

June 9th 2020, ANC6B Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Ready convened the meeting at 7:09 and welcomed commissioners and guests to the virtual meeting. He called for introductions of the commissioners of ANC6B, all nine of whom were present: 6B01, Jennifer Samolyk; 6B02, Jerry Sroufe (secretary); 6B03, Brian Ready (chair); 6B04, Kirsten Oldenburg; 6B05, Steve Holtzman; 6B06, Corey Holman (Treasurer); 6B07, Kelly Waud (parliamentarian); 6B08, Chander Jayaraman (Vice-chair); 6B10 Denise Krepp. Single Member District 6B09 is currently vacant.

Chairman Ready announced that Director Andrew Trueblood, DC Office of Planning and Development, would be present to provide a budget briefing.

Adoption of the Agenda

Several modifications were made to the agenda: a Planning and Zoning item, BZA 20238, was postponed to the July meeting, and a request for approval of modifications at 515 East Capitol (William Penn House) was added. A topic – street closures – incorrectly identified on the agenda as a Transportation Committee Issue was moved to the section of “Other Concerns” (Item 15).

Following additions and modifications, the agenda was approved unanimously (Holman/Jayaraman).

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda, including the May minutes, was approved unanimously (Holman/Jayaraman).

Presentations to the Commission

(1) Director Andrew Trueblood, Office of Planning and Development, presented information about the Mayor’s proposed budget and participated in a Q and A discussion covering the 1333 M street PUD; the heliport; Reservation 13; the Comprehensive Plan Amendments; and funds for returning citizens.

Regarding the 1333 M Street PUD, Trueblood noted that the plan fit the amended Comprehensive Plan and the future land use plan and observed: “This is the kind of thing the city would like to see in this area.”

Regarding the delay in construction of housing at former site of St. Elizabeth, Trueblood said the District was committed to move forward but that the market is currently depressed. He did note the construction of a new hospital planned for the site and the plan to locate the headquarters of Whitman Walker to be housed on site.

Trueblood said that there was no money in the budget for a private heliport and that he believed alternative land use intended for the area around the bridge (mixed use, waterfront oriented) would discourage its use for a heliport.

Commissioner Jayaraman expressed frustration that many of the ANC's comments developed for the Comprehensive Plan amendments tended to be summarily dismissed by the Office of Planning. Trueblood noted that the 93 comments provided by ANC6B was among the most received. He recommended that if there were concerns about specific amendments that the OP staff would be happy to respond to them, and noted that the amendments would have to go to the District Council for hearings in the fall, providing the ANC an opportunity to rekindle its concerns.

Trueblood agreed that it would be hard to meet the target of 1000 affordable housing units on Capitol Hill and acknowledged the efforts being made by ANC6B. It was noted that the ANC was working aggressively to use tax lots, alley lots, and PUDS, but would likely still fall short of attaining the Mayor's stipulated goal.

(2) Caitlin Chazen, Ward 6 Mutual Aid Network, discussed volunteer opportunities and services provided for most economically challenged citizens. For more information, if one wants to help, or if you know of someone who could use assistance, email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com, or call 202-683-9962.

Community Speak Out Comments

(1) Belinda Perry (www.OCS.dc.gov) [discussed](#) public funding for DC elections, stemming from election reform legislation passed in 2018. To qualify for funds under the program, candidates first have to raise a certain amount of money from small-dollar donors to demonstrate that they are viable candidates. The current requirement is \$5,000 from 150 donors for ward-based Council candidates, to as high as \$40,000 from 1,000 donors for mayoral candidates.

Candidates participating in the program receive a base grant to launch their campaigns — \$160,000 for mayoral contenders, \$40,000 for Council candidates — and become eligible for public funds at a 5 to 1 match (e.g., \$50 from a D.C. resident to a candidate would be matched with \$250 in public funds).

Commissioner Jayaraman asked why filing requirements for those using matching funds were more frequent and more difficult than those not using matching funds. Perry indicated that the regulations had been established by the Council.

(2) Tyler Williams, Ward 6 Liaison, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services, discussed government services currently open during Phase One of the pandemic and requirements for moving into Phase Two – a sustained decrease in new cases for a 14 day period. She mentioned that public testing was now available at Engine #8 on C street and that additional facilities would soon be added. Commissioner Waud reported that testing required several hours of waiting.

Williams reported that there would be a summer youth work program but that, for this year, the Marian Barry Youth Employment Program would be delivered virtually.

(3) Charles Perkins, PEPCO government relations staff, discussed the possibility of customers earning a \$300 gift certificate by signing up for an energy savers club.

