



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B

Meeting Minutes of Full ANC 6B

Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital

February 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Brian Ready welcomed Commissioners and members of the community and called on Commissioners to introduce themselves. All ANC6B Commissioners were present. (Votes totally less than 10 indicate that a Commissioner was temporarily out of the meeting room.)

2. Modification and Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Sroufe noted omission of a new Resident Member from the list of nominees and the name was added without objection. Commissioner Jayaraman noted that Councilman Allen would be making a brief presentation; he also said that there would be additional discussion of elements of the Comprehensive Plan within the Planning and Zoning Committee Report. With these modifications the agenda was approved 10-0 (Holman/Jayaraman).

3. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved 10-0 (Holman/Sroufe).

4. Presentation: Katie Whitehouse, Senior Legislative Assistant to CM Robert White

CM White is Chairman of Facilities and Procurement, which has jurisdiction over the District's ANCs and DGS and its stewardship of the Eastern Market. White called attention to a number of forthcoming hearings pertinent to ANC6B. CM White has proposed an increase in ANC funding and is also providing leadership in assuring translation of major city policy documents that currently are available in English only.

Commissioner Jayaraman raised the persistent issue of having ANC deliberations given the great weight they are assured in their authorizing legislation. Commissioner Holtzman added the thought that in many respects in dealing with agencies such as DGS or DDOT that the ANCs were relatively toothless. Commissioner Sroufe recommended that the agencies be required to follow the model of the federal government about responding to requested comments: to provide a written response to each comment.

Commissioner Krepp called attention to the unresponsiveness of city agencies to requests for information about the amount of sexual harassment within agencies and the schools that is unreported to the public. She said that while seeking available information that should be public, she was told to provide a FOIA request.

4.1 Presentation

Monica Merk, Program Analyst (Encampment Coordinator) Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services and CM Charles Allen

Following a presentation about the District's policy for dealing with encampments, the Commissioners and residents engaged in a lengthy discussion about the problem of encampments. CM Allen joined the discussion. Merk provided the circumstances for engaging or clearing out encampments (e.g., safety, health concerns, blockage of public space, illegal behavior) and the general procedure (e.g., 14-day notice, fair weather). She noted that the city could engage immediately in emergency circumstances. The policy of full engagement includes teams from DHS, DPW, MPD, and the Department of Behavioral Health. Services are offered, but citizens are not required to accept them.

Several residents expressed concern over the existence of encampments near schools (e.g., 3rd street underpass) and wondered why this was permitted. Health and safety issues for children was were central concerns raised.

CM Allen addressed the question of shelters, noting that a new facility for short term placement was being opened by the city this month (Friday, February 21). He assured residents that the police have examined the encampments under discussion and found no illegal behavior. He also noted that there were several reasons homeless persons did not use public shelters: storage issues, restrictions on families and spouses, and that many of the shelters are not clean. CM Allen said that DC was in better shape than many cities because it had worked to provide support services to the homeless through a variety of programs. He encouraged residents to attend to policy matters in the present budget cycle and encouraged participation in the Police Service Area meetings (Arthur Capper, March 24, at 3:30).

5. Community Outreach

Following the stressful discussion of the homeless on Capitol Hill, there were a number of announcements about forthcoming events of interest to residents: (1) announced that the SEL would hold a community meeting with architect selected for the library remodeling on March 3 (North Hall, Eastern Market, 7:00); (2) announcement of on-line Eastern Market Survey as part of the strategic planning effort; (3) encouragement for participation in DC Census activity; (4) Hill East Task Force meeting scheduled for February 24, forthcoming budget conversations (Kenilworth Recreation Center on 2/22 at 10:00 AM).

Additionally, Commissioner Krepp reported on her efforts to secure information about the magnitude of sexual offences within the military; Commissioner Oldenburg offered plaudits for the effective and efficient work of the DC Tax and Revenue office for working with her to further developments at the new Virginia Avenue park.

6. ABC Committee Actions

Two settlement agreements were considered by the ANC that had not been placed on the consent calendar. Tortuga (514 8th) was approved for an entertainment license to provide Caribbean style music with a 9-0 vote (Jayaraman/Holtzman); Finn McCool (713 8th) was approved for a substantial change in status: from a restaurant to a tavern. However, the revised Settlement Agreement for Finn McCool stipulates that the kitchen will remain open during all hours that alcohol is served and that a 35 percent threshold of food to alcohol revenue will be realized. Passed 9-0, Jayaraman/Oldenburg. The stipulation is to be included in the letter.

Noting that there was no news to report on the status of the District Soul Food protest, Commissioner Jayaraman dispensed with reading the report provided in the Commissioners' agenda materials.

