



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B  
MINUTES  
for  
November 10, 2020**

1. Welcome

Chairman Brian Ready convened the virtual meeting at 7:06. He noted that there were several presentations to be offered and that the agenda was unusually full. 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). Thirty residents, guests, and invited presenters were welcomed into the meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended (Holman/Jayaraman; unanimous). A proposed letter to DDOT re Burke Street improvements was added. Two items were postponed until the December meeting: an item seeking information about the status of the heliport and a resolution related to school reopening issues. An item regarding a status update on the Shakespeare Library was moved forward in the agenda ahead of the more controversial issue regarding alcohol licenses.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented (Unanimous; Sroufe/Samolyk).

4. Presentations

Gabriel Robinson, Director, DC-DMV

Robinson reported that most DMV offices are closed due to CV-19, but the SW office open for drive-thru inspections. He said that there was generally no line for auto inspections during the late morning and afternoon. The SW administrative office is open by appointment only; unfortunately, the next available appointment at the present time is in March. He said that appointment availabilities are announced on the Website on Tuesdays at noon.

Robinson urged Commissioners and DC Residents to first look to the possibility of taking care of their DMV issues on the internet: 55 DMV transactions can now be handled online. It is even possible to challenge tickets on Zoom. Recognizing that not all DC residents have internet access, Robinson encouraged calling 311 for assistance in securing online services without a computer.

Robinson reported that the District was now 90 percent compliant with recent "real ID" requirements. Unfortunately, those still requiring the Black Star driver's license will need to apply in person. However, penalties for delay in doing so have been rescinded during the Pandemic. Expired licenses are valid until March 1, 2020.

In response to Commissioner questions about planning for revision of the Residential Parking Permits Robinson stated that a comprehensive plan had been developed but that its release has been delayed due to the CV-19.

Jamal Jordon, PEPCO, Government and External Affairs

Jordon provided notices about forthcoming street work at 9<sup>th</sup> and E and at 8<sup>th</sup> and I/G in Barracks Row. In response to questions he offered assurance that only one side of 8<sup>th</sup> would be closed for parking at the same time. <chrome://newtab/>

Michael Witmore, Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

Witmore presented slides of work in progress and reviewed the near term changes impacting the neighborhood. Site fencing to be erected in late November and at that time parking on East Capitol to be eliminated adjacent to the Library; parking will also be eliminated on 3<sup>rd</sup> street from C to East Capitol.

In response to Commissioner questions, he provided assurance that the iconic statue of Puck had been removed during construction but would be returned. He offered the expectation that work would be completed in 2022 and that in the Spring of 2023 there would be a formal dedication of the building.

#### 5. Community and Commissioner Speak-out

Commissioners Krepp and Samolyk raised concerns about the increasing number of homicides. Commissioner Krepp introduced issue of DMPED failure to respond to community queries re Reservation #13, and acknowledged the support received from CM Allen.

#### 6. ABC Committee Report and Actions

Handle 19's application for a class B license to operate a sports-betting venue at 319 Pennsylvania Avenue SE was argued by Ian Thomas, counsel to the establishment. He noted that sports betting was legal in the District, that while the regulations required provision of food service in order to secure a license for sports betting, they did not require a liquor license to do so. Thomas also noted that there were no restrictions regarding the location of sports-betting venues in the District.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Thomas stated that Handle 19 did not yet have a gaming license, but that their application had been pending since August. Neighbors and commissioners spoke to concerns about the likely impact of the business model on noise and traffic congestion in the neighborhood, and the general unsuitability of a sports betting venue in a residential area. A resident, Brian Wise, represented many residents and indicated that they intended to protest the license on the basis of three criteria in the ABRA procedures: (1) decline in property values; (2) peace order and quiet, (3) community safety generated by inadequate parking. Commissioner Holtzman noted that the business plan essentially was primarily designed for betting and that eating was a secondary activity. He feared that there would be a steady flow of patrons during the day and evening, further straining the resources of a residential area. (ANC6B has previously approved sports betting at the Brig – but acknowledged that this was a very different environment.)

The ANC voted on the motion of the committee to protest the license. The motion passed 6-2-1.

The Committee report, which included several venues receiving renewed licenses without change, was included in background materials prepared for Commissioners.

#### 7. Planning and Zoning Committee Report and Actions

Commissioner Holman, Committee chair, led a discussion of the proposed repurposing and building modifications of the Boys and Girls Club. A substantially modified “term sheet” is to go before the Council for approval on December 4. Commissioner and resident opposition to the proposed changes is rooted in poor communication from the office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. Commissioners’ questions directed toward understanding the rationale for the modifications to the plans previously favored have received no response; neighbors said they have no information about what is being proposed.

