



APPROVED Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

December 12, 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

Held Over Zoom December 12, 2023

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Participating: Commissioners Avery, D'Andrea, Durkit, Jayaraman, LaFortune, Mareino, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe.

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

1. Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Sroufe did not vote.

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as modified. The motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Sroufe did not vote. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

a. Minutes.

1) November 14. Minutes, as proposed, of the November 14, 2023 meeting.

2) October 10. Motion to amend something previously adopted: to delete, from the October minutes as approved at the November 14 meeting, the October minutes' erroneous report that Commissioner Durkit participated in the October meeting.

b. Committee recommendations: from the--

1) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee. To request an extension of the protest-petition deadline until January 19, 2024, regarding the application, for a new medical-cannabis retailer license, of Seedless, LLC, trading as No Kids Allowed, 637B Pennsylvania Ave., SE (ABCA-126724).

2) Transportation Committee. To write the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) urging the installation of four-way stop signs and raised crosswalks at the intersection of 5th St. and Independence Ave., SE.

3) Planning and Zoning Committee. To write the DC Department of Buildings describing what has happened regarding illegal construction at 516 Archibald Walk, SE, urging an investigation and requesting an explanation of how DC permitted this illegal construction; and to authorize Commissioners D'Andrea and Sobelsohn to finalize the letter, to be sent without further ANC review.

3. Community and Commission Announcements.

a. Committee resignations.

1) Commissioner D'Andrea announced the resignation of Dilip Ramchandani, his Resident Member on the Public Safety Committee.

2) Commissioner Jayaraman announced the resignation of Susan Draino, his Resident Member on the Transportation Committee.

b. Upcoming safety walk. Commissioner Avery announced that, at 5 p.m. December 13, he, the Metropolitan Police Department, several other DC agencies, and Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen will lead a public-safety walk in his single-member district, starting at the corner of 4th St. and Seward Square, SE.

c. Mayor's Office of Community Relations. Jake Stolzenberg, from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, reported on--

1) Mayoral press conferences.

a) December 7 with DC Police Chief Pamela Smith and representatives of related Maryland and Virginia agencies, and--

b) December 22 with families at Nationals Park, 1500 South Capitol St., SE.

2) DMV Black Restaurant Week December 3-10, 2023.

Stolzenberg also promised to report back on whether police officers or civilians will staff DC's new Real-Time Crime Center, announced December 7.

d. DC Voters for Animals. Max Broad from DC Voters for Animals reported a campaign to solicit signatures of DC's Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners on a letter urging the DC Council to prohibit DC's restaurants' serving pâté de foie gras.

e. Outstanding Public Service Award. Commissioner Sroufe announced a deadline of December 15 to submit nominations for the annual ANC 6B Outstanding Public Service Award. The executive committee will choose the recipient at its meeting December 19.

f. 2023 Annual Report. Commissioner Ryder announced that he will propose a 2023 ANC 6B annual report at the January 9 meeting.

4. Support for Diversity of Businesses in ANC 6B.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D’Andrea seconded to adopt an “ANC Statement of Support for Diverse Businesses and Business Owners” that reads that “Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B cherishes the diversity of businesses in our ANC. We will protect our businesses--all our businesses--from harassment or intimidation, including from those who patronize a competitor.” Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to amend the motion to delete the words “including from those who patronize a competitor.”

The motion to amend passed 8-1, with Commissioner Sobelsohn opposed.

The underlying motion passed 9-0.

5. Committee and Taskforce Reports.

a. Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee. Commissioner Jayaraman, chair of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee, moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to support the application of

527 8th, LLC, trading as Barracks Row Joey's, 527-529 8th St., SE, for renewal of an existing class "C" tavern alcoholic-beverage license (ABRA-126828), and delegating to Commissioner Jayaraman the authority to finalize an amended settlement agreement regarding Joey’s hours of operation. The motion passed 8-0. Commissioner Sroufe did not vote.

