



Capitol Hill / Southeast

Regular Monthly Meeting September 9, 2024

Held in Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and over Zoom

Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair

Approved Minutes

Approved at ANC 6B Meeting October 8, 2024

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

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Meeting Agenda. As requested by the following commissioners, and by unanimous consent, the proposed agenda was modified as follows: from Commissioners--

a. Avery: move adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget from the Financial Report to the Consent Agenda.

b. Jayaraman: move 1333 M St., SE, tax-abatement proposal from the Consent Agenda to the Planning and Zoning Committee report.

c. Mareino: move all written committee and taskforce reports to the Consent Agenda.

d. Ryder: add, in Consent Agenda, under committee and taskforce appointments, the appointment, by Commissioner D'Andrea (6B04), of Anna Krebs to the Southeast Library Task Force.

e. Sobelsohn.

1) Move submission of suggested electric-vehicle charging locations from the Consent Agenda to the Transportation Committee report.

2) Add presentation about a DC Council proposal to limit utility cut-offs of electricity and water, should a representative appear from the Center for Biological Diversity's Energy Justice Program.

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

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to approve items on the Consent Agenda as modified. The motion passed 9-0. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

a. Minutes of July 9 meeting as presented. Those minutes are linked to these.

b. Proposed 2025 Budget, also linked to these minutes.

c. Committee and taskforce matters.

1) Appointments, by Commissioners--

a) Avery (6B01), of Marsha Lea as ANC 6B01 Resident Member of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

b) Sobelsohn (6B03), of Anna Weinstein as ANC 6B03 Resident Member of the Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force.

c) D'Andrea (6B04), of Anna Krebs as ANC 6B04 Resident Member on the Southeast Library Task Force.

2) Submitted committee and taskforce reports and minutes, all linked to these minutes.

3) Recommendations: from the--

a) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee: to support, for--

1-- PDM, LLC, currently trading as Mott's Market, 233 12th St., SE: applications for (a) a new retailer class B beer and wine store license (ABRA 129523); (b) a new retailer class C tavern license (ABRA 129563) based on the signed settlement agreement linked to these minutes; and (c) a stipulated license for both applications.

2-- Radici Uno, LLC, currently trading as Radici Market: applications to (a) change the location from 303 7th St., SE, where Radici has closed, to 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE; and to (b) change the type from a class B grocery license to a class B Internet license (ABRA-093687).

b) Transportation Committee: to support sending letters regarding--

1-- 11th St., SE, school pickups and drop-offs; to--

a-- District Department of Transportation (DDOT): requesting an updated timeline on DDOT's promised work at 11th and D Streets and 11th and G Streets, SE.

b-- Digital Pioneers Academy: urging that it use and encourage use of the designated pickup/dropoff zone on 12th Street, SE, with copies of the letter to DC's Charter School Board chair and to DDOT's school safety team.

2-- Resident-only parking on Ives Pl., SE: to DDOT, urging that DDOT install resident-only parking signs on the south side of the 1300 block of Ives Pl., SE.

c) Planning & Zoning Committee; to support--

1-- Proposal for a two-story (with cellar) rear addition to a current, attached, two-story (with cellar) dwelling at 530 5th St., SE, in the RF-1/CAP zone (BZA 21180 and HPA 24-377).

2-- Sending letters to--

a-- DC Mayor Bowser requesting that she explain a reported decision not to enforce zoning regulations on Capitol Hill, the letter to be written by Commissioners Avery and Sroufe. That letter is linked to these minutes.

b-- Various DC city agencies related to a missing Certificate of Occupancy at 319 3rd St., SE, the letter to be written by Commissioner Avery. That letter is linked to these minutes.

3. Announcements.

a. Commissioner Sobelsohn announced a private riverboat tour of the Anacostia River, for ANC commissioners and committee and taskforce members, led by Chris Williams, Anacostia Watershed Society president, to leave at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 14.

b. Commissioner Ryder announced the upcoming ANC 6B meeting dates and times.

1) September--

a) 16, 7 p.m. of Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force, at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, in person only.

b) 23, 6:30 p.m. Southeast Library Task Force, at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, in person and live-streamed.

c) 24, 7 p.m., Executive Committee, virtual only.

d) 30, 7 p.m., Planning and Zoning Committee, virtual only.

2) October--

a) 1, 7 p.m., Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee, virtual only.

b) 7, 7 p.m., Transportation Committee, virtual only.

c) 8, 7 p.m., monthly full ANC 6B, at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, in person and live-streamed.

4. Presentations.

a. Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS). AWS President Chris Williams spoke about the Anacostia River and its watershed. When first encountered by Europeans, the river's 176-square-mile watershed teemed with wildlife. The river itself had a 40-foot depth. But by 1989, silt and pollution had reduced the river's depth to 3-9 feet, at low tide even blocking boats in port. Littered with refuse--appliances, tires, even cars--the river ranked, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, as one of American's 10 most polluted, no more than a fetid mudflat.

Partly because of AWS's trash cleanup, restoration fieldwork, and education and policy programs, river quality has greatly improved. In 2017 the river finally passed its annual State of the River report. People today sail multiple types of boats on the river, and can even sometimes safely swim in part of its 8 miles (though swimming's still illegal). In 2025, the DC Departments of Parks and Recreation and Energy and the Environment will start cleaning contaminants from the river bed, needed eventually to render river fish safe to eat.

