



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD  
COMMISSION 6B**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via WebEx**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Holman convened the virtual meeting at 7:05. For most of the meeting nine Commissioners were in attendance: Jennifer Samolyk (01); Jerry Sroufe, Secretary (02); Brian Ready (03); Steve Holtzman (05); Corey Holman, Chair (06); Edward Ryder, Treasurer (07); Peter Wright, Parliamentarian (08); Alicia Horn, Vice-Chair (09) and Denise Krepp (10). Commissioner Kirsten Oldenburg was excused.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Holman called attention to several modifications in the circulated agenda: (1) the addition of a late-breaking Planning and Zoning Committee item BZA 20604; (2) intent to defer consideration of a proposed letter about the Harris Teeter lease.

(There was an acknowledgement of agreement re the agenda, but not a vote – an future agenda item for the attention of our Parliamentarian?)

**3. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Following discussion, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously (Ready/Horn). Items included in the Consent Agenda:

(A) Minutes of the January and February Regular ANC monthly meetings.

(B) An application recommended by the ABC Committee for ABRA-111960 – Taco City, and a proposed courtesy letter to ABC Licensees regarding the March 31st Class “C” Renewal Deadline. (A correction was made to the Taco City application approved by the ABC Committee: it was approved as a Class C Restaurant -- not as a tavern).

(C) Three cases were recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Committee (BZA 20689, BZA 20675, and (BZA 20670).

(D) Several letters to be provided by the Transportation Committee: a Resolution on Reckless Driving in DC; a request to DDOT to Implement Resident Only Parking Near the Reopened Safeway; a resolution that DDOT reconsider a denied request to install a raised crosswalk at intersection of 17th St SE and C St SE; and letters in support of the Walk Without Worry Amendment Act (Bill 24-0566) and Safe Routes to School Expansion Amendment Act (Bill 24-0565) now before the DC Council.

Additionally, the Consent Agenda included a letter from the Livable Community Task Force to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation in support of efforts to Increase public awareness of the history of the Anacostan Tribe in the Garfield Park area.

#### 4. Presentation: Matthew Graves, US Attorney for the District of Columbia

Mr. Graves described his long history in criminal justice, much of it in the District. He stated that his agency had a “lazer focus on violent crime,” and was an evidence based agency. In response to questions about the agency’s difficulty of reporting basic statistics such as the nature and number of cases prosecuted on demand, however, he indicated that the data system was inadequate and that a consultant had been hired to suggest improvements. Asked about the public view that criminals were not aggressively prosecuted he pointed to the problems associated with securing convictions from the courts, particularly about gun cases.

In response to Commissioner questions about carjacking, Graves raised a new concern: the DC Council is considering a code revision that would reduce penalties for carjacking by defining them as a “robbery” and eliminating the entire category of carjacking. He noted that DC already has lesser sentencing for this crime than neighboring jurisdictions.

In response to Commissioner questions about the importance of the loss of accreditation for the Department of Forensic Science, Graves agreed that this was a significant problem. He said that the DC Council had provided funds for a comprehensive review of the records of those incarcerated to determine if their sentences should be reviewed because of reliance on faulty forensic evidence.

In response to a question about taking gun related crimes to federal courts to get stricter sentences, Graves replied that this had been done previously, and was still the case with specific crimes.

Graves was asked about unequal enforcement of efforts to identify those likely to commit violent crimes. He acknowledged that at the outset there was more investigation in deprived areas of the city than in others and that injustices occurred. The system has been modified in recognition of the unintended consequence of the initial processes.

During the long discussion Commissioner Krepp informed the Commission that she had received information from DOJ about two incidents in the Lincoln Park area. The information was achieved through a FOIA request from January and will be shared with Commissioners.

Graves announced that the first of the January 6 insurrectionist tried in DC was convicted on all counts.

Renada Cooper, Executive Assistant for External Affairs, promised to share testimony regarding’s District Attorney’s testimony before DC Council regarding code revision. She provided her email address: [renata.cooper@usdoj.gov](mailto:renata.cooper@usdoj.gov).

#### 5. Commission and Community Speak Out.

Invitations were received to attend and promote to the community information about attendance at the Anacostia River Festival (Anna J. Taylor).

A resident, Mike Litt, invited Commissioners to a forum to meet candidates for Mayor and Council Chair candidates discussing transportation issues. Litt also invited community members to a working meeting to prepare letters about Statehood to be sent to a Senator King urging him to co-sponsor DC Statehood Bill.

Jasmine (?) from the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Service (MOCRS), expressed her willingness to meet with Commissioners informally and to join in SMD walk-about. She is assisting Kevin Pham, our current Ward 6 MOCRS ([kevin.pham@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.pham@dc.gov)).

Chair Holman mentioned that the budget was to be presented in the coming weeks and that ANC6B would be participating in the budget hearings. Mayor Bowser has been invited to provide an appropriate official to discuss budget issues at the regular Commission meeting in April

A resident, Robert Timmson, expressed concern about the vacant Harris Teeter store and asked what actions the ANC or others might undertake to force them to fill the space appropriately. Commissioner Ryder reviewed available information and actions taken by the ANC and the DC Council to gain more information. Commissioner Ryder noted that he was drafting a letter to be sent to corporate headquarters but believed a more creative approach to the issue would be necessary. Commissioners Ryder and Holman expressed support of the idea of moving forward with community activities to the reactivate the site.

