



Capitol Hill / Southeast

Regular Monthly Meeting September 9, 2024

Held in Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and over Zoom

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

APPROVED Minutes

to be submitted at ANC 6B meeting December 10, 2024

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 12, 2024

Held in Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE and over Zoom

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

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

Absent: Commissioner D'Andrea

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Meeting Agenda.

As requested by the Commissioner Sobelsohn, and by unanimous consent, the proposed agenda was modified by--

a. Adding to--

- 1) Consent Agenda: written reports of committees and taskforces.**
- 2) Introductions: introduction of newly elected commissioners in attendance.**
- 3) Announcements: report on undecided ANC 6B races.**

b. Removing from Consent Agenda and moving to report of Transportation Committee, letters to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) recommending specific safety improvements--

- 1) At the four Q1 FY25 TSI priority locations in ANC 6B.**
- 2) On 3rd St., SE, adjacent to Garfield Park.**

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to approve the agenda as modified. The motion passed 7-0.

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to approve items on the Consent Agenda as modified. The motion passed 7-0. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

a. Minutes of October 12 meeting. Those minutes are linked to these.

b. Committee and taskforce--

- 1) Written reports are linked to these minutes.**
- 2) Recommendations: from the committees on--**

a) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis: to support, along with the related settlement agreement, applications of Twenty-Eight USE, trading as Saint Georges, 301 7th St., SE, for a new retailer--

- 1-- Class "B" Beer and Wine Store license (ABRA-129295).**
- 2-- Class "C" Restaurant license (ABRA-129296).**

The signed settlement agreement is linked to these minutes.

b) Planning and Zoning: to support the application of architect Bill Putnam for historic preservation approval of a new two-story garage in the rear yard at 1227 Independence Ave., SE (HPA 24-480).

c) Public Safety: to send a letter to Councilmember Brooke Pinto (Ward Two), chair of the DC Council Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, urging a prompt hearing on pending bills regarding the Office of Unified Communications. That letter is linked to these minutes.

d) **Transportation:** to send a letter to DDOT urging the erection of a stop sign on the eastbound side of Independence Ave., SE, at 5th St., SE (TSI #24-00281510). That letter is linked to these minutes.

c. **Appointments to Transportation Committee by Commissioner--**

- 1) **Mareino of Brianne Eby-Stockert as Alternate Resident Member for 6B07.**
- 2) **LaFortune of Karen Hughes as Resident Member for 6B09.**

d. **Financial matter:** revised Fiscal Year 2024 3rd and 4th quarters Quarterly Financial Reports, linked to these minutes.

3. **Announcements: by--**

a. **ANC 6B commissioners.**

1) **Commissioner Ryder made announcements regarding--**

a) **2024 ANC 6B Elections: Commissioner Ryder--**

1-- **Introduced newly elected ANC 6B Commissioners Krebs (6B06) and Hughes (6B09), both to take office in January 2025.**

2-- **Reported three as-yet undecided races (with no candidate on the ballot) in 6B04, 6B05, and 6B08.**

b) **Upcoming ANC 6B Meetings: Commissioner Ryder announced upcoming ANC 6B meetings of the ANC 6B.**

1-- **In-person meetings, all at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, of--**

a-- **Taskforces.**

(1) **Southeast Library Task Force on November 18, 6:30 p.m. (with livestreaming).**

(2) **Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force, on November 18 and December 9, both 7 p.m. (in person only).**

b-- **Full ANC 6B: on December 10, 7 p.m. (with livestreaming).**

2-- **Virtual meetings, via Zoom, of the--**

a-- **ANC 6B Executive Committee, November 19, 7 p.m.**

b-- **Committees on--**

(1) **Public Safety, November 25, 6:30 p.m.**

(2) **Planning and Zoning, December 2, 7 p.m.**

(3) **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis, December 3, 7 p.m.**

(4) **Transportation, December 4, 7 p.m.**

2) **Commissioner Sobelsohn announced the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, co-produced by Barracks Row Main Street and the Capitol Hill Business Improvement District, on the Eastern Market Metrorail Plaza, on November 23, 5:30 p.m.**

3) **Commissioner Avery announced a virtual public-safety forum, organized by the ANC 6B Public Safety Committee and co-hosted with ANCs 1A, 4C, and 5F on November 14, 6 p.m.**

b. **Representatives of--**

1) **Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services: Noah Glasgow reported on--**

a) **2025 transfer of presidential power: DC is preparing both for--**

1-- **Certification of results January 6: the Department of Homeland Security has recognized January 6 as a Special National-Security Event.**

2-- **Inauguration January 20: DC is preparing for all contingencies, from a peaceful transfer of power to massive disruption. People can register for ongoing updates at alert.dc.gov or inauguration.dc.gov.**

b) **Pending DC purchase of the Capital One Arena. A DC Council hearing will take place November 14 of the Downtown Arena Revitalization Act of 2024, under which DC would pay \$515 million to buy the Capital One Arena, to re-lease to Monumental Sports.**

2) Office of Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen: Kimberly Kennedy reported on--

a) Two bills sponsored by Councilmember Allen: bills--

- 1-- Encouraging use of solar panels to provide more shade to playgrounds.
- 2-- Giving community sports leagues priority for using public fields.

b) Councilmember Allen's--

- 1-- Community office hours at Solid State Books, 600 H St., NE, November 15, 8:30-10 a.m.
- 2-- Brickie Awards, scheduled for December 5, 6-8 p.m.

