

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

The agenda was approved with one change without objection. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Eckenwiler

Approval of the October Minutes

The October minutes were approved unanimously, with the usual caveat that commissioners will have one week to report any inaccuracies or typographical errors before the minutes are posted on the ANC 6C website. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Eckenwiler.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Miller, the treasurer, presented the report for October. There was an opening balance on October 1st of \$46,997.61. A check of \$600 was written to The Wright House for two American Sign Language interpreters. A check of \$1994.00 was written to Friends of NoMa Dog Park for its ANC 6C grant. An interest payment of \$0.39 was earned on October 31. The closing balance on October 31 was \$44,404.00. The report was accepted without objection. **Motion:** Mr. Miller/Ms. Edelman.

A motion to authorize payment of \$1338 for advertisements in The Hill Rag about ANC 6C meetings was passed unanimously. **Motion:** Mr. Miller/Ms. Wirt.

Brief Community Announcements

1. Department of Public Works – Reginald May, Associate Administrator, Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP), Department of Public Works, presented information about leaf season, snow season, and new recycling guidelines (see <https://zerowaste.dc.gov>). He reminded residents they can receive civil fines for not keeping their property clean and that leaf season has begun. He requested that leaves be raked into tree boxes – but if bags are used, DPW requests paper bags be used. Residents are also responsible shoveling snow, however, elderly residents and residents with certified disabilities may request an exemption from the snow shoveling requirement by calling 311 to apply. He said the new recycling guidelines will go into effect on January 1, 2018, and emphasized that plastic bags should not go into recycling bins. Items for recycling should go directly into bins. Ms. Healey raised continuing trash collection

problems in the alley between the Supreme Court and its parking lot. She also asked that concern about the lack of parking enforcement east of the Supreme Court be brought back to DPW management. Mr. Eckenwiler also expressed concern about parking enforcement problems and the need for repeated calls to get enforcement. A member of the public provided detailed information about the lack of enforcement of the residential parking permit regulations and 41 repeat offenders in the Supreme Court area. Mr. May gave his email address and phone number: reginald.may2@dc.gov and 202-645-7190.

2. Commissioner Announcements – Ms. Healey noted that the alley between 6th, 7th, A and East Capitol Streets NE is on the list for AlleyPalooza 6.0. It is one of 64 alleys in the 8 wards scheduled to receive maintenance work over 12 weeks, starting in October.

Consent Calendar

1. DC Council bills, Traffic and Parking Ticket Penalty Amendment Act of 2017, B 22-204, and Parking and Moving Violation Amnesty Act of 2017, B 22-410: submit written testimony for the record, by November 10, opposing the former bill and supporting the latter bill, with suggested amendments, as outlined in the Transportation and Public Space Committee report;
2. DC Council hearing on DCRA Management of Vacant and Blighted Properties: designate Mr. Eckenwiler to testify at November 14 hearing on the DC Auditor’s critical report on the subject with attention to 720 4th Street NE and 518 6th Street NE, as outlined in Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee report;
3. DC Council bills, Stop Work Order Disclosure and Regulation Amendment Act of 2017, B 22-31, and Notification of Vacant and Blighted Classification Amendment Act of 2017, B22-317, designate Mr. Eckenwiler to give testimony at the November 9 hearing, in support of the bills with suggested amendments, as circulated in draft form and outlined in Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee report;
4. Letter to Mayor Bowser, requesting she prioritize action on the homeless encampments in the underpasses in NoMa, as outlined in the Parks and Events Committee report, in particular to: 1) connect individuals with shelters, permanent supportive housing, and other support services; 2) address hazards to the public and ensure sidewalks are passable; and 3) address reports that MPD has refused to take action against illegal activity, with a copy to Council Member Allen;
5. Carving Room Kitchen & Bar, 130 M Street NE, Class C, new license, protest on all three grounds with Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee citizen chair Steve O’Neal to represent ANC 6C, with Ms. Edelman as backup;
6. Edgy Craft, t/a Craft Beer Cellar DC, 301 H Street NE, Class A, lifting the moratorium on single sales for three years, settlement agreement amendment, Mr. Eckenwiler to represent ANC 6C, Mr. O’Neal as backup;
7. Giant of Maryland, 300 H Street NE, Class B, renewal, protest on three grounds, to address issues involving deliveries at the loading dock, Mr. Eckenwiler and Mr. Miller to represent ANC 6C.

