

ANC 6C Transportation and Public Space Committee
Kaiser Permanente Capitol Hill Medical Center
700 2nd St. NE, Room G3-G4
Thursday, October 5, 2017
7:00 pm

REPORT

In Attendance:

Mark Kazmierczak (chair)
Mark Eckenwiler
Christy Kwan
Josh Linden

Note: Approximately 25 members from the community were in attendance to raise objections to the potential for bike lanes on K St. NE (an agenda item for the November 2 committee meeting). The topic was discussed for about 20 minutes.

1. CCNV (2nd and D Streets NW)

An application from the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) Shelter at 2nd & D St. NW to install a gate adjacent to the alley next to the shelter. The gate would remain open most of the time but could be closed to prevent access to the alley in order to curb illegal activity in the alley.

Representative: Rico Harris, CCNV. [6C02]

Mr. Harris explained the events that led to installation of the swing gate. An encampment of people not using CCNV's services had formed and become a hot spot for criminal behavior. In response, Mr. Harris cleared the area and installed a swing gate on CCNV property.

The proposal is to close the gate only when deemed necessary, at which point CCNV will apply for a permit to temporarily close the alley. Only the alley entrance off E St. NE entrance to the alley will be closed (which does not see much legitimate traffic). There are two other entrances, both off 1st St. NE, which will remain open at all times. In addition to the temporary closure permits, CCNV will be seeking a permit for a post that was installed on the opposite side of the entrance to which the closed gate latches, which is in public space.

The committee was supportive of the attempts of CCNV to curb illegal activity and improve safety for its residents and the neighborhood. When asked if the owners/tenants of the other buildings on the square were supportive, Mr. Harris said they were and would provide supporting documentation in the form of minutes from the Downtown BID meeting in which this was discussed.

Motion: Recommend the ANC support the CCNV in their efforts, pending documentation of neighbor support from Mr. Harris.

Vote: Passed, 4 – 0.

Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

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2. Visitor Parking Permits

Discussion of the lack of enforcement by DDOT/DPW in restricting use of Visitor Parking Permits to the designated ANC.

Representative: None. [District-wide]

Commissioner Eckenwiler presented the following issue. Visitor Parking Permits are issued to residents on Resident Parking Permit blocks who request them, and are valid only for the ANC to which they are issued, not the entire ward, as RPP permits are. However, little if any enforcement of this occurs, and permits valid outside ANC 6C are frequently used in ANC 6C. Potential solutions could be implemented by both DDOT (e.g., signage) and DPW (e.g., ticketing). No specific recommendations were made as to how to solve the issue (ANC 6C has proposed some in the past), just a push to get DPW and DDOT to work together to solve the issue.

Motion: Recommend the ANC to send a letter to DDOT and DPW Directors (cc: Mary Cheh, Charles Allen) to request they figure out enforcement of Visitor Parking Passes.

Vote: Passed, 4 – 0.

3. Bicycle infrastructure on M, 4th, and 6th Streets NE

Bike lanes have been installed on M St. from Delaware Ave. to Florida Ave. and on the 1200 block of 4th and 6th Streets NE. Committee members will weigh in on design issues and potential solutions. Some complaints include vehicles parking in the 4th St. cycle-track and confusion at 3rd & M Streets where the cycle-track switches sides of M St.

Representative: None. [6C06]

Committee members walked through several issues with the bicycle infrastructure installed this summer on 4th St. NE and M St. NE to Delaware Ave NE. The following issues and solutions were identified.

4th Street NE

- Remove existing loading sign near the sidewalk or move closer to the new loading zone
- Add center flexi-posts to areas of the cycle track where solid green paint begins and ends. For example, 4th Street NE has many driveways where the green paint is striped. Center flexi-posts need to be added to deter cars from entering the cycle track for loading and unloading purposes.
- Add a concrete bollard to the north end of the cycle track at Florida Ave to deter cars from entering the cycle track.
- Work with DPW for enforcement to ensure cars do not drive or park in the cycle track.

M Street NE

- At M and 4th Streets NE: Add an additional flexi-post closer to the crosswalk
- At M Street and Delaware Ave NE: Consider implementing no right turn for cars from Delaware Ave onto M Street NE
- At M Street and Delaware Ave NE: Add flexi-posts to the southeast corner of the intersection to prevent cars from blocking the crosswalk and entrance to the cycle track.

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- At M and 3rd Streets NE: As a short-term solution, consider painting bike boxes with green paint to better facilitate people who bike to switch from the south to north sides of the cycle track (or vice versa). As a long-term solution, consider introducing a signalized light with a special green signal for people who bike to safely switch sides of the cycle track.

Motion: Recommend the ANC to send a letter to Mike Goodno and Jim Sebastian at DDOT with the above recommendations.

Vote: Passed, 4 – 0.

4. Dogs on Restaurant Patios

DC Department of Health recently started cracking down on restaurants that allow dogs on their patios. In response, Councilmember Brienne Nadeau, along with health committee chair Vincent Gray and other Councilmembers, will introduce emergency legislation on October 3rd.

Representative: none. [District-wide]

Committee chair Kazmierczak discussed the emergency legislation passed unanimously by Council to allow owners of food service establishments to decide whether they want to allow dogs on their outdoor patios. As emergency legislation, the act is effective for 90 days. Mr. Kazmierczak was supportive of the bill, including that it puts the decision in the hands of the establishment owner, and commended Council on their quick action. At issue was the section allowing owners to prohibit dogs based on breed, size, or temperament. Temperament is a sound reason for exclusion, and size can be reasonable given space constraints on many restaurant patios, but Mr. Kazmierczak objected to the inclusion of breed as a valid reason for exclusion.

Motion: Recommend the ANC to send a letter to support the “Dining with Dogs Emergency Act of 2017,” but requesting that any subsequent legislation remove language that allows prohibition of dogs by breed.

Vote: Approve, 3-0-1

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