The finalized settlement agreement is linked to these minutes, as is the committee’s written report.

b. Transportation Committee: 8th Street Bus Priority Project.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D’Andrea seconded to send DDOT a letter supporting its 8th Street Bus Priority Project as a whole, with specific support for proposed alternate 3 for the 800 block of D St., SE, which keeps D St. westward one way but physically prevents left turns from D St. onto 8th St., SE. The letter would take no position on the proposed alternatives for the 700 block of D St., SE. However, the letter would urge DDOT to study restricting traffic on the 700 block of D St., SE, including assessing traffic restriction’s effect on pedestrian safety and on businesses. The letter would urge DDOT in general to adopt a pedestrian-friendly design, and one that prevents buses from idling or parking so as to block storefront visibility. The motion passed 9-0.

A written report from the Transportation Committee is linked to these minutes.

c. Planning and Zoning Committee. Commissioner D’Andrea, chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Subcommittee on Street and Alley Closings awaits a response to its proposed list of community benefits, sent to Clear Plains, LLC, regarding Clear Plains’

effort to close an alley in square 762. The committee’s written report is linked to these minutes.

d. Southeast Library Task Force. Commissioner Sobelsohn, chair of the Southeast Library Task Force, reported that the DC Public Library will hold a town meeting 7 p.m. December 14 at the Southeast library to announce its plans for closing the library January 4 and providing interim library services during the years the Southeast library will be closed for

renovations. The minutes of the taskforce's December 3 meeting are linked to these minutes. The taskforce will meet next at 3 p.m. December 17 in its final meeting at the library.

e. Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force. A written report for the Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force is linked to these minutes.

f. Special Committee on Public Safety. A written report for the Special Committee on Public Safety is linked to these minutes.

g. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC).

Commissioner Sroufe, ANC 6B's representative to EMCAC, reported that EMCAC has met with four DC councilmembers regarding Eastern Market's financial needs.

6. Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Avery, ANC 6B treasurer, reported on billing issues with The Yard, manager of bookings for 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE.

7. ANC 6B Administrative Matters.

a. Committees and taskforces.

1) Establishment of new standing committee. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to establish a standing Committee on Public Safety. After discussion, Commissioner D'Andrea moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to call the question.

The motion to call the question failed 6-3, with Commissioners D'Andrea, LaFortune, and Mareino voting in favor. The motion to establish a new standing committee passed 7-2, with Commissioners Sroufe and Mareino opposed.

2) Proposed Bylaws Amendment. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to amend the bylaws. Currently, article VII section 1.C. reads "Special committees and task forces must be renewed annually at the Commission's regular meeting in February." The motion would replace that with: "The Commission and its Executive Committee shall each have power to create special committees and taskforces. Unless provided otherwise in the motion that created the special committee or taskforce, all special committees and taskforces expire at the end of the Commission's regular February meeting in the first calendar year after the Commission established that special committee or taskforce. Even without a provision in the motion that created that special committee or taskforce, at any meeting of the full Commission, the Commission may extend the life of a special committee or taskforce by up to 14 months after the meeting at which the Commission votes to extend the life of that special committee or taskforce. By a majority vote, and with two weeks' notice to all Commissioners, the Commission at any meeting of the full ANC may eliminate a special committee or taskforce." Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Durkit seconded to table the motion until the January meeting. The motion passed 8-0. Commissioner Mareino abstained. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to amend the agenda

by deleting "Reauthorization of Special Committees and Taskforces." The motion passed 8-1, with Commissioner Sobelsohn opposed.

b. 2024 and January 2025 Meeting Schedules. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to adopt the proposed schedule of full ANC and standing-committee meetings for 2024 and the full ANC meeting for January 2025. The motion passed 9-0. The schedule is linked to these minutes.

c. Upcoming meeting dates. Commissioner Ryder announced that the executive committee will meet December 19 and January 30; that the full ANC will meet January 9; and that the three standing committees will meet the first week of January: Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis on January 2, Transportation on January 3, and Planning and Zoning January 4.

8. Commissioner Ryder moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to adjourn. The motion passed without objection. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sobelsohn
ANC Secretary