4. Presentation about Brent Elementary School.

DLRGroup's Erika Lehman made a presentation about the pending demolition and replacement of Brent Elementary School, 301 North Carolina Ave., SE. The new building will have three stories plus a basement. Lehman pledges that the community will have access to the new building's library and gymnasium, including its stage. She expects DLRGroup to take occupancy in August 2025, for abatement and demolition to take until that December, to start construction by January 2026, and for the school to reopen in fall 2027. During demolition, students are scheduled to attend Meyer Elementary School, 2501 11th St., NW. Lehman promised to send the ANC the slides she showed the ANC during this meeting.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society has supported the project. The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) will hear it on November 21. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded for the ANC to support the project before the HPRB. The motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Avery abstained.

5. Bottle-Bill Legislation.

At the October ANC meeting, Christopher Williams, president of the Anacostia Watershed Society, made a presentation, for the Return, Refund and Recycle Coalition, about the bottle-refund bill Councilmember Brianne Nadeau (Ward One) plans to introduce in 2025. The approved minutes for that October ANC meeting summarizes Williams's presentation. The Coalition expects the bill to make the deposit at least 10 cents per bottle, and to make it easy for consumers to return bottles for a refund. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to endorse the general outlines of the bill and to send a letter reflecting that endorsement to DC councilmembers and to the director of the DC Department of Energy and Environment. The motion passed 7-0.

6. Committee and Taskforce Reports: of the--

a. Committees on--

1) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis.

a) January meeting. Commissioner Ryder moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to reschedule the January committee meeting from Tuesday, January 7, 2025, Orthodox Christmas, to Monday, January 6. The motion passed 7-0.

b) Specific applications, of--

1-- Union Kitchen, 430 8th St., SE, for a new Retailer's Class "B" full-service grocery license (ABRA-129641). Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to support the application based on the expectation that the applicant will sign the settlement agreement presented to the applicant by the committee. The motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Sobelsohn abstained. The proposed settlement agreement is linked to these minutes.

2-- Trustees of Amherst College, trading as Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 E. Capitol St., SE (ABRA-001792). According to the Folger's Ruth Taylor Kidd, the Folger wants to expand the hours the Folger Café can sell alcohol under its existing license and settlement agreement, so that it can sell alcohol from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., the hours the Café expects it will sell other comestibles when it opens on November 22, 2024. Commissioner Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to support the application, along with a stipulated license pending the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board's ruling on the application. The motion passed 7-0. The revised settlement agreement is linked to these minutes.

2) Planning and Zoning.

a) 609 Independence Ave., SE (HPA 24-478). Architect Mike Fowler made a presentation on behalf of a proposal to raze an existing two-story flat at this address and build a new three-story building with a cellar, to consist of two two-family flats, both with English basement apartments. It's not clear whether the building's neighbors support the project in its current form, but Fowler reported support from the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. Commissioner Sroufe moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to support the application before HPRB. The motion passed 6-1, with Commissioner Sobelsohn opposed.

b) Navy Yard East project before Zoning Commission (ZC 23-27). After discussion, by consensus the ANC agreed to postpone consideration of this application to a subsequent ANC meeting.

3) Transportation.

a) Safety improvements: Commissioner LaFortune moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded for ANC 6B to send letters to DDOT, to be drafted by committee chair LaFortune, urging specific safety improvements--

1-- At the four first-quarter fiscal-year Traffic Safety Input priority locations in ANC 6B. This letter is linked to these minutes.

2-- To reduce speeding on 3rd St., SE, adjacent to Garfield Park (TSI #24-00628184). This letter is linked to these minutes.

b) Streatery Program. DDOT's Abraham Diallo made a presentation about DDOT's plans for restaurant streateries. DDOT wants its permanent streatery approach to reflect a return to the time before COVID, aiming for economic resiliency, more efficient use of public space, and increased public safety through increased eyes on the street. DDOT will accept streatery applications through December 2024. Streateries must comply with DDOT's new regulations by July 31, 2025. Diallo assured the ANC that DDOT will require any streatery proposal that involves taking over a parking spot to first go before the local ANC. Commissioner LaFortune moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to empower Commissioner LaFortune, as ANC 6B's Transportation Committee chair, to ask DDOT if its proposed Streatery Program will allow as much ANC input as with sidewalk cafés and, if not, to empower Commissioner LaFortune to prepare and submit a resolution, on ANC 6B's behalf, urging DDOT to give ANCs the same chance to review and comment on streatery applications as ANCs have regarding sidewalk cafés. The motion passed 7-0.

b. Southeast Library Task Force: Taskforce Chair Commissioner Sobelsohn distributed copies of a flyer produced by the taskforce to promote use of the interim library at the Arthur Capper Community Center, 1000 5th St., SE; announced a planned meeting between taskforce members and Erik Salmi of Councilmember Allen's office; and reported on ongoing library renovation, in particular the contractor's request for authority to work on Veterans' Day, November 11--a request Commissioner Sobelsohn supported--and its pending request to work on Presidents' Day, February 17.

7. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to postpone consideration of other agenda items until the December ANC meeting, and to adjourn. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sobelsohn
Secretary, ANC 6B