

Minutes of July 13, 2021

ANC6b – virtual meeting

1. Greetings and Introductions

With all Commissioners present, Chairman Ready convened the meeting at 7:06.

Commissioners were asked to introduce themselves by SMD: Jennifer Samolyk (01); Jerry Sroufe, Secretary (02); Brian Ready, Chair (03); Kirsten Oldenburg, Parliamentarian; (04); Steve Holtzman, Vice Chair (05); Corey Holman, Treasurer (06); Edward Ryder (07); Peter Wright (08); Alison Horn (09); Denise Krepp (10).

2. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Following review, the meeting agenda was adopted unanimously (Oldenburg/Holtzman).

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Following review, the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously (Ryder/Wright).

Items included in the Consent Agenda included approval of the June minutes. Also included: a letter of support for recommended by the P&Z Committee on behalf of the concept review for exterior modifications of the Friendship Chamberlain School (6B07), and a letter to ABRA requesting an extension of the protest deadline for La Casina (ABRA 118360) to September 17 due to the August recess.)

4. Presentations

Hannah Ashenafi, Chief of the compliance and enforcement branch of the D.C. Department of Energy and the Environment, discussed pending legislation for banning use of gas engine blowers in 2022. The ANC had recommended regulation of gas engine blowers several years ago and was generally in support of the action. However, Commissioners raised questions about the enforcement of ban.

DC Shadow Representative Oye Owolewa described his Banking Negligence Act Resolution of 2021 and also the role of the Shadow Representative in federal legislation. He is seeking support for the resolution from the ANCs across the District.

His resolution is aimed at requiring banks to take responsibility for more adequate investigation of the viability of loans made to individuals receiving loans through federal programs. Bank failure to exercise due diligence often results in financial harm to those receiving the federal grants and the resolution calls for financial penalties on banks profiting from the programs without actually performing their responsibilities. Commissioners raised questions about the level of expertise that would be required for the ANC to offer an opinion. Several Commissioners acknowledged the importance of the issue being addressed and offered support for the idea or further study of it, other Commissioners suggested that the Department of Justice was an existing agency for pursuing the issue.

It was concluded that any Commissioners desiring a special meeting or further briefing on the issue email Chair Ready during the forthcoming August recess.

5. Commissioner and Community Announcements and Speak Out

Lucinda Babers, Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure, offered a mini presentation on the benefits of the proposed budget for Ward 6 in FY 2022. Included in the budget are funds for a women's shelter, refurbishing of the Anacostia Trail, opening the Arboretum Bridge, creation of restricted bus lanes, paving of sidewalks and alleys, and creation of Senior Citizens' Wellness Hubs. Individual Commissioners fleshed out the overview provided with reference to specific situations (e.g., Brent School funds summarily retracted in 2021, and the ongoing failure to fund the approved capital budget for development in Hill East). Commissioners raised questions about specific projects (e.g., SE Blvd) and addressed "operational shortcomings of the agencies under Babers (e.g., DDOT shrinking sidewalks to provide more space for automobiles at the 11th Street exit). Questions of crime received the now familiar response about investments in new initiatives that were "place based and person based."

Kevin Pham, a new Ward 6 MOCRS, re-introduced himself and indicated that he was part of a team working on community issues that now included Lendia Johnson of the Metro Police. Pham's telephone number is 202-341-3659.

Brea Govan, Events DC, provided information about scheduled information sessions for those wishing to pursue grants available from that agency. The information sessions are on Thursdays at noon and 6:30 PM. The deadline for applications is October 1. Grants may be for as much as \$50 K and are awarded to DC based non-profits that provide youth programs.

Naomi Mitchell, Community Liaison, Ward 6, provided an update on Council activities impacting the ANC. Mitchell noted that the DC Council had extended the time in which virtual meetings could be held until February 1. She discussed the impact of the delay in receiving US Census data on reshaping of Ward and ANC SMD boundaries. She believes the new ANC boundaries will not be known until January or February, 2022.

6. Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee

Case 1: The committee recommends that the Commission supports the New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant License application for La Casina 1978, LLC pending a signed settlement agreement. Motion passed unanimously (Sroufe/Ready).

Case 2: The Commission approved a new Settlement Agreement and stipulated license for Kaiju Raman Bar (ABRA 118566) unanimously.

Case 3: The Commission reviewed a request from the Ugly Mug for an updated Settlement Agreement. At issue primarily was the issue of hours during which the retractable roof could be open. The Commission voted to approve the new SA unanimously (Ready/Horn).

