

September 8, 2020

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Ready called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. All current Commissioners were in attendance: 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) and Denise Krepp (10). Single Member District 6B09 is currently vacant. Forty-five persons participated in the virtual meeting, including representatives from the District government, and concerned residents.

Chairman Ready noted that there would be a brief presentation by a representative from Hill East District Redevelopment.



Oh good, you are wearing one too.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

Four modifications to the agenda were accepted: (1) A letter prepared by Commissioner Krepp was added to the Hill East Task Force report; (2) The ABC committee removed the application of Handle 19; (3) a specific expenditure items was added to the Finance report; (4) a personnel item was added to the Finance report. Following acceptance of these modifications the motion to approve the agenda was unanimous (Holman/Holtzman).

### 3. Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was adopted (unanimous, Holman/Sroufe). Included within the consent agenda was approval of the July meeting minutes, minutes of the August special call meeting about the grant project; a letter to DDOT requesting status updates on traffic safety assessments (TSA) prepared by Commissioner Oldenburg; and approval of two HPA applications #20-417, 28 9th SE, and #20-476, 712 E SE.

### 4. Presentation to the ANC

Ms. Ketan Gada, director of the Hill East District Redevelopment, provided information about a forthcoming surplus land sale – 8 parcels, 500,000 square feet in Reservation 13. The Mayor and Council have determined that the city had no immediate or future use for the land. Gada indicated that 30 percent of the residences build on the land would be affordable and that the uses made of the purchased land would be in keeping with the master plan for the area.

Commissioners raised some criticism of DMPED's work regarding this project. Unfortunately, minutes of a community meeting held on September 2 as an outreach activity of the project were still being transcribed and could not be referred to in answering questions. However, Commissioners faulted the execution of the September 2 outreach activity itself: it conflicted with a regularly scheduled meeting of the ANC, and Commissioner Krepp called attention to shortcomings in notification to the community and to the inability of community members without access to computers to participate. An additional Commissioner concern was the apparent absence of planning about how the development of the nine parcels would relate to one another and to plans for development of other portions of the area.

### 5. Community Speak-out

Chris Randolph from the Public Service Commission discussed the DC Power Connect Program. He stated that Phase Two of the CV-19 plan in the district continued the moratorium prohibiting disconnecting service for non-payment. Randolph provided his phone number for any encountering problems with electrical service fees or in need of additional information (202-626-5131).

Tyler Williams, Ward 6 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), urged Commissioners and attendees to promote the urgent need to complete the online U.S. Census. She also provided information about the school reopening: (1) mental health benefits are available for parents with cabin fever (call 1-888-793-4357); (2) last year's student Ride Free program passes are still valid for students until new ones are issued; (3) free meals are still available for public and charter schools.

Commissioners asked a number of questions of Williams:

- (1) Any action from the Mayor's office to implement the DC Faces recommendations?  
Not yet.
- (2) Swimming pools reopening this summer? Probably not.

(3) Right to vote for returning citizens? Under current law, DC residents serving sentences in the D.C. Jail are entitled to vote while in custody, and felons have their voting rights restored upon being released from prison. (Starting in January, 2021, DC residents imprisoned in federal prisons are to receive absentee ballots.)

Commissioner Waud announced that she had arranged for the Gorilla Gardeners to work in two pocket parks on Pennsylvania Avenue. Volunteers welcomed on Saturday at 8:00 am.

## 6. Planning and Zoning Committee (PZC)

Two issues were brought to the ANC by the PZC in addition to those approved through the Consent Agenda.

### 1. HPA 20-464, third story addition to 610 A Street, SE

Following a presentation by the architect, Jennifer Fowler, neighbors presented their continuing concerns about faulty notification and failures of the plan to meet their understanding of the guidelines in place for a historic district. Commissioners agreed with Fowler that the conventional requirements for notification had been met. Commissioner Sroufe noted that the additional month of review that had been requested by neighbors would be unlikely to provide additional guidelines-based challenges to the plans as modified. It was moved that (1) the ANC recommend approval of the project as being in keeping with guidelines for historic review; (2) that the HPRB staff be requested to pay particular attention to the issues of the site that, while not providing visibility from A street, does provide visibility from a public alley and from 6<sup>th</sup> street. The motion to approve the project passed (Sroufe/Holman, 7-1-1).