It was noted that the application will be returned to the ANC in the future because zoning relief is required to accommodate several aspects of the revised plan. A letter crafted by Commissioner Krepp requesting that the DC Council not consider the requested modifications at its scheduled December meeting was introduced. Following discussion, an amended motion to send the letter to DMPED and DC Council members was considered. The motion requesting that Council action be deferred until DMPED has responded to questions raised at the November meeting of the ANC Executive Committee was passed (7-2-0; Holman/Ready.)

#### 8. Transportation Committee Report and Action

Commissioner Oldenburg, committee chair, introduced the committee’s recommendation to send a letter to DDOT encouraging the agency to share the completed environmental study previously thought to be holding up planned improvements for the Southeast Boulevard. While there was support for the project and much concern about the delay of several years, there was also concern that DDOT has failed to provide a comprehensive transportation plan for this area. The committee recommendation was passed (8-1-0).

Chair Oldenburg reported on a community meeting about DDOT’s proposal for a bike lane running from Lincoln Park to Barney Circle. The community proposed several alternatives to the plan and a draft letter to DDOT recommending consideration of these alternatives was passed. The letter includes encouragement for a two-year study of the feasibility of shifting from temporary to more permanent traffic safety structures (Unanimous; Oldenburg/ Holman).

A transportation item added to the agenda without benefit of previous consideration by the committee generated a good deal of discussion. A Resident Member, Francis Campbell, reported his experience of many years seeking to have Burke Street SE converted to a one-way (east) street; and the difficulty encountered by the frequent reversals in DDOT procedures over this period. A motion to send the proposed letter including the recommendation to install a one-way street was passed (8-1-0; Krepp/Sroufe).

The report of the Transportation Committee included in the background materials was not read.

#### 9. Hill East Task Force Report and Actions.

Commissioner Krepp, chair of the task force, said that she would renew efforts to have a community meeting with residents and pertinent city agencies to discuss planning for the development of Hill East. Included in the discussion was support for clarification of any ambiguity about which ANC was the proper representative for the area: ANC6B asserts that it is the ANC responsible for representing the community and dealing with District agencies in matters impacting on this area.

#### 10. Living Community Task Force

Commissioner Holtzman, chair of the task force, provided an oral report on visible progress being made to begin construction on the southwest portion of the Eastern Market Metro Park.

#### 11. Barracks Row Mainstreet Task Force

Commissioner Ready provided an oral presentation of the groups October meeting, attended by 14 committee members and representatives of several District governmental agencies appropriate for addressing vendor needs with the onset of winter (e.g., provision of tents and heaters for outdoor dining during the Pandemic). The report provided in the background materials was not read.

#### 12. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) Report and Action

Commissioner Sroufe, ANC6B representative to EMCAC, called attention to the report provided in the background materials summarizing the new Strategic Plan for the Eastern Market, and introduced a concern about the plan that had been raised by the ANC6B Executive Committee: the slight recognition provided to the role and responsibility of the ANC for the Eastern Market. The discussion emphasized the unique role of the ANC in its continuous interactions with neighbors, its singular representation among organizations for representing all residents in the community around the EM; and its responsibility for advising District agencies such as DDOT and DGS, and for providing oversight of great weight. EMCAC chair, Donna Scheeder, agreed with the sentiments of the commissioners but indicated that there will be no action on the strategic plan in the immediate future. It was moved to consider a draft to be prepared by Commissioner Sroufe, encapsulating the views expressed by Commissioners, at the December meeting. The motion passed (8-0-1; Ready/Sroufe).

#### 13. Treasurer's Report

The report prepared by Commissioner Holman, ANC6B treasurer, was received and approved without modification. Including the recent allotment from the DC Treasurer, the closing balance on October 20 was \$39,575.

#### 14. Other ANC6B Matters

Commissioners were reminded that nominations for the Outstanding Public Services awards should be sent to Barbara at the ANC office in time to be considered by the Executive Board at the November 24 meeting. Commissioner Sroufe said he would resend background information to commissioners.

#### 15. Adjournment

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm. The next meeting of the ANC will be on December 8.

#### 16. Carry Over Items for December Meeting

Draft response to Eastern Market Strategic Plan (Sroufe)

Letter requesting leadership regarding location of Congressional Aviation heliport (Holman)

Resolution re school reopening (Holtzman)