The consent calendar was approved without objection. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Eckenwiler.

Transportation and Public Space Committee

1. K Street NE Traffic Safety Study/NoMa Bicycle Study – The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has been conducting a traffic safety study of K Street NE from North Capitol Street to Florida Avenue NE at the request of ANC 6C. In addition, DDOT has been conducting a study to identify optimal routes for bicycle infrastructure to improve east-west connections from K to N Streets and 6th Street NW to 6th Street NE.

Mark Kazmierczak, chair of the committee, reported on the committee's meeting to receive DDOT's proposed solution for K Street incorporating the results of both studies focused on 1st through 6th Street. The DDOT proposal is a concept plan for a road diet that would remove rush-hour parking restrictions and change curb and lane alignments intended to slow down traffic and make the street safer. DDOT's concept plan would involve the installation of bike lanes between 1st and 6th Street NE to connect with the 4th and 6th Street bike lanes as well as with destinations in Northeast DC including Trinidad and New York Avenue.

Because removal of the rush-hour parking restrictions would limit traffic to two lanes, the DDOT proposal would include bicycle lanes for the safety of cyclists and to separate them from vehicle travel lanes. The proposal would have standard bicycle lanes in the direction of traffic on both sides of the street west of 1st Street NE; a two-way cycle-track occupying the southern-most travel lane on the 100 block; and standard bicycle lanes in the direction of traffic on each side of street from 2nd to 6th Street NE.

The DDOT proposal would require removal of parking lanes from the south side of the 200 and 300 blocks, from the north side of the 400 block and from both sides of the 500 block. The differences are due to the presence of bus lanes and the plan to put in a left turn lane for eastbound traffic at 5th Street NE.

Mr. Kazmierczak reported that 40-50 residents living along K Street, including some who live in ANC 6A, attended the committee meeting and most opposed the recommendations. These objections focused on the loss of parking places, both for residents and visitors to the senior center at 5th and K Street NE; the difficulty of walking to consolidated bus stops; the need for additional data about I Street and M Street NE options; and the continued safety issues of having bicyclists on the street. Committee members also raised questions and concerns to details in the DDOT concept but felt traffic calming was still a priority.

Mr. Kazmierczak reported that the committee recommended that ANC 6C support the proposed road diet concept while recommending further study be performed regarding (1) the feasibility of a two-way cycle track from 2nd to 6th Street NE; (2) the impact on parking for the senior wellness center; (3) implementing resident-only parking on K Street NE; and (4) the need, possibility, and impact of consolidating bus stops.

During public comment, eight residents gave comments in opposition to the DDOT K Street traffic safety concept. They argued that parking was already scarce along K Street and removing parking spaces would be unfair to families and long-term residents, particularly those with

mobility issues, and necessitate walking long distances to one's car. They suggested bicyclists could find routes other than K Street, and that I Street was a desirable route, but that residents needed K Street parking. They criticized DDOT for not presenting more alternatives.

Two residents advocated for proceeding with work on the DDOT concept and for prioritizing safety on K Street, particularly at the intersections. One said he had personally seen three cars flipped over in accidents on K Street.

Darren Buck, DDOT, was recognized and emphasized that the proposal is a concept which will involve more study and more work. He emphasized that the priority is traffic calming, and if parking is allowed along K Street during rush hour, the narrower street without bicycle lanes will put bicyclists in danger. He said DDOT has been planning since 2005 on bicycle lanes along K Street out to West Virginia Avenue as part of a comprehensive plan, and proposing bicycle lanes only to 6th Street NE now is a compromise. He cautioned that the overall plan of a road diet for K Street to Florida Avenue involved the loss of parking spaces, with turning lanes and other elements taking 45 spaces, and bike lanes between 2nd and 6th Streets taking 29 spots. He said that DDOT moving forward would take into consideration the issues raised at the ANC and TPS Committee meetings.

Commissioners commented on their views and voted 5:1:0 to send a letter to DDOT in support of the road diet concept with recommendations for further study as outlined by the committee and with the understanding that additional details would be worked out.

Motion: Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Healey. Mr. Buck stated that DDOT would return to ANC 6C as work continued on the concept.

