



APPROVED Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

January 9, 2024

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

Regular Monthly Meeting

Held Over Zoom January 9, 2024

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Participating: Commissioners Avery, D'Andrea, Durkit, Jayaraman, LaFortune, Mareino, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The meeting started with a moment of silence in memory of Christopher Laskowski, staff director of the DC Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment, chaired by Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen. Laskowski passed away suddenly on January 7.

1. Meeting Agenda. At the request of the following Commissioners, and without objection, the agenda was modified as follow:

a. Commissioner Jayaraman: add--

1) Medical-cannabis license application of UpnSmoke II LLC, 427 8th St., SE.

2) Letter of support for Councilmember Allen's proposed emergency legislation to amend the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022.

b. Commissioner LaFortune: add a condolence letter to Councilmember Allen's office for the loss of Christopher Laskowski.

c. Commissioner Ryder: move to the Consent Agenda both--

1) 2023 ANC 6B Annual Report and--

2) Bylaws amendment related to the reestablishment or reauthorization of special committees and taskforces.

d. Commissioner D'Andrea: move, from the Consent Agenda to the report of the Planning and Zoning Committee, a letter to the Department of Buildings regarding illegal construction at 319 9th St., SE.

e. Commissioner Avery: remove, from the agenda, the Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Financial Report.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to adopt the agenda as modified. The motion passed 9-0.

2. Election of Officers for 2024. Chuck Burger, Alternate Resident Member of the ANC's Public Safety Committee, chaired this portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Sobelsohn nominated/Commissioner Sroufe seconded the nomination of Edward Ryder as chair. The ANC elected Commissioner Ryder chair by a vote of 9-0.

Commissioner Ryder nominated/Commissioner Avery seconded the nomination of Vince Mareino as vice-chair. The ANC elected Commissioner Mareino vice-chair by a vote of 9-0.

Commissioner D'Andrea nominated/Commissioner Sroufe seconded the nomination of David Sobelsohn as secretary. The ANC elected Commissioner Sobelsohn secretary by a vote of 9-0.

Commissioner Ryder nominated/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded the nomination of Frank Avery as treasurer. The ANC elected Commissioner Avery treasurer by a vote of 9-0.

Commissioner Jayaraman nominated/Commissioner Mareino seconded the nomination of Kasie Durkit as parliamentarian. The ANC elected Commissioner Durkit parliamentarian by a vote of 9-0.

With elections concluded, Commissioner Ryder resumed chairing the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Durkit seconded to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 9-0. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

a. Administrative Matters. Each of these documents is linked to these minutes.

1) 2023 ANC 6B Annual Report.

2) Minutes of December 12 meeting.

3) Bylaws amendment related to the reestablishment or reauthorization of special committees and taskforces, to replace current article VII, section 1, paragraph C.

4) Amended 2024 and January 2025 ANC 6B calendar, including dates for Public Safety Committee meetings.

b. Committee Recommendations.

1) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Committee: Regarding the application (ABCA-126750) of BBCF LLC, trading as DC Dash, 727 8th St., SE, for a new medical-cannabis retailer license, to file a protest based on adverse impacts on peace, order, and quiet, on parking and pedestrian safety, and on real-property values.

2) Transportation Committee.

a) 11th St. Corridor: To send a letter to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT), Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen, and the DC Department of Public Works requesting a holistic study of traffic safety on 11th St., SE, between Lincoln Park and M St., SE.

b) North Carolina Ave. and 7th St. corner: To request that DDOT prioritize a Traffic Safety Inspection of the intersection of North Carolina Ave. and 7th St., SE.

c. Financial Matter: To participate in the 2024 ANC Security Fund, bonding the ANC against wrongful expenditures.

4. Announcements.

a. Ward Six Mayor's Office of Community Relations (MOCR). Ward Six MOCR representative Jake Stolzenberg made several announcements.

1) Green Book. On January 4, the Mayor will release her Fiscal Year 2024 Green Book, outlining opportunities for DC-based Small Business Enterprises to do business with DC government agencies.

