

January report of ANC6B Parks and Public Spaces Committee (PPSC) AND the Eastern Market Community Advisor Committee (MOSTLY ABOUT RUMSEY)

Yes, two committee reports in one.

1. The PPS Committee has developed and is in the process of implementing a three-stage effort to advance a community-facing rebuild of the Eastern Market Aquatic Center:

one: A letter from the Commission to DGS and DPR in advance of the January public meeting suggesting changes in the concept of the rebuild that reflected community sentiment.

two: Attendance and participation in the January community outreach meeting sponsored by DPR.

three: Additional outreach with DPR and DGS reacting to the revised proposal presented in January and making additional recommendations as necessary.

The PPS Committee letter and response from DPR are included as attachments to this report. The PPS Committee is now engaged in providing additional commentary and developing additional recommendations for improving the most recent plan.

(Our parks surely will re-emerge once the snow has melted; the Committee is working on a schedule of “adopt a park” to monitor every park on Capitol Hill beginning in the spring – volunteers will be welcomed.)

2. The Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee, however, believes that the current conceptual plan for the rebuild does not adequately consider the needs of the Eastern Market.

There appears to have been a failure of communication with regard to the use of the alley between the two buildings on this unique site. The ANC6B Committee previously called the Market’s needs to the attention of DPR, and had learned that the agency believed there had been sufficient communication with the Market management to resolve any issues. However, fundamental disagreements exist about use of the alley and the plaza at the entrance of the aquatic center.

It has been established that the official Eastern Market boundary goes from the west wall of the Market (7th Street) to the existing east wall of the Aquatic Center, encompassing the alley, and including also the plaza area at the front entrance of the Aquatic Center.

Further, the EMCAC believes that the alley primarily must serve the delivery needs of the market; it is not available for use as a “Parisian walkway” between C Street and North Carolina as envisioned in the current conceptual plan. Similarly, grassy areas and benches envisioned for the plaza adjacent to North Carolina (think breakfast burritos or House of Nuts) may need to be redesigned to facilitate long standing Market functions.

These design elements on the exterior of the Aquatic Center are of sufficient concern that the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee is seeking a meeting with the pertinent government officials and the building architect to resolve them.

The PPSC will participate in the EMCAC discussions (Commissioner Sroufe is a member of EMCAC) and the Parks Committee will continue reviewing and recommending throughout the concept stage of the pool rebuild.

(There is no progress to report regarding the installation of bollards to provide safety to Eastern Market goes, but this continues to be an EMCAC priority.).

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

From: Dyer, Christopher (DPR) <christopher.dyer@dc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 6:44 PM

To: Gerald Sroufe <geraldsroufe1296@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Rumsey Pool Public Meeting Comments

Commissioner:

Thanks for these thoughtful questions and feedback. We will hopefully be able to answer these at the meeting tomorrow night but if not, will be able to respond after the presentation.

Thanks again.

Chris

Christopher Dyer, Community Engagement Manager, Department of Parks and Recreation;

202-702-9453 (cell)

From: Gerald Sroufe <geraldsroufe1296@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 2:09 PM

To: Dyer, Christopher (DPR) <christopher.dyer@dc.gov>

Subject: Rumsey Pool Public Meeting Comments

Good day, Mr. Dyer — Members of ANC6B's Parks and Public Spaces Committee have had an opportunity to review the revised plans for the Rumsey rebuild, and we look forward with anticipation to the community discussion planned for January 14.

The Committee appreciates the responsiveness and creativity DPR has shown in addressing diverse community concerns. We anticipate providing more specific comments following the community meeting; however, we can suggest a few topics now that you might find it helpful to address in your overview of the rebuild presentation.

1. Regarding the pool.

- Can the swimming pool itself be enlarged or reconfigured to provide additional swim lanes?
- Can the amount of natural light in the pool be enhanced?
- Have we achieved the lane-length required for competition?

2. Regarding the building design.

- Can more creative use be made of the roof area?
- Many of the meeting spaces — on the very much needed second floor — are designed for multiple use. Can more information be provided about the actual size

of each space and the features that will provide the flexibility required for multiple use space?

3. Regarding the attractive proposed alley walkway from North Carolina to C streets.

-Are the needs of the Eastern Market — for delivery, trash pickup, and parking — fully accommodated with this design? with this design?

Our thanks to you and the team for providing multiple opportunities for identifying and addressing community concerns about this important project.

Sincerely,

Gerald Sroufe, chair