

ANC6B Monthly Meeting Minutes May 14, 2020

1. ANC6B Chair, Brian Ready, called the virtual meeting to order at 7:05. Eight Commissioners were present: Corey Holman (Treasurer); Steve Holtzman; Chander Jayaraman (Vice Chair); Kirsten Oldenburg; Jennifer Samolyk; Jerry Sroufe (Secretary); and Kelly Waud Parliamentarian). It was announced that because of the CV-19 guidelines for physical distancing, no committee meetings had been held during the month prior to this ANC meeting.
2. Introductions were requested of each of the 8 Commissioners participating in the Webex call from various locations around Ward 6. It was noted that ANC is currently short one commissioner through resignation, and that a second, Commissioner Krepp, was ill. Eight Commissioners participated in every vote.

Chairman Ready welcomed the two presenters who would be participating in the meeting, John Stokes and Jessica Sutter.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The prepared agenda was modified to include the addition of two stipulated licenses (Trusty's and the Roost) to be considered within the ABC Committee discussion. The motion to adopt the agenda as modified was approved 8-0 (Jayaraman/Sroufe).

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved (8-0) without change (Jayaraman/Samolyk). Included within the consent agenda was approval of the Minutes of the April 14 ANC6B meeting, and three zoning approvals that were forwarded by the Planning and Zoning Committee: (1) 310 4th SE, (2) 222 Kentucky SE, and (3) 1235 E Street, SE.

5. Presentations

Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 Representative on DC State Board of Education discussed the Board's response to CV-19 and plans for restarting the schools: (1) She said that the Restart Committee of the SBOE would be providing recommendations for early education and childhood education at its May meeting that would address the difficulty of assuring sufficient physical distancing for young children. (2) She said the committee working on teacher retention issues would be making recommendations in the near future. (3) Finally, she called attention to creation of a committee, which she will chair, to examine the social studies standards which now have been in place for 13 years. Sutter requested the ANC's help in soliciting a strong committee of experts for this task.

In response to questions from the Commissioners, Sutter talked about the problems SBOE has encountered in providing computers for all children working at home during the pandemic. She noted that 1600 additional computers had been ordered and she invited anyone knowing of children lacking computer access to send family's names to her directly. In this instance the public charter schools have been able to act purchase items more quickly as they did not need to consult with the OCTO.

In response to questions about restarting the schools, Sutter stated that the decision would be made by health officials. She observed that while many children did not seem susceptible to the disease, all could transmit it to adult teachers so that care would have to be exercised in the reopening.

John Stokes, Interim Associate Director of External Affairs, District Government Services (DGS) addressed questions posed by Commissioners in advance of the meeting as well as those arising in the Informative Q and A. He stated that the slow response by DGS regarding seeking waivers to reopen the outdoor market was the result of an abundance of caution and noted that only one week-end actually had been missed. Stokes said that the strategic plan being developed by outside consultants was on track and had not been delayed by the pandemic.

In response to questions about the many-year concern to establish leases for the South Hall merchants Stokes said progress was being made and that he hoped the issue would be resolved over the next few

months. Asked how many leases had been actually completed, however, the answer was “one.” Commissioner Waud asked if the downturn of income of merchants due to the pandemic would be reflected in the leases. Stokes noted that leases were being developed to cover a number of individual circumstances: yearly and multiple year plans.

Commissioner Oldenburg asked about making street space available for pedestrians to make it easier to maintain physical distancing, and Stokes said he would consult with DDOT. Commissioner Samolyk requested assurance that any changes in street not interfere with the Urgent Care facility directly across from the Eastern Market. Commissioner Holtzman asked if DGS (the agency responsible for the Eastern Market Metro Park) was confident that project could continue in the face of the District’s budget shortfall. Stokes said that the funds for an ongoing project such as the Metro Park would be unlikely to be cut.

6. Commissioner and Community Speak-out

Commissioner Samolyk recognized the outstanding work of Gerard Brown of the DOH for efforts at rat eradication in the community. The Department of Health is working with two new technologies: one a chemical sterilizer; the other a means of causing affixation within the boroughs.

Tyler Williams, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), announced that a food delivery hot line for seniors unable to leave homes: 202-724-5626. Commissioner Jayaraman urged Williams to convey the thought that the 900 virus trackers to be hired all be DC residents, currently it is stipulated that at least 50 percent be DC residents.

Charles Perkins, Pepco, announced an initiative that included the possibility of a \$300 prize for households taking steps to reduce energy.

