



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B
MINUTES OF ANC6B MONTHLY MEETING
WebEX Virtual
December 8, 2020, 7:00PM**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Ready convened the meeting at 7:05. The nine current Commissioners were introduced (there is currently a vacancy in SMD 09): Jennifer Samolyk (01); Jerry Sroufe (02, Secretary); Brian Ready (03, Chair); Kirsten Oldenburg 04; Steve Holtzman (05); Corey Holman (06, Treasurer); Kelly Waud (07, Parliamentarian); Chander Jayaraman 08, Vice-Chair); Denise Krepp, (10). Twenty-one residents, guests, and invited presenters also were welcomed into the meeting, including the three newly elected Commissioners: Edward Ryder (6B07), Peter Wright (6B08), and Alison Horn (6B09) who will take office in January.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Following modifications to the agenda it was approved unanimously (Holtzman/Sroufe.)

Modifications to the agenda included: moving the Harris Teeter item from the consent calendar to inclusion in the ABC report; addition of consideration of an ABC letter requesting extension for consideration of Handle 19 Application; addition of consideration of letter addressing inmate issues at the DC jail under the heading of "other concerns"; addition of consideration of a letter regarding evaluation procedures related to new bike lanes proposed for Kentucky Avenue within the Transportation Committee report; and acknowledgement of the expectation that the EMCAC report would include consideration of a letter proposed for DGS.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda, as amended (see above), was approved unanimously (Oldenburg/Sroufe).

4. Presentations

Gerard Brown, Department of Health, Program Manager, Rodent and Vector Control, discussed issues related to rodents, the pandemic, and winter weather. Brown discussed unusual problems being encountered and strategies for dealing with them. With restaurants being closed, rodents seek shelter and food in private homes. Brown observed that the District's efforts to control rats with birth control methods are still inconclusive.

In response to questions about the inadequacy of the 311 system for securing prompt action to address rodent problems, Brown encouraged direct contact: Gerard.brown@dc.gov. He noted that his office could not go on private property and that a row house suspected of a rodent population should be brought to the attention of DCRA. He also noted that the DC Housing Authority has an independent

rodent service. Brown commented on the positive impact of community groups such as the 8th street residents who share an alley with the 7th street restaurants; Brown encouraged development of more such community efforts.

Talib Shakir and Isamar Vaquero were introduced as the new Ward 6 MOCRS, replacing Tyler Williams. They provided updated information about the status of the CV-19 programs, and new procedures permitting some sporting activities. They were challenged to provide assistance in setting up a meeting between Hill East residents and the DMPED, which the ANC has been unable to accomplish.

Tyler Williams has been promoted to Director of Operations in the Office and Commissioner Jayaraman spoke for the ANC in expressing his appreciation for her service, and his alert to the new MOCRS that they “had big shoes to fill.”

5. Commissioner and Community Speak-out

Commissioner Krepp shared information about the supportive efforts of Congressman Norton regarding investigation of the munitions and mask wearing failures at DC Armory; and also of Kathy Patterson’s help in getting information on the amount of money paid to victims of sexual assault by District employees (e.g., \$17 million over two years in 2016-2017).

Commissioner Krepp shared information from a DC Open Government report providing some information about instances of sexual harassment in DC schools, one of which was the local Watkins School.

Commissioner Jayaraman called attention of efforts of Neighbors for Justice DC to encourage residents to send virtual messages to inmates in DC jail. Commissioner Holtzman called attention to concerns about anomalies in CV-19 statistics reported for inmates in the jail.

Two community members spoke in favor of having 100 percent affordable housing when the vacant Boys and Girls Club building is developed into residences.

Statement of Appreciation for Outgoing Commissioners

A statement of appreciation to Commissioners Waud and Jayaraman, both retiring from the ANC6B was provided by Chairman Ready. Commissioner

Sroufe presented them with “gifts” of a Heliport Sign and a whisk, along with a Resolution providing explanatory commentary.

6. ABC Committee Report and Actions.

Commissioner Jayaraman reported that a Settlement Agreement had been reached with Harris Teeter that included: alcohol sales identical to other stores, resolution of back-up truck alarm

problems, no truck idling provisions, and elimination of sidewalk blocking during deliveries. A motion that the ANC accept the new Settlement Agreement and forward it to ABRA was approved unanimously (Waud/Jayaraman).

A motion to write to ABRA requesting a delay in the protest of an alcohol license for Handle 19 sports-betting venue was approved unanimously (Jayaraman/Sroufe)

The ANC discussed selection and compensation for an attorney to work on its protest of the alcohol license request for Handle 19, realizing that this likely would be the first sports betting restaurant of its kind in the District. Commissioners were tasked to review attorney options for consideration at the ANC6b Executive Committee meeting on December 17.

