

ANC 6C Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 7 pm
Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue N.E.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Quorum

A quorum of 6 out of 6 commissioners was present (Mr. Eckenwiler, Ms. Edelman, Ms. Healey, Mr. Miller, Mr. Price, and Ms. Wirt).

Approval of the Agenda

Added to the agenda were a report from the DC Attorney General's office and an update on the BZA appeal for 1511 A Street N.E. Two items under the Transportation and Public Space Committee—Union Station congestion and DDOT oversight hearing—were moved to the consent calendar. The agenda was approved as amended without objection. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Wirt.

Approval of the Minutes

The February minutes were approved without objection, with the usual caveat that commissioners would have one week to report any inaccuracies or typographical errors before the minutes are posted on the ANC 6C website. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/ Mr. Miller.

Treasurer's Reports

The January report had a beginning balance of \$44,920.78. There was a Bank of America interest payment of \$0.38. The closing balance was \$44,921.16.

The February report had a beginning balance of \$44,921.16. Five checks were written and cleared the bank; #1331, \$2,400, grant to Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan; #1332, \$586.00, grant to Ludlow Taylor PTO; #1335, \$174.00, reimbursement to Commissioner Wirt for six-months rental of the ANC 6C post box; #1336, \$287.50, payment to the ANC 6C office assistant, Susan Eads Role, for assistance with grant application processing; #1338, \$310.50 for an ANC 6C ad placed in the Capitol Hill Rag Guide. There was a Bank of America interest payment of \$0.33. The closing balance was \$41,163.49.

The commissioners unanimously approved a request from the chair of the Transportation and Public Space Committee, Mr. Mark Kazmierczak, to purchase approximately \$400 of digital projector equipment to be shared among ANC 6C committee chairs. Ms. Wirt recommended extending the maximum to \$450 to cover taxes and shipping. It was agreed that Mr. Kazmierczak would purchase the equipment, present receipts for reimbursement, and arrange for storage of the equipment. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Miller.

Brief Community Announcements

1. Mediation services—Mr. Seth Cohen announced he is initiating a project to offer free mediation services to the community to help neighbors resolve matters such as disputes regarding trees, dogs, etc. He gave his contact information as chmediaor@aol.com, (202) 544-5675.
2. Support for improvements at Montessori School at Logan—Tim Abdella described the need for infrastructure improvements at Montessori School, which is a school offering classes from pre-K through 8th grade. The school got dropped from the modernization list because it did not fall neatly into a category of elementary/middle/high school (Montessori offers both elementary and middle school classes). Plumbing, HVAC, lead in the water, and other issues need to be addressed. An assessment has been conducted. Mr. Abdella asked for a letter of support for modernization of this school and all other schools needing improvement in the District of Columbia. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller.
3. Report from the Attorney General's office—Cameron Windham, Community Engagement Coordinator, summarized achievements of the first two years of this independent agency, 2015-2016, including assistance to juveniles, affordable housing, establishment of the Office of Consumer Protection, and campaign finance reform.
4. Commissioner announcements—Mr. Miller noted that no progress has been made on improvement of the alley at 732 6th Street NE that collapsed 15 months ago. Mr. Eckenwiler gave a reminder that the Rock 'N Roll Marathon will be held on Saturday, March 11. Mr. Price stated that exits during this marathon would be on the west side of the Hill. He also mentioned he had attended a tour of the condo units at 700 Constitution Avenue NE, and that they were ideal for people who want to live on a horizontal, rather than a vertical level. He also summarized the results of a meeting he organized with representatives of the U.S. prosecutor, MPD, and the D.C. attorney general, which included addressing sector-based management of police and overlapping MPD shifts. Ms. Wirt mentioned attending a D.C. Auditor's meeting, at which it was stated that quarterly reports are to be sent to the OANC beginning April 1, that ANC expenditures involving reimbursing a commissioner must be approved by the full Commission before outlay, and that the Auditor is proposing a new grant application form.

Consent Calendar

1. Washington Gateway Project (NY Avenue at Florida Avenue NE), ZC06-14D—This is a PUD in ANC 5E03, adjacent to ANC 6C. It includes two buildings: one a mix of residential and hotel uses, the other an office building divided into a North Tower and a South Tower. The applicant previously requested the option of providing all residential in lieu of hotel use. The current request is to convert the North Tower to all residential and to reconfigure and redesign the South Tower office building. The hearing is on March 27. This request is to send a letter indicating ANC 6C has no objections to the current revisions.
2. Union Station congestion—Mr. Eckenwiler observed poor traffic flow and dangerous conditions at the front of Union Station. Because of the configuration of the lanes as redesigned recently, drivers get caught in the wrong lane at decision points and block other pedestrians and vehicular traffic as well as sight lines. The recommendation is to send a letter to DDOT pointing out the hazards and requesting discussion to address the situation.
3. DDOT oversight hearing—This is to authorize Mr. Eckenwiler to represent ANC 6C at the forthcoming DDOT hearing to testify on several unaddressed items: (1) a promised loading zone on 5th Street as part of the Stuart Hobson Middle School renovations that has not been installed; (2) continuing problems with parking signage in ANC 6C04; and (3) lack of oversight on utilities and their contractors when restoring streets and sidewalks, especially in historic districts.

