

# ANC 6C Parks and Events Committee

## Meeting Report

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Kaiser-Permanente Capitol Hill Medical Center (700 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE)

Committee Attendees: Phil Tahtakran, Caitlin LaRocco, Joe McCann, Vira Sisolak

### 1. NoMa Parks Update

Stacie West with NoMa Parks Foundation provided an update.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> & L Street Park – the next “Community Conversation” is scheduled for Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at the Hilton Garden Inn (1225 First St., NE) and will focus on a presentation of the design plans for the 3<sup>rd</sup> & L St. park. No major design changes from the previous plan shared with the community.
- NoMa Green – a separate meeting will occur on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at the Hilton Garden Inn and will focus on the NoMa Green.
- M Street Underpass – this project continues to be delayed by Amtrak. NoMa has just submitted plans for additional review last week re: the structure that will be affixed to the underpass and how the Amtrak underpass beams can be accessed for maintenance. Waiting on Amtrak engineers to approve. Once approved, construction should take about a month. Original target for completion was Spring 2017. **The Committee continues to be concerned with the growing homeless encampments at the M and L Street underpasses, given the substantial public investment that has been made in order to activate these spaces for wide public use and enjoyment.** NoMa reports that there appears to be no clear strategy on the part of the city and that the Mayor’s Office has been unresponsive.
- Funding Issue – NoMa Parks reported that the Mayor’s budget has changed the timing of their grant funding for parks and public spaces. Instead of getting \$15M in FY18 and the final \$5M in FY19, they will get \$5M each in FY18-21, making it difficult to enter into contracts on a park that will cost more than \$5M to build. They’ve asked that funding be restored back to what was originally agreed to, but that has not happened to date. They may ask the community for help in engaging the DC Council.
- A “Nerds in NoMa” session on April 18<sup>th</sup> will focus on greening the city efforts.

### 2. Casey Trees

Cene Ketcham, Extension Arborist with Casey Trees, presented on the organization’s various tree planting services and how they complement the city’s tree planting efforts through DDOT.

Casey’s residential programs – providing trees for residential private property for a significantly reduced price or offering rebates for purchased trees – were of particular interest to the Committee. **The Committee recommends inviting Casey Trees to brief the full ANC on these services in order to increase awareness of their residential tree programs.**

### 3. Committee Discussion

- a) 5<sup>th</sup> & I St., NE – the Chair reported that the NPS and the developer (Insight) are close to finalizing the property line issue with the adjacent residential property owner that encroached on NPS land. A fence at the back of the park (separating the park from an adjacent residential property) will be installed in the coming weeks. The Committee has followed up with Insight regarding the current state of the grass cover at the site and to reconfirm maintenance plans for the near future.

- b) Rock & Roll Marathon – a Committee member who lives on the Hill raised concerns with closures this year, particularly near/on C Street, NE, which caused significant traffic tie-ups. Having the race on a Sunday rather than a Saturday was raised as a possible response, or re-routing the races so residents of Capitol Hill have a way into and out of the ANC6C area from the north or east.