



APPROVED Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

April 8, 2024

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 8, 2024

Held In Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and Over Zoom

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Participating: Commissioners Avery, D’Andrea, Jayaraman, LaFortune, Mareino, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe

Absent: Commissioner Durkit

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to approve the agenda as proposed. Commissioner D’Andrea moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to amend the proposed agenda to correct the Planning and Zoning Committee’s report, as part of the consent agenda regarding Pacci’s Trattoria, so that it reads “Approval of Commissioner D’Andrea’s April 10 testimony to supplement testimony presented at the April 5 hearing of the Board of Zoning Adjustment.” The motion to amend passed 6-0. Commissioners Mareino and Sroufe did not vote on the motion to amend. The motion to approve the agenda as amended passed 6-0. Commissioners Mareino and Sroufe did not vote on the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed 6-0. Commissioners Mareino and Sroufe did not vote on the motion. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

- a. Minutes of the March 12 meeting as presented. Those minutes are linked to these.
- b. Committee recommendations. From the committees on--
 - 1) Alcoholic Beverage & Cannabis: support renewal of class A liquor licenses for--
 - a) K&W Legacy, LLC, trading as Capitol Hill Wine & Spirits, 323 Pennsylvania Ave., SE (ABRA-100211).
 - b) Wine Root, Inc., trading as New Congressional Liquor, 404 1st St., SE (ABRA-103161).
 - 2) Transportation: that the ANC send letters to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and also to--
 - a) The Department of Public Works, letter to be drafted by Commissioners LaFortune and Sobelsohn, urging the installation of--
 - 1-- “No Parking” signs in the alley behind the 700 block of C St., SE, and to include increased DPW parking enforcement in the alley.

2-- Speedbumps on the 600 block of I St., SE (TSI 24-00150352), and to include DPW's removal of graffiti on the 600 block of I St., SE, and the 700 block of 7th St., SE.

b) Councilmember Charles Allen urging DDOT to commission a study on an improved design for I-695, letter to be drafted by Commissioners LaFortune and Avery, along with ANC 6B01 Transportation Committee Resident Member Jakob Youngblood and ANC 6B01 Alternate Resident Member Jack Johnson.

3) Planning and Zoning: Approval of Commissioner D'Andrea's April 10 testimony to supplement testimony presented at the April 5 hearing of the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) on the application of Pacci's Trattoria, 106 13th St., SE, for a variance to expand into its top floor (BZA 20996). That April 10 supplemental testimony is linked to these minutes.

b. Administrative matter: To avoid conflicting with the second seder of Passover, reschedule meeting of Public Safety Committee from April 23 (old date) to April 24 (new date).

3. Presentation. Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen made a presentation and answered questions about DC's Fiscal Year 2025 budget and other matters.

a. Pacci's Trattoria. With support from the Office of Planning, Councilmember Allen expects BZA to approve Pacci's requested variance.

b. Parks. Councilmember Allen reported that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) pays more attention to recreation centers than to public parks. He urged the adoption of a park-manager model.

c. Eastern Market.

1) Metro Plaza. At a Department of General Services oversight hearing April 8, the DGS director promised to redo the gravel at the Metro Plaza, and claimed DGS now has a budget for regular Plaza maintenance.

2) Pedestrian safety. Councilmember Charles Allen is working with the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee and DGS to erect bollards at the alley side of Eastern Market.

d. Budget.

1) Process.

a) Mayor's proposed budget. Late delivery of the mayor's budget has delayed Council budget hearings two weeks. Councilmember Allen invited email messages to callen@dccouncil.gov to learn the new hearing dates. The hearings will all be hybrid, in person and live-streamed.

b) Councilmember Allen's hybrid town hall. Councilmember Allen announced a Ward Six budget town hall at the Northeast library, 330 7th St., NE Monday, April 29, from 6-7:30 p.m.

2) Substance.

a) Taxes. Councilmember Allen reported that the Tax Revision Commission withdrew its most recent recommendations and will make no Fiscal Year 2025 recommendation. The mayor's budget proposes increasing the sales tax, which will disproportionately hurt low-income residents, but no increase in income or property taxes. The mayor is also proposing increasing taxes on paid family leave, proceeds to go to the general fund, not to the fund that supports paid family leave.

b) Spending.

1-- Capital budget. Councilmember Allen reported that he is content with the mayor's proposed capital budget for Ward Six.