Plastic still makes up much of the river's pollution. DC's targeted tax greatly reduced the number of plastic bags; AWS wants DC to follow Prince George's County and ban retailers from offering them altogether. Single-use plastic beverage containers make up 60% by weight of river trash. Because a bottle-refund law would keep 60-80% of these containers out of the river, AWS supports DC Councilmember Brianne Nadeau's bottle-refund bill.

Williams will lead the September 14 ANC 6B Anacostia riverboat tour.

b. New jail facility. Michelle Wilson, of the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), and Meridith Moldenhauer, of the Cozen O'Connor law firm, spoke about a planned new jail facility at 1901 D St., SE. The current Central Detention Facility (CDF) is nearly 50 years old. Some equipment no longer works. Since its opening, the jail's population has changed. The jail now houses a much higher percentage of serious offenders. Ninety percent of the residents suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder; 60% have a mental illness, and, of those, half have a serious mental illness. DOC needs more space for programs, especially for education, skills training, and mental and behavioral health. Further, jail design now favors blurring scale and function, so it doesn't obviously look like a jail. DGS and DOC plan two new buildings, an annex and a new CDF, each built to last 40-50 years.

DGS and DOC will continue designing the new facility through 2027, with both new buildings to open by 2035. The agencies promised to update the ANC's two relevant committees, Planning and Zoning and Public Safety, in November. In between meetings, ANC 6B commissioners can contact DOC's Director of Strategic Communications, Setareh Yelle, at setareh.yelle@dc.gov.

c. Utility cut-off legislation. No one appearing from the Center for Biological Diversity's Energy Justice Program, this item was tabled without objection.

5. Committee and Taskforce Reports.

a. Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee. Commissioner Ryder moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to approve the application (ABRA-128413) of Bud Love, LLC, 1221 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, for a license for a new medical cannabis retailer, including a safe-use treatment facility and a delivery endorsement, all based on the signed settlement agreement linked to these minutes. The applicant has pledged not to apply for a summer-garden endorsement, to close its safe-use treatment facility at 9 p.m., and to instruct staff to respect bus and bicycle lanes. Bud Love's counsel Meredith Kinner promised that Bud Love, currently closed, will not reopen until issuance of its license. The motion passed 8-1, with Commissioner Sobelsohn opposed.

b. Transportation Committee.

1) DDOT's 8th Street Bus Priority Project. Andrew Grinberg, DDOT's Project Manager, updated the ANC on the project. DDOT has met with Barracks Row businesses and with Barracks Row Main Street. DDOT plans 32 loading spaces, with 8 unavailable during afternoon rush hours, and 17 10-minute parking spaces. DDOT also hopes more drivers will park in the 8th St. lot under the freeway. Currently, spaces there have a 2-hour limit. DDOT's Curbside Management Division has authorized increasing the limit, as long as each spot has the same time limit. Grinberg expects construction to start in 2025 and to finish by the end of the year. Email Andrew.Grinberg@dc.gov or Maureen.-Madden@dc.gov with any comments or suggestions.

2) Electric-vehicle charging stations. The DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) has asked for recommendations for electric-vehicle charging-station locations in our ANC. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Avery seconded to authorize the committee chair, Commissioner LaFortune, to canvas ANC commissioners for appropriate locations and to submit the final list to DOEE. The motion passed 9-0.

c. Planning and Zoning Committee: 1333 M St., SE, project tax abatement. Commissioner Ryder moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to endorse the committee's unanimous recommendation that the ANC support a bill, introduced by Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen, awarding a 15-year tax abatement, from 2028-43, for a long-delayed multiunit project at 1333 M St., SE, in Commissioner Ryder's district; and to authorize Commissioner Ryder to draft and present testimony on ANC 6B's behalf at upcoming Council hearings on the bill. The project will include 12% affordable housing. An agreement with the developer also requires a contribution of \$25,000 to the Department of Parks and Recreation to support senior programming at the Arthur Capper Community Center, 1000 5th St., SE, and \$225,000 to the Department of Aging with the request that it go to help the Capitol Hill Village fund professional services for a Capitol Hill Ward Six adult daycare center. The motion passed 6-3, with Commissioners Jayaraman, Mareino, and Sroufe opposed.

d. Southeast Library Task Force. Taskforce chair, Commissioner Sobelsohn, reported that the taskforce is working on designing, printing, and distributing flyers to promote use of the interim Southeast library facility at the Arthur Capper Community Center.

6. ANC 6B Administrative Matters.

- a. Increasing community participation in committee and taskforces.
- b. Review of ANC Standing Rules.

Commission Jayaraman moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to defer both of these items until the October 8 ANC meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

c. Administrative assistant. Commissioner Ryder reported that, for the ANC, he will advertise this position by September 16 in the Capitol Hill Corner, the Hill Rag, and the City Paper.

7. Adjournment. Commissioner Ryder moved to adjourn. The motion passed without objection. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sobelsohn
Secretary, ANC 6B