7. Planning and Zoning Committee Report and Actions

The Chipotle Restaurant is seeking “a modification of consequence” for an extended special exception approval allowing fast food use at 413 8th. As the hearing is not until February it was determined that the request would be discussed but not voted on at this time. Residents attending the P&Z planning meeting and the ANC meeting expressed opposition to the proposed extension. They were concerned about non-responsiveness and transparency of the owners. A list of necessary improvements discussed previously (e.g., automatic door closing; a strategy for accomplishing an interior trash room) was discussed. The new attorney representing the company was introduced (Sam Porter, replacing Robert Waterman). Porter said that the ANC would soon receive a Policy and Procedures Plan under review at corporate headquarters and also letters of support from nearby neighbors.

Accessory Building Text amendments. Chairman Holman reviewed the request that ANC provide comments on text amendments to the zoning regulations dealing with accessory buildings (e.g., garage additions). The regulations suggest increasing allowable height by two feet and reducing required setback from alley center-lines. Commissioners had solicited views of architects on these items and perspective of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. Following the discussion the ANC determined to take no action about the proposed text changes at this meeting, but to seek further clarity regarding the discrepancy between HPRB and BZ regarding their respective interpretations of this issue.

8. Transportation Committee Report and Actions

Three separate transportation items were approved via the Consent Agenda: (1) support for design of Pennsylvania/Potomac Avenue Improvement.

Project (65% level); (2) comments provided to DDOT about the traffic study provided for the intersection at I-695 and 11th street; and (3) support for a speed bump on Bay Street.

In addition, the ANC considered a letter prepared by Commissioner Holtzman intended to supplement a letter already sent to DDOT about a proposed bike lane on Kentucky Avenue. The letter calls attention to the opportunities for community involvement in the federal government evaluation of the project. Several Commissioners indicated that they wished more time to reflect on the letter. Following discussion, a motion was made to send a letter about the evaluation of the bike lane project letter to DDOT at a later date. The motion passed with one abstention (8-0-1, Jayaraman/Oldenburger).

9. Barracks Row Working Group Report and Actions

Commissioner Ready, committee chair, reported that the next meeting of the group would be in January. Ready called attention to the impressive work of the Eastern Market Main Street in promoting Christmas lighting of the area this holiday season.

10. Hill East Task Force Report and Actions

Concerns and recent actions had been discussed during the community speak out. A general discussion was had about the location of ANC responsibility for Reservation 13, which is somewhat shared by ANC6B and ANC7F. The newly appointed MOCRS were tasked with getting DMPED representatives to accept invitations to attend meetings of the Task Force.

11. Livable Community Task Force

Commissioner Holtzman, chair, called attention to new construction being undertaken in sections 1, 5, and 6 at the Eastern Market Metro Plaza Park, currently fenced off, and to the decorated, temporary, Big George pine tree. Holtzman described plans for a community meeting to be held with the sculptor of a work to be installed just beyond the entrance to the Eastern Market.

12. EMCAC Report

Commissioner Sroufe presented a draft letter intended for DGS, Councilman Allen, and other District Officials sharing ANC6B concerns about limitations for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Eastern Market. Donna Sheeder, chair of EMCAC, joined the discussion to report on recent meeting with DGS staff about the Eastern Market. She encouraged the ANC to proceed with the letter as modified and sought close collaboration between the two organizations as the strategic plan implementation moves forward.

13. Finance Report

Commissioner Holman, Treasurer, presented the monthly financial statement showing a balance of \$36,000. He noted that there had been few expenditures in the past month and offered the opinion that the resources of the ANC were sufficient to support reasonable attorney fees, should they be needed, in pursuit of a protest action.

14. Other ANC Matters

Resolution for DC Jail Inmates. Commissioner Jayaraman reported on difficulty of inmates in the DC jail to receive communications and the hinderances placed before the plan to have an inmate selected to an open ANC seat. A motion was presented calling for the ANC to write to

the DC Council informing them of the problems and urging them to correct the obstacles placed in the way of inmates seeking to become more engaged in the community. The motion passed (Jayaram/Holman, 8 yes, 1 no)

Attorney's Fees for Protest. The ANC deliberated about the likely cost of engaging an attorney with appropriate skills to work on the Harbor 19 protest and about stipulations yet to be developed for the selection and performance of the attorney.

Calendar for 2021. With due consideration to the religious and federal holidays requiring slight modifications in the customary dates for the ANC meeting schedule, a proposed calendar was adopted unanimously (Oldenburg/Ready). The approved calendar had been modified as follows:

In September, Planning and Zoning committee is now scheduled to meet on September 9 rather than on, the 7th. It is noted that the ABC will also meet on the 9th. The December 2021 Executive Committee meeting has been moved from the 23rd to December 21st.

ANC Service Awards. Initiation of the awards for outstanding public service was deferred because of scheduling issues. It is intended to be re-started in the summer.

15. Adjournment

At 10:25, Commissioner Jayaraman moved to adjourn the ANC6B Commission Meeting until January 12, 2021. Agreement was unanimous.