The commissioners voted unanimously to support the consent agenda. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Eckenwiler.

Transportation and Public Space Committee

1. Florida Avenue Multimodal Transportation Study—This is a review of the DDOT release of the 30% stage of design completion for Florida Avenue, which includes a cycle track and sidewalk improvements. The commissioners voted unanimously to support the overall proposed design that includes a cycle track and two lanes of vehicular traffic in each direction. The ANC 6C concerns include the following: (1) a shared bicycle/pedestrian sidewalk between 2nd and 3rd Streets is problematic and needs further study; (2) the curb at the northeast corner of the intersection of Florida and 6th Street has a very large radius that will make turns at high speeds dangerous to pedestrians and should be redesigned; (3) a median on 6th Street north of Florida would provide pedestrian refuge for crossing a very wide street; and (4) an additional bicycle box at West Virginia Avenue is needed for westbound bicyclists traveling in the right lane to get to the cycle track that begins at that intersection at the south side of Florida Avenue. The commissioners voted unanimously to support these recommendations. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller. Mr. Price asked that light at the intersection should be focused downward if it is not already in the design plans.
2. Small Business Parking Permit Act—This is a proposal by Council Member Robert White to provide up to 10 RPP parking passes to allow employees of local small businesses to park in RPP zones. The commissioners voted unanimously to oppose this proposed legislation for reasons including the following: (1) residential parking areas already must accommodate parking pressures from patrons of nearby businesses; (2) the RPP program was designed to protect the parking of residents, and this proposal undercuts that intent; (3) DC should be encouraging use of public transportation; (4) there are not enough controls to prevent abuse, such as obtaining RPP passes for employees who mostly telework or for business owners who rarely visit during daily operations; and (5) it will be difficult for DDOT or DMV to validate the number of employees a business claims to have. It was mentioned in addition that the RPP is long overdue for reform. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Wirt. The commissioners delegated Mr. Eckenwiler to represent ANC 6C at the hearing.
3. Maryland Avenue update (nonvoting item)—The redesign project is at the 65% stage of design completion, meaning this is the last opportunity to request hardscape changes without causing an increase in cost or delay in timeline. Most comments provided by ANC 6C have been addressed in the new design.

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee

1. 638 Orleans Place NE, BZA 19467, application to construct a third-story addition to an existing two-story, one-family dwelling—After the committee met and discussed the project, the applicant revised the plans to include no need for height relief; no expansion of the footprint; updating of details on the mansard roof, such as changing 5 windows to 3 windows, now double hung; and unifying features for the cornice such as painting it a similar color to the original historic home. The commissioners voted unanimously to support the revised plans and to authorize Mr. Eckenwiler to represent ANC 6C at the April BZA hearing. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller.
2. 316 G Street NE, BZA 19462, construction of a rear three-story addition and partial third-floor addition to an existing one-family dwelling—This is an application to construct a third-story addition with dogleg infill. The proposed structure would increase lot occupancy to 70%. The applicant provided letters of support from both adjacent neighbors. The addition would not be visible from G Street according to a sight-line provided by the architect. The commissioners voted unanimously to support the project from a zoning perspective. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller.
3. 316 G Street NE, HPA 17-227, application for concept approval of a rooftop addition and new three-story addition—The applicant submitted revisions to the plans addressing committee concerns, including

inclusion of the low, partially perforated brick wall at the front landing and the new basement entrance now tucked under the existing stairs. The commissioners voted unanimously to support the concept contingent on the clarifying drawings being submitted to HPRB. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller.

4. Union Station Expansion Project, Section 103 proposed study area—The commissioners discussed sending a letter to the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) objecting to (1) the adequacy of the proposed study area, which stops at 3rd Street and does not cover the entire area likely to be affected by the proposed project, namely, the expansion to the east; and (2) the difficulty of identifying relevant view sheds for a project that remains largely undefined. The commissioners voted unanimously to send a letter to the FRA expressing these concerns. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Price.

5. DCRA oversight hearing—Although DCRA has shown some improvement, more work is needed. Areas of concern include after-hour permits in or near residential neighborhoods and poor response by the Office of the Zoning Administrator to reports of zoning violations. The commissioners voted to encourage the good work of HPO inspectors but that more staff are needed to address Capitol Hill concerns. This is to authorize testimony by Mr. Eckenwiler at the March 16 DCRA oversight hearing. The commissioners voted unanimously to support testimony reflecting these concerns. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Wirt. Mr. Miller asked if the testimony could include the alley collapse at 732 6th Street NE.

Alcoholic Beverage License Committee

Mr. Miller mentioned that the settlement agreement with Whole Foods Market on H Street is complete and that negotiations with Tanqueria & Rosticceria Fresca Restaurant are moving forward.

Parks and Events Committee

No business this month.

Grants Committee

No business this month.

New Business

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.