2-- Operating budget.

a-- Public Safety. Councilmember Allen reported that the mayor's proposed budget has ample funds for the Metropolitan Police Department and its cadet program.

b-- Transportation. Councilmember Allen reported that the mayor's proposed budget has \$218 million, a proportionate DC share, for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, but that it funds WMATA just for one year. Councilmember Allen now chairs the DC area Council of Governments and expects proportionate WMATA funds from Maryland and Virginia. The mayor's budget also proposes, after six months, completely to eliminate the Circulator. The Circulator

currently connects Southwest DC with the Navy Yard and Eastern Market. DC has no current plans to replace it with a regular bus route.

c-- Schools. Councilmember Allen reported that the mayor proposes to repeal the Students First Funding Formula, and that DC Public Schools will lay off 200 employees.

d-- Other budget cuts. Councilmember Allen reported that the mayor proposes to--

(1) Eliminate the Pay Equity Fund, which helps support daycare centers.

(2) Eliminate the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which help renters stay in their homes.

(3) Reduce funding for the Housing Trust Fund, which helps create affordable housing.

4. Announcements.

a. Commissioner Jayaraman announced that he will host a community meeting April 24, 7 p.m., at Mott's, 232 12th St., SE, to discuss the DDOT hardening project for the intersection of 13th St., Kentucky Avenue, and Independence Avenue, SE.

b. Jake Stolzenberg, of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, announced that--

1) The Emancipation Day parade will take place Sunday, April 14.

2) A Deputy Mayor will offer to address the ANC this spring.

3) The Department of General Services has a new contact, whose information Stolzenberg will forward to the ANC.

4) Mayor Bowser has proposed her sales-tax increase partly to subsidize WMATA.

c. Kimberly Kennedy, of Councilmember Allen's office, promised that she will work promptly to replace the missing DC flag atop the William H. Rumsey Aquatic Center, 635 North Carolina Ave., SE.

d. Commissioner Ryder announced upcoming ANC 6B meetings: of the--

1) Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force April 15 at 7 p.m.

2) Public Safety Committee April 24 at 6:30 p.m.

3) Southeast Library Task Force April 25 at 6:30 p.m.

4) Executive Committee April 30 at 7 p.m.

5) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee May 7 at 7 p.m.

6) Transportation Committee May 8 at 7 p.m.

7) Planning and Zoning Committee May 9 at 7 p.m.

8) Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6B May 14 at 7 p.m.

5. Committee and Taskforce Reports.

a. Alcoholic Beverage & Cannabis Committee. Commissioner Jayaraman, committee chair, announced that class A and class B liquor-license renewals are up this year. A written committee report is linked to these minutes.

b. Transportation Committee. Commissioner LaFortune, committee chair, discussed the DDOT Notice of Intent for the Vision Zero hardening at the intersection of 13th St., Kentucky Avenue, and Independence Avenue, SE. Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to approve a letter to DDOT, drafted by Commissioner Jayaraman, requesting an extension on DDOT's consideration of the NOI until May 20. The motion passed 3-1, with Commissioner D'Andrea voting no and Commissioners Avery, LaFortune, Mareino, and Ryder abstaining. A copy of the letter is linked to these minutes. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to authorize Commissioner LaFortune, on behalf of the ANC, to draft and send a letter to DDOT urging that DDOT provide faster notice to the ANC of Notices of Intent DDOT posts on its website that

relate to transportation issues in ANC 6B. The motion passed 7-0, with Commissioner Jayaraman abstaining. A written committee report is linked to these minutes.

c. Planning and Zoning Committee. Commissioner D'Andrea moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to support Jonathan Schmidt's application for an area variance to convert to a principal dwelling unit, and to build a second-story addition to, 633 E St., SE Rear, an existing, semi-detached, commercial building in the RF-1 zone (BZA 21098). The primary dispute concerned the amount of light the addition would permit on neighboring properties. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to table the motion until the ANC's May 14 meeting. The motion to table failed, 3-4, with Commissioners Jayaraman, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe voting "yes," Commissioners Avery, D'Andrea, LaFortune, and Mareino voting "no," and Commissioner Ryder abstaining. The underlying motion passed 5-3, with Commissioners Avery, D'Andrea, LaFortune, Mareino, and Ryder voting "yes," and Commissioners Jayaraman, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe voting "no." A written committee report is linked to these minutes.

6. Appointment of ABC chair. Commissioner Ryder moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to reappoint Commissioner Jayaraman to chair the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee. The motion passed 8-0.

7. Remaining Agenda Items. Except for adjournment, Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to table the remainder of the agenda until the Executive Committee meeting April 30. The motion passed 8-0.

8. Adjournment. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to adjourn. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sobelsohn
Secretary, ANC 6B