2) Martin Luther King, Jr., Race. A 5K race, to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, will take place soon in Ward 8.

3) Piles of branches at 14th St. and Kentucky Ave., SE. In response to Commissioner Mareino, Stolzenberg promised that he would make sure the Department of General Services removes the piles of branches from near the corner of 14th St. and Kentucky Ave., SE, branches left over by constituents who pruned nearby brush and trees.

b. Barracks Row Main Street (BRMS). BRMS director Brian Ready announced that, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of its 1999 creation, BRMS will spend 2024 promoting products and services available on Barracks Row. Upcoming events include:

1) Business Meeting January 17. A business meeting, connecting Barracks Row businesses with DC government agencies, will take place from 5-6 p.m. January 17 at Taco City, 1102 8th St., SE. A similar meeting at different Barracks Row locations will take place every third Wednesday of the month through 2024.

2) Restaurant Week January 15-21.

3) National Pizza Day February 9.

4) Mardi Gras Weekend February 9-10, including a sidewalk parade.

c. DC Council. Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen's chief of staff Kate Mitchell reported on matters at the DC Council.

1) Restaurant Week. Councilmember Allen's office has recruited 15 restaurants on H St., NE, to participate in Restaurant Week.

2) Proposed medical-cannabis legislation. Councilmember Allen has introduced emergency legislation to amend the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022. DC is encouraging so-called "gifting shops," or "i71 shops" (named after a DC cannabis-decriminalization initiative), to apply for medical-cannabis licenses. Councilmember Allen's bill would provide tools for the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration to close shops that refuse to apply for or are denied medical-cannabis licenses. It would also empower Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to protest nearby cannabis applications, and not limit protest rights to the ANC that includes the applicant's proposed site.

3) Oversight calendar. The Council's oversight calendar will run from January 17-March 1. Agencies will make presentations to their oversight committees. Mitchell will make sure ANC 6B has the exact schedule.

4) Traffic-enforcement legislation. On its first vote, the Council has approved Councilmember Allen's traffic-enforcement bill. The bill would empower the DC Attorney

General to file actions regarding out-of-state drivers who ignore DC traffic tickets. It would also require the installation of speed governors in cars driven by drivers criminally convicted for moving violations, including drunk driving.

d. ANC 6B 2023 Public Service Award. Commissioner Ryder announced ANC 6B has conferred its 2023 Public Service Award on former ANC 6B commissioner and current BRMS director Brian Ready.

e. Upcoming ANC 6B Meetings. Commissioner Ryder and the respective committee and taskforce chairs announced upcoming ANC 6B meetings.

1) Southeast Library Task Force: January 21 3 p.m. at The Yard, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and over Zoom.

2) Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force: January 22 7 p.m. in person at The Yard.

2) Executive Committee: January 30 7 p.m. over Zoom.

3) ABC Committee: February 6 7 p.m. at the Yard and over Zoom.

4) Transportation Committee: February 7 7 p.m. over Zoom.

5) Planning and Zoning Committee: February 8 7 p.m. over Zoom.

6) ANC 6B (full ANC): February 13 7 p.m. at The Yard and over Zoom.

7) Public Safety Committee: February 26 (format not yet decided).

8) Executive Committee: February 27 (format not yet decided).

5. Committee and Taskforce Reports.

a. Alcoholic Beverage & Cannabis Committee.

1) Cannabis regulation. Commissioner Jayaraman, committee chair, reported that ANC 6B now has three medical-cannabis license applications.

a) Specific applications (two of three).

1-- DC Dash, 727 8th St., SE. Commissioner Jayaraman reported that he and Commissioner Sobelsohn, whose district includes this location, are working on a settlement agreement to present to DC Dash.