Case 4: Sip Wine and Spirits (ABRA 118250) is seeking a retail Class A license on the 1100 Block of K Street, SE. Neighbors appearing at the Commission Meeting expressed strong opposition to the location as one already housing a drug market, even though located only 400 feet from a school. Neighbors also noted the presence of multiple liquor stores in the area already, and called attention to issues of property values and pedestrian safety. The Commission voted unanimously to protest the license (Oldenburg/Ryder).

The Commission reviewed recent ambiguity in ABRA rulings with regard to procedures for filing protests. It was determined to write ABRA seeking clarification of the process and reaffirming the right of ANCs to protest. The motion to prepare and send the letter passed unanimously (Sroufe/Wright).

7. Planning and Zoning Committee

Case 1: The Commission considered a concept review for an addition at 607 E Street, SE (HPA 21-420). Following review of updated drawings and with support from abutting neighbors, the motion to approve was unanimous (Ready/Oldenburger).

Case 2: Application in support of a large addition to a residence at 232 10th street previously had been withdrawn in order to provide modifications addressing concerns raised by Commissioners and neighbors. The revised plans provided at the July meeting were approved 9-0 with one abstention (Holtzman/Sroufe). While several neighbors felt they had received inadequate or very late information; others felt that modifications in the plan – especially removal of a proposed third floor addition – were sufficient. Subsequent to the ANC decision it was observed that the Capitol Hill Restoration Society had judged the revised drawings to be “compatible with the historic district.”

Case 3: Plans for a multiple residence and commercial building at 850 South Capitol, SE represent a unique situation. Most of the site is located in 6D, with 6B representing an affected area. The project is dependent on current plans to remove a highway ramp at the intersection sometime during the next four years. Plans are to be presented to the Historic Preservation Review Board on July 30.

Commissioners raised questions about noise transfer resulting from a large building adjacent to the highway and about exterior illumination impacting neighbors. It was reported that there would be no exterior illumination of the building. Commissioners also asked about the number of affordable units and market rate units. The ANC took no position pending the HPRB review and also determined to work closely with the ANC6D’s reviews and actions.

8. Transportation Committee

Topic 1: Will Handsfield, Project Manager at DDOT, met with commissioners and neighbors to discuss troubled biking areas and related issues. He noted problems with biking at 12th and North Carolina SE and at 12th and Independence. Commissioners added proposed modifications on North Carolina within SMD 03 to concerns raised.

The concept of “advisory streets” produced some perplexity. Handsfield and Commissioner Holman joined to provide explanation, and Commissioners were referred to an animated video on the topic. (Basically, cars traveling in both directions share the middle of the road, using bike lanes to pass one another when necessary (and when the bike lanes are un-occupied!). The system works only on streets with little traffic.

Following considerable discussion, the Commission approved a recommendation to support the NOI plans for North Carolina, and for 12th Street, SE, with 9 voting in favor and one in opposition (Oldenburger/Ryder).

Topic 2: Because of uncertainty created by the Coronavirus, teacher parking issues related to Brent and Tyler schools were not considered at this meeting and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Topic 3: The Transportation Committee recommended that the ANC oppose DDOT's plans to re-route the Circulator in a manner that would eliminate convenient, no-transfer, connection between Capitol Hill and the Wharf area. The motion was adopted unanimously by the full ANC.

Topic 4: Speed Humps were requested on behalf of residents in Reservation 13 for the 100 block of 18th. The motion was passed unanimously (Krepp/Holman).

9. Financial Reports

Treasurer Holman noted that ANC6B was two quarters behind in receiving allotments from the District, but that this was often the case. He reported that following final payment for legal expenses associated with the Handle 19 protest, the ANC6B balance was \$17,000. Holman requested approval of the Quarterly Report submitted with background materials, as required by the OANC. His recommendation was seconded by Sroufe and approved unanimously.

10. ANC6B Administrative Matters

Consideration of Bylaw Revision necessary to make virtual meetings permissible was deferred because the DC Council has extended current meeting procedures until February, 2022.

Chair Ready provided a letter of accommodation to Barbara Fleming for her services as Executive Director of the ANC6B.

Four Commissioners attended the open meeting to consider plans for replacing the Executive Director. Future meetings will continue to be open to all Commissioners, now facilitated by some historical position descriptions located by Commissioner Oldenburg.

11. Commissioner Oldenburg's motion for adjournment at 12:15 received unanimous support.

The ANC6B will meet again on September 14, 2021.