Commissioner Holman reminded the neighbors that the ANC opinion was advisory and not always accepted by the Historic Preservation Review Board. Additionally, he said that public comment would be considered (written or in an oral presentation) along with the ANC recommendation at the virtual HPRB meeting scheduled for September 24, and he encouraged any neighbors wishing to express opposition to the project to provide testimony at that meeting.

### 2. 1333 M Street, SE, PUD and MOU

Commissioners Holman and Waud served as co-chairs of a committee to work on an MOU regarding a large mixed-use project (900 units) proposed for land currently zoned for industrial use only. Their committee report recognized a number of community concerns, including strong support for the Capitol Hill Village proposal to provide an adult day care center within the project as a community amenity. Following discussion with representatives of the builder, residents, and Capitol Hill Village representatives, the ANC agreed that the initial Felice proffer of \$25,000 dollars toward an adult day care center -- in lieu of providing space in the development itself -- was not a sufficient benefit. The ANC developed language stating that its approval of the project was contingent on inclusion of the operational plan presented by the

CHV requesting \$250,000 to undertake planning for creation of an adult day care center at an alternative site. The motion passed 7-1-1 (Sroufe/Holtzman).

Commissioner Waud expressed again her frustration at not having received a requested sound study addressing concerns of Capitol Hill residents north of the proposed building.

#### 7. Transportation Committee (TC)

In addition to items approved in the Consent Agenda, the TC also presented the Southeast Corridor/Pennsylvania Avenue plan to the ANC for approval. Support for the plan has been requested by DDOT management prior to proceeding with third stage design activities. DDOT recommended "Alternative A" from among the plans considered previously by the TC. This plan provides protected bike lanes at the customary parking lane and restricted bus lanes at rush hour on both sides of the Avenue from 2<sup>nd</sup> street, SE to Barney Circle.

Commissioners and residents raised several concerns about the impact of the project. Most emphatic was the concern that Pennsylvania Ave traffic would be dispersed to auxiliary streets such as Independence Avenue. Additional concerns were raised about feasibility of turns across the highway, interference with parking required for vendors, and slowing traffic in general; Some urged deferring the decision until an additional impact study was completed. Those supporting the proposal highlighted improvements to be provided for cycle and pedestrian safety and noted that the request was not for construction but for continued design planning for the project. A motion to approve proceeding with the design of Alternative A was made and approved. (Oldenburg/Holman, 8-0-1.)

#### 8. Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee (ABC)

The ABC application for liquor sales at the newly re-opened Safeway was introduced by Commissioner Jayaraman, who stated that a draft settlement agreement had been worked out calling for restricted hours of delivery, and restrictions on idling, and for establishing hours of alcohol sale. Among the items considered in establishing hours was concern for neighborhood vendors in the face of the competition to be provided by Safeway and for the concerns of neighbors regarding noise and pollution. The settlement agreement establishes the following hours of sale: Sunday to Thursday, 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Friday and Saturday, 7:00 am to 1:00 am. The motion to approve the agreement was unanimous (Jayaraman/Holman).

Regarding the postponed consideration of Handle #19, Commissioner Jayaraman said that the owners had requested a postponement of consideration of their application in order to provide more time for explaining their sports betting facility to the community. The application will be scheduled for the October meeting.

#### 9. Committee and Task Force Reports

There were no reports from any of the committees or task forces, but several reported on actions taken or proposed. Commissioner Krepp discussed a letter she was circulating seeking

Congressional oversight regarding storage of munitions at the Armory on Capitol Hill in concert with providing security for the Black Lives Matter protests. She also proposed a letter to DC officials calling for improved communication and transparency regarding all development planned for Hill East. The motion to send the letter that had been drafted passed (Kreppel/Samolyk, 7-0-2).

Commissioner Holtzman provided a letter sought by DGS to support moving forward with the second phase of the Eastern Market Metro Park. Several Commissioners noted the enjoyment of the community using the portion of phase one that has been completed. The motion to move forward with phase two was approved unanimously (Holtzman/Sroufe).

#### 10. Finance Report

Three financial items were considered by the ANC. The budget provided by Treasurer Holman was approved unanimously (Holman/Waud). Also approved was a specific expenditure of \$51 for purchase of additional checks (Ready/Waud). A third action was a motion to approve hiring of an Executive Secretary to assist in carrying out duties for the Commission, as had been previously discussed by the Executive Committee. (Oldenburg/Sroufe, unanimous).

#### 11. Adjournment

At 10:52 Commissioner Oldenburg adjourned the ANC until its next scheduled meeting on October 13.