Parks and Events Committee

1. Rock 'N' Roll Marathon – Phil Tahtakran, chair of the committee, reported on its meeting with Diane Romo Thomas, representing the race sponsors. The race is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2018, with an expected 19,000 – 20,000 runners. No change is expected in the course or timing. 13th Street NE problems will be addressed with Marathon organizers and MPD working on a “bump route” at Maryland Avenue and 13th Street NE with additional officers posted at the intersection to manage traffic through it. Large signs will be posted along the course on the Saturday before the event and will be taken down on Sunday following the event. Door-to-door flyers will be distributed to alert residents to the race and the use of Waze will be encouraged on the day of the race. MPD will again be posted at Union Station to ensure buses do not turn right on H Street and get stuck at 3rd Street. By a vote of 6:0:0, the commissioners agreed to send a letter with its concerns noted to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and Mayor's Special Events Task Group in support of the Marathon. **Motion:** Ms. Healey/Mr. Eckenwiler.
2. NoMa Parks Update – Mr. Tahtakran reported on information from NoMa Parks Foundation and NoMa BID concerning park development, as found in the committee report. Installation is supposed to begin in the M and L Street underpasses in December. The park at 3rd and L Street is

under construction and completion is now expected in January. Efforts are underway to hire a general contractor for the NoMa Green park with the hope of construction beginning in February 2018.

3. Sursum Corda – Mr. Tahtakran said NoMa BID brought to the committee’s attention that this is now a vacant housing development on 6.5 acres directly across North Capitol Street from NoMa, previously slated for improvements but the developer has dropped out. NoMa BID is concerned about the buildings becoming a hub for undesirable activity. The committee will seek additional information at an upcoming meeting.

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee

1. 19 Fourth Street Rear NE (BZA 19618) – This is an application for a special exception to permit a one-family dwelling unit in an existing structure on an alley lot in the RF-3 Zone. The applicant, Gillette Wing, lawyer Eric DeBear, and architect Lorena Checa appeared at the meeting. A special exception is necessary because the adjacent alley is only 10’ feet wide although within 110’ of a public street. (Matter of right use requires a 15’ wide alley within 300’ of a public street.) The alley has a single entrance and is heavily used by approximately 14 households, including one resident with mobility issues, for access to their garages and parking pads. Ms. Healey has convened two meetings for members of the community to meet with the applicant’s lawyers to discuss a construction management plan and a covenant to address privacy issues for adjacent residents and a prohibition on short-term rental use. Several neighbors appeared at the meeting to raise issues still outstanding in the negotiations. Ms. Wing agreed to include in the covenant a requirement for a frosted window on the west side of the building. The commissioners voted 6:0:0 to support the application strictly conditioned on the execution of a construction-management plan and covenant that adequately mitigates impacts on other properties served by or adjacent to the alley, with the design plans as submitted, with Ms. Healey designated to oversee this process and Ms. Healey and Mr. Eckenwiler designated to appear as witnesses at the December 13 Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Healey.
2. Proposed DC Comprehensive Plan amendments – By a unanimous vote, the commissioners agreed to send a letter supporting a set of DC Comp Plan amendments submitted to the Office of Planning by Greater Greater Washington, as requested by Ms. Edelman, with the modifications and caveat recommended by the committee, as found in the committee report, in order to provide further support for affordable housing in the District and reflect lessons that have been learned in the development of NoMa. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Edelman.
3. Union Market Tax Increment Financing Act of 2017, B 22-0382 – This legislation would provide \$82 million in public financing for development at Union Market and could receive a second reading before the DC Council as early as November 21. Of this, \$46 million would go to upgrades for public infrastructure such as water and sewer service. The remaining \$36 million is proposed to subsidize retail parking for certain lots in the Union Market area. By unanimous vote, the commissioners supported the recommendation of the committee to send a letter to the DC Council, in opposition to the parking subsidy and instead in support of dedicating the funding to a pedestrian underpass at N Street NE, west of 3rd Street NE, to provide better access to the

NoMa Metro Station's planned north passenger entrance. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Edelman.

4. Update on 220 L Street NE, ZC 16-13 – By unanimous vote, the commissioners supported sending a letter objecting to the re-opening of this matter at the last minute to allow a non-party to enter the case. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Edelman.

The next meeting of ANC 6C is Thursday, December 14.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.