7. ABC Committee Report and Actions

Commissioner Jayaraman reported that a settlement agreement had been reached for the Roost that appeared to satisfy developers and neighbors. The agreement reduced hours of service in the outside area and modified delivery times and procedures, along with areas for exiting. The agreement was approved (Holman, Waud 8-0). A signed agreement should be received shortly; the Roost may proceed without waiting 45 days for license approval.

A stipulated agreement reached with Trustys to install games of skill with cash payout was also approved (Jayaraman/Sroufe; 6-0-2).

8. Transportation Committee

The ANC reviewed potential sidewalk extensions (i.e. parking restrictions) within 6B to permit physical distancing in congested areas. The discussion centered on three sidewalk congestion areas as illustrations: Frager’s, Bullfrog, and Eastern Market, but it was suggested that the Barracks Row Working Group investigate the possibility of sidewalk extensions on 8th Street. A motion to have committee chair Oldenburg provide a letter to DDOT calling attention to these and other areas identified by Commissioners as promising sidewalk extension opportunities was approved (Jayaraman/ Holtzman 7- 1.)

DDOT has proposed two “micro-mobility” corrals for installation within ANC6b. One-hundred sites are planned, however, DDOT is temporarily out of funds for the installations. According to the listing provided on the DDOT website, 6B would have corrals installed at 11th and Independence, SE, and at 8th and D, SE. A motion to write to DDOT affirming the ANC’s support for the two sites as a priority in the coming fiscal year was approved (Oldenburg/Ready 8-0).

9. Planning and Zoning Committee

Committee Chairman Holman reported there has been some delay in moving forward with consideration of the project at 1330 M street due to concerns raised in a financial consultant report but that the PUD process was moving now. It is anticipated now that there be a developer-led community meeting on either May 28 or 30; commissioners were encouraged to help disseminate information about the meeting.

Commissioner Holman mentioned that because of the delay in the budget and CM Mendelsohn’s emphatic announcement that no hearings on the Comprehensive Plan would be held until fall, there was no need to

expedite development of ANC6B's response to the amendments forwarded to Council by the Office of Planning.

10. Financial Reports

Treasurer Holman dispensed with reading the monthly report that had been provided commissioners in advance. However, in response to a question about the amount of funds expended on website improvements to date he said the amount was \$4750.

11. Task Force and Organization Reports

Due to CV-19 restrictions, no April meetings were held of the following groups: Hill East Task Force, Livable Community Task Force, Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee, Working Group on Barracks Row.

12. ANC Input on Other Concerns

a. One-time Grant to Humanitarian Organizations

The DC Council has encouraged ANCs to contribute any excess funds to organizations engaged in helping to resolve humanitarian problems created by the pandemic, and has modified ANC legislation to permit such action. Commissioner Sroufe proposed three motions to initiate ANC6b's response to this challenge. (They are lengthy and are attached). Motion one: to actively pursue opportunities for ANC6b to allocate a portion of its resources in the form of one-time grants to appropriate helping organizations (Sroufe/Jayaraman, passed 6-1-1). Motion two: explore any obstacles provided by bylaws and necessary steps to resolve them (Sroufe/Ready, passed 8-0). Motion three: to create a suitable program of conditions for award of grants to be presented to the ANC at its June 9 meeting(Sroufe/Holtzman 8-0).

b. BIDs and Main Street Resources in Pandemic

ANC6B has previously corresponded with the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to urge flexibility within the BID grants to small businesses (e.g., moving grants from facade improvement to sustainability). It was agreed that Chairman Ready would renew this request.

c. Garfield Park Sprinkler System,

A motion by Commissioner Samolyk, second by Ready, to request that installation of a sprinkler system at Garfield Park be given priority status in the 2021 budget passed 6-0-2. Samolyk will modify draft letter to include reference to the action of the full ANC (i.e., duly noticed meeting, etc.) and forward it to CM Allen and to the Mayor.

d. ANC Website

Website was not fully discussed due to time limitations, but it was noted that the recent difficulties with the site have been resolved. Future meetings are planned to discuss deliverables, e.g., webpages for standing committee chairs and task forces.

e. Vacancy in SMD 09

Gottlieb Simon advised by videophone that no elections could be held to fill ANC6B's vacant seat prior to November election for two reasons: (1) special elections to fill a vacancy must be conducted at a meeting where Commissioners were present physically, which is not possible at this time; (2)the deadline for special elections has been exceeded in our case.

13. Adjournment.

At 10:15 Commissioner Oldenburg adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent until June 9.