date: 03/24/2021 [6B03]

https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/CaseReport/CaseReportPage.aspx?case_id=20422

- iii.HPA 21-218: 15 8th Street SE, Concept review for 2-story rear addition adjacent to alley; Owner: Ted Jutras and Erica Stanley, tcjutras@gmail.com; Architect: Paula Morris, Morris Architects, morrisarc@aol.com; [6B02] https://app.box.com/s/dhn9muwq7e6fqor5v5v40hn1w7yanfma/folder/132203832091
- iv.BZA 20429: 411 New Jersey Ave SE; Special exception to construct two new, three-story, principal dwelling units in the RF-3/PDR-5 Zone (Square 0693, Lot 0096); Owner: MADM Development LLC.; Applicant: Martin Sullivan, msullivan@sullivanbarros.com; Hearing Date: 03/31/2021 [6B01] https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/CaseReport/CaseReportPage.aspx?case id=20429