2-- UpnSmoke II LLC, 427 8th St., SE. Attorney Zack Learman, business manager Elias Bitar, and half-owner Hussein Dib spoke on behalf of UpnSmoke's application for a new medical-cannabis retailer license (ABCA-126850). Learman reported that UpnSmoke, a "social equity" applicant because of Dib's prior cannabis conviction, has operated, as an "i71 shop," without complaints for about a year. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to protest UpnSmoke's application based on adverse impacts on peace, order, and quiet, on parking and pedestrian safety, and on real-property values, the same grounds on which the ANC will protest the application of DC Dash. Commissioner Jayaraman explained that he expects, after reaching a settlement with both applicants, that the ANC will drop its protests. The motion passed 8-0, with Commissioner Avery abstaining.

b) Amendment to Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to support the pending emergency legislation to amend the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022, sponsored by Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen; but also to suggest the bill's amendment to empower Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner to obtain extensions to file protests, and to clarify

the minimum distance a licensee must locate from a school or recreation center. The motion passed 8-0, with Commissioner Avery abstaining.

2) Committee report. The committee's monthly report is linked to these minutes.

b. Transportation Committee.

1) Condolence letter. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Durkit seconded to send a condolence letter to the office of Ward Six Councilmember Allen, chair of the DC Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment, on the recent sudden death of Christopher Laskowski, committee staff director. The motion passed 9-0. The letter is linked to these minutes.

2) Committee report. The committee's monthly report is linked to these minutes.

c. Planning and Zoning Committee.

1) Illegal construction. Committee chair Commissioner D'Andrea moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to send a letter to the Department of Buildings (DOB) (a) noting a series of subpar DOB construction inspections in ANC 6B, (b) asking what DOB can do regarding illegal construction not stopped during construction, (c) specifically urging an investigation and further action regarding illegal construction at 319 9th St., SE, and (d) authorizing Commissioner D'Andrea to modify the draft letter as he deems necessary. The motion passed 9-0. The final draft letter is linked to these minutes.

2) Committee report. The committee's monthly report is linked to these minutes.

d. Southeast Library Task Force. Commissioner Sobelsohn, taskforce chair, reported on a town meeting held by DC Public Library (DCPL) on December 14 regarding the then-imminent closing, for renovations, of the Southeast library. At that meeting, DCPL director Richard Reyes-Gavilan continued to insist on opening the interim library at the Arthur Capper Recreation Center, 1000 5th St., SE, only on weekdays and (except Thursdays) during regular working hours. He did, however, promise to provide an estimate of the cost of opening the facility one additional evening per week and on weekends. Reyes-Gavilan also expressed hope the interim library would open February 5. Commissioner Sobelsohn further reported that the Southeast library had closed January 4. When Commissioner Sroufe reported that the library construction site has no sign alerting patrons to the coming interim services at Arthur Capper, Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded for Commissioner Mareino to create a sign and post it himself on the library construction site. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioners Durkit and Jayaraman abstained. The minutes of the taskforce's December 17 meeting are linked to these minutes.

e. Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force. Taskforce chair Commissioner Sroufe reported that the taskforce is developing responses to two recently issued documents: (1) a Memorandum of Understanding regarding which DC agencies have responsibility, and for what, on the Eastern Market Metrorail Plaza, and (2) a Department of Parks and Recreation document titled *Ready to Play*.

f. Special Committee on Public Safety. Noting that, in December, the ANC had established a new standing Committee on Public Safety, Commissioner Ryder explained the process of transitioning from a special committee to a standing committee. Until the first meeting of the new standing committee, the special committee will function as it has for the past year.

g. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Sroufe reported that the committee did not meet in December.

6. Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Avery, ANC 6B treasurer, reported that, because of errors charging the ANC's debit card, he has arranged that, from now on, the ANC will pay for renting space in The Yard, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, only by check, not by ANC debit card. Commissioner Avery further reported that, because of problems with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, the ANC does not yet have a final 2023 budget, and won't know the ANC's 2024 budget for another month. He expects to submit a Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Financial Report at the ANC's February meeting.

7. Adjournment. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Jayaraman seconded to adjourn. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner David Sobelsohn

ANC 6B Secretary