Planning and Zoning Committee

The committee presented a motion in support of tax lot changes and offered a brief discussion of the possibility of modifications necessary to make affordable housing more likely across Ward 6. The zoning committee will vote on these tax lot modifications on July 13 at 4:00. While acknowledging the potential of the tax lot modifications for addressing the need for affordable housing availability, the committee moved to support the proposed tax lot changes without specific comment. The motion passed 8-1-0 (Holman/Sroufe).

Following a presentation by the architect, an HPRB application for a chair-lift installation at the William Penn Building on East Capitol was approved 8-0-1 (Sroufe/Holman).

Transportation Committee Discussion

A written report of the June 3 meeting of the Transportation Committee was provided in the agenda materials that included reference to the Pennsylvania/Potomac Avenue Intersection Improvement Study and to the 20 mile per hour speed limit – now in place – and the proposed additional “slow streets” for each ward. The Transportation Committee discussion of proposals for expansion of sidewalks to accommodate physical distancing became part of the “street closures” item occurring near the conclusion of the meeting.

Hill East Task Force

The HETF had not met during the month but Commissioner Krepp plans to continue discussion with Director Trueblood regarding the status of developments in Hill East

Barracks Row Main Street

The Committee had not met during the month, but Commissioner Ready will hold a virtual meeting of the Committee at 7:00 on June 24.

Liveable Community Task Force

A written report about the status of the Eastern Market Metro Plaza Park was provided. Commissioner Holtzman, LCTF Chair, noted that the splash pad would be completed by the end of June but would not be available until Phase 3 of the reopening plan. He noted that delivery of the shade structures had been delayed because of COVID-19 problems at the factory. LCTF plans to host a virtual meeting on Thursday, June 25, 7:00, to consider unresolved metro plaza park issues that will be before the DC Public Space Committee in July.

Financial Report

Commissioner Holman, Treasurer, provided a financial analysis that was instrumental to the discussion of the grant program.

Administrative Matters: Bylaws and One-Time Grant Program Discussion

The financial analysis provided by ANC6B Treasurer Holman indicated that the ANC could support a one-time grant program of between \$40 and \$50,000 without jeopardizing its financial future (six quarters of reserves would be

available) The ANC approved a grant program expenditure of not more than \$45,000 unanimously (Oldenburg/Sroufe).

A motion to approve the Bylaws revision, provided by Commissioner Waud, Parliamentarian, to bring the Bylaws into agreement with recent Council legislation encouraging an ANC grant program was approved unanimously (Sroufe/Jayaraman).

Commissioner Sroufe was nominated to chair a task force to develop procedures for moving forward and approved unanimously; all Commissioners are automatically members of the task force.

ANC6B Other Concerns

1. Will Hill Park Dedication

Dan Ridge, a former ANC6B09 Commissioner, provided a review of history and nomination for a park designation at 15th and Kentucky. A motion to approve the application and to send this information to CM Charles Allen was passed 8-0-1 (Holman/Holtzman). Hill, who died in 2015, provided leadership to the Orange Hat Patrol, was chair of the MPD's First District Citizen's Advisory Council, president of the Capitol Hill Garden Club, and served 21 years on ANC6B.

2. Resolutions on Council Budget Requests and Mayoral Actions

A set of resolutions proposed by Holman addressed issues related to police reform and District values represented in the proposed DC budget. Extensive, and intensive, discussion among Commissioners led to some reworking of the resolution and one amendment. The motion, as amended, passed 5-1-2 (Holman/Sroufe), as only eight Commissioners were present at this time.

The preamble states that the resolutions are not intended as a criticism of the police, but rather is a call for reconsidering budget priorities of the District. A distinctive feature of the resolutions is that included are actions requested of multiple District agencies, specific committees of the DC Council, and the office of the Mayor. The resolutions will be circulated to each pertinent agency. Included are actions aimed at achieving equitable transportation, affordable housing, and creation of a Community Safety and Justice Revision Commission to explore ways

to shrink the responsibilities of the police. Several components of the resolution are specific to the role of the MPD: rejecting proposed increases in the budget for the police department, calling for restoration of the violence interrupter program, and exploring ways to replace police in schools with professionals better suited to address trauma and mental health issues of students.

3. Street closures on 7th street and Barracks Row

DC is encouraging restaurants to reopen by using public space to maintain necessary physical distance. A proposal detailing street space usage on 7th at the Eastern Market, Barracks Row, and the south side of Pennsylvania was presented by Jayaraman. The motion, with a second by Ready, was approved 8-0. The recommended plan will be shared with the Reopen Task Force, DDOT, CM Allen, and all concerned parties of the Eastern Market and Barracks Row.

Adjournment

Commissioner Oldenburg adjourned the meeting at 11:16, to reconvene on July 14.