#### 6. ABC Committee Reports and Decisions

Chair Ready discussed the strategy for consideration of restaurant ABRA reapplications this year, beginning with restaurants. A committee report was presented in the agenda materials and several ABRA items were approved on the Consent Agendas.

#### 7. Planning and Zoning Reports and Decisions. Several

issues were presented for Commission action.

(a) BZA20653 (1500 D Street, SE) had been referred to the Commission by the P&Z Committee. The shade study requested by the P&Z as central to the review of the Special Exception request was reviewed by the Commission. Following discussion among neighbors, architects, and Commissioners, a motion to approve the requested Special Exemption for the project was passed unanimously (Horn/Sroufe).

(b) ANC6B approved a motion calling for it to go forward with a Map Amendment Request centered on 1323 E Street SE (unanimous, Holman/Horn). The process calls for a Notice of Intent to file a map amendment filed as a first step, with an additional vote required at the May meeting. The change requested would provide RA2 zoning to replace the present EA1. Concerns were heard from the present owner of the property who indicated he would want to seek legal advice.

(ANC6B will continue its appeal of the present use of the property as a DoorDash distribution center.)

Chair Holman said he would share information with the owner's attorney.

(C)A motion to withdraw ANC6B's appeal to Ledo's Pizza at 415 8<sup>th</sup> was passed unanimously (Holman/Ready). The reason for withdrawing the appeal was because Ledo had been permitted to amend their filing after our appeal, making the appeal argument moot.

#### 8. Transportation Committee

Several items were provided on the Consent Agenda. It was observed that Commissioner Holtzman, vice chair of the Committee was standing in for Commissioner Oldenburg during her surgery and recovery.

#### 9. Hill East Task Force

There have been no meetings of the Task Force but there has been considerable activity regarding the redistricting of ANCs serving Hill East residents within the new Ward 7 boundary.

Chair Holman reminded the Commission that it would have an opportunity to express its redistricting views when the Council tasks up the various proposals

#### 10. Livable Community Task Force

On the Consent Agenda the LCTF provided a letter to be sent to the National Parks Service about greater recognition of the presence of Anacostan Indians in the area that is now Garfield Park; a report of the community meeting on this topic was included in agenda materials.

#### 11. Eastern Market Community Advisory Council (EMCAC)

Commissioner Sroufe, liaison to EMCAC, shared the sad news that Donna Scheeder, long-time chair of the EMCAC had died. Sroufe offered a few words recalling her leadership of the Market and in other Capitol Hill endeavors.

#### 12. Capitol Hill Business Interest Working Group

Working Group Chair Ready reported that the March meeting focused on the topic of assigning letter grades ((window signs of A, B, etc. ) indicating the health quality of a specific restaurant. The committee noted that many cities provide this information to diners but that the District provides essentially a pass/fail system and does not inform diners. He will be continuing discussions with restaurant owners and hopes to present a recommendation intended for the DC Council at theregular Commission meeting in April..

#### 13. Financial Report

Treasurer Ryder said that the Quarterly Report would be provided at the April meeting.

#### 14. Parliamentary Report

Parliamentarian Wright is undertaking the task of identifying areas of the Bylaws in need of clarification. He shared one humorous instance: in case of a tie during vote for committee chairs or officers that cannot be resolved in three rounds of voting, the Commission is to draw straws.

The parliamentary tip of the month was about “calling for division.” A request for a roll call vote requires no second and must be acted on during or after a vote being taken. The chair may refuse for reasons of obstruction or for acts of frivolity.

The Commission raised one parliamentary question: Could a resident member chair a committee? ( A Resident Member may be appointed as vice-chair of standing committee or working group. ) Commissioner Ryder will investigate this question.

15. Appointment of Resident Members. Biographical information was provided for two appointments:

George Holman – (6B01), ABC Committee; Frank Avery

(6B04), Transportation Committee.

On a motion from Chair Corey Holman (no relation to George Holman), seconded by Commissioner Ready, both individuals were appointed unanimously

#### 16. New Business

(A) Car-jacking Response. Commissioner Samolyk presented a draft letter to DC Council calling for action to reduce carjacking. While there was much support for the need to address the problem there was less agreement about the strategy to be undertaken (e.g, ANC Community Meeting, letters appealing to Council and the Mayor.) Following considerable discussion, Commissioner Samolyk moved that the ANC provide a letter, with changes to accommodate suggestions from the discussion, outlining the problem and requesting that Council host a problem-solving round table and convene appropriate participants for proposing solutions. The motion was passed unanimously (Samolyk/Ready). It was understood that one tenant of the letter would be calling attention to the great increase in carjacking by juveniles.

(B) Disposition of Navy Yard Land. Chair Holman indicated that he would participate in a hearing on this topic to be convened by Council Member Allen. The Commissioners have emphasized the need to preserve public access to the site and the water-way.

17. Adjournment occurred at 10:24; the April meeting of ANC6B will be on April 12.