7. Planning and Zoning Committee

Two requests for approval were brought to the ANC meeting in addition to those on the consent calendar. A proposed addition to 1624 E street had been deferred due to ongoing efforts to contact additional residents. Strenuous efforts had been unsuccessful. A motion was offered by Commissioner Ready to recommend approval, seconded by Commissioner Holtzman, resulting in 8-0 approval. A proposal regarding construction at 710 E street had been reviewed by the ANC in 2018, at which time modifications were suggested by the ANC and HPRB. These concerns having been addressed, a motion to recommend approval was passed 8-0 (Ready/Holman).

Commissioner Holman dispensed with reading the report provided in the Commissioners' agenda materials.

7.1 Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Holman, joined by other members of the task force, expressed appreciation for the leadership of Ryan Danks as chair of the ANC6B committee responsible for amending the comprehensive plan– the second time he has performed this role! The task force recommends their report but saved several items for consideration by the full ANC. The items and the ANC6B decision for each: (1) Included in the Environment Section of the plan were recommendations for evaluation of potential harmful consequences of 5-G small cell transmitters and the use of reconstituted rubber tires as a playground surface. The language is to be included 5-2-1 (Holman/Ready). (2) A recommendation for neighborhood development at the former site of the Washington Gas Triangle, with environmental stipulations, was approved 9-0 (Holman/Sroufe). (3) Continuing, without changes, the existing language for mixed commercial/residential development of the 15th Street corridor 9-1 (Krepp/Jayaraman). (4) A specific recommendation to move bus stop at Eastern Market Metro Plaza to 8th street was approved 10-0 (Jayaraman/Sroufe).

In addition, Commissioner Holman had prepared a draft statement addressing concerns of Commissioner Waud and others about the Southeast Blvd and proposed bus service facility. Following discussion, the statement was approved 5/2/3

(Holman/Oldenburger).

8. Transportation Committee

Commissioner Oldenburger dispensed with reading the report provided in the Commissioners' background materials but introduced two items not on the consent agenda. (1) A variety of modifications in traffic pattern at 16th and Independence to increase pedestrian and auto traffic (no left turn, "cement and grass" bulb outs, reduced speed), and installation of a traffic light. The motion to adopt the recommendations passed 8-1-1. (2) A motion to oppose plan to widen exit D-4 at I-695 and 11th; urge acceleration of funding for improvements at the Pennsylvania and Potomac intersection, and to add a sentence to the STIF to be developed by Commissioners Waud and Oldenburger (passed 8-1-1, Holman/Oldenburger). A corollary motion to request acceleration of funds for the Southeast Blvd passed 8-0-2 (Oldenburger/Jayaraman).

9. Hill East Task Force to meet at 7:00 on February 24.

Commissioner Krepp had provided information about the activities of the task force previously in the meeting and called attention to the forthcoming meeting.

10. Livable Community Task Force

Commissioner Holtzman provided a status report on approval and construction plans for the Eastern Market Metro Park. He noted that April 24 was the deadline by which DGS had to secure all approvals. Holtzman had prepared a letter for consideration of the ANC urging DGS to address two outstanding issues: a signed maintenance agreement identifying the principles to be responsible for maintenance and specifying the responsibilities of each, and a satisfactory and approved lighting plan. The letter was approved for transmission 9-0 (Holtzman/Sroufe).

11. Eastern Market Advisory Neighborhood Committee

Commissioner Holtzman had attended the meeting for the ANC and prepared a report for the meeting agenda materials. He called attention to the survey and focus group activities being undertaken by the consultants and provided an update on the status of lease negotiations ongoing between the Market merchants and DGS.

12. Barracks Row Task Force.

Commissioner Ready dispensed with reading of the Working Group on Barracks Row task force, calling attention to the forthcoming meeting on February 18 at 6:30 at 700 Pennsylvania.

13. Treasurers Report.

Commissioner Holman dispensed with reading the Treasures Report that was provided in the meeting agenda materials. He called attention to the ANC's pending review of the quarterly report.

14. Administrative Matters.

Several essential matters were determined:

(1) Commissioner Kasie Clark announced that she would be moving out of the area and that the March meeting would be her last as a 6B Commissioner. She has provided the necessary notifications and election soon will be announced for her SMD. Universal regret was expressed.

(2) 23 Resident Members were approved as nominated for service on the three standing committees 9-0 (by acclamation).

A motion was made by Commissioner Oldenburg to establish chairs and working groups and chairpersons as noted below, seconded by Commissioner Jayaraman, passed 9-0.

(3) Committee and Task Force and Working Group Chairs were elected as follows:
ABC- Ready; Transportation, Oldenburg; Planning and Zoning, Holman
Hill East, Krepp; LCTC, Holtzman; Barracks Row Working Group, Jayaraman

(4) ANC Representative on EMCAC, Sroufe

15. District of Columbia Archives

One Item deferred from earlier on the agenda was a request for a letter in support of DC Archives to find a permanent home using funds set aside in the DC budget for construction of a new building. Motion by Sroufe, second by Holtzman, to endorse the request passed 9-0.

16. Adjournment

Secretary, Gerald Sroufe