ANC 6C Minutes
Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 7 pm
Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue NE

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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
Two changes were made to the agenda: 659 G Street NE, Ludlow Taylor fence, was removed. A draft letter regarding sign language interpretation was added. The agenda was approved without objection. Motion: Ms. Wirt/Mr. Miller.

Approval of the February Minutes
The February 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/ Ms. Healey.

Treasurer’s Report
Mr. Miller presented the treasurer’s report for February. The beginning balance was $45,737.75. There was a deposit of $3,337.28 (a quarterly allotment from the District of Columbia) and an interest payment of $0.36 from the Bank of America. The ending balance was $49,075.39. The treasurer’s report was approved without objection. Motion: Ms. Wirt/Mr. Price.

Ms. Wirt asked for expenditures of $600 each month, March and April, to provide sign language interpretation at the ANC 6C meetings. The expenditure was approved unanimously. Motion: Ms. Wirt/Ms. Edelman.

Brief Community Announcements
1. Council Member Charles Allen provided an update of his activities, including a budget town hall meeting he has scheduled for April 23, 6:30 pm, at Watkins Elementary School, following the mayor’s release of the budget. He mentioned efforts to increase the amount of affordable housing, the formation of a committee to review maternal mortality, legislation to preserve confidentiality of addresses for domestic abuse victims, an effort to encourage DDOT to study intersections regarding the need for full-stop or all-way stop signage, reorganization of DCRA, and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act. Issues involving DC Water bills were discussed.
2. Gregory Dean, DC Fire Chief, described the Right Care, Right Now initiative, which would entail a triage system for people needing medical care when calling 911. Depending on the severity of the health needs, requests would be assigned to a paramedic, an EMT team with an ambulance, or a nurse who would refer the caller to a clinic the following day. The goal is to get the right care for each caller and at the same time make the best use of DC emergency resources.
3. Commissioner announcements—Mr. Miller nominated Kelly Crist as his representative on the ANC 6C Parks and Events Committee. Ms. Edelman announced a Union Station expansion project meeting March 22 at Union Station, 4:00 to 8:00 pm, with recurring presentations of the project at 4:30 and 6:30 pm.
Consent Calendar
1. 434 Third Street NE, public space application #275605—This project is proposed construction of a new single-family townhouse with a bay window projecting into public space, an areaway for the lower floor covered by a metal grate, hedges bordering public street parking, and a small aluminum canopy over the front door. A dumpster will be on the street throughout the project, trees will be protected, and the sidewalk will be closed for 5-10 days during utility work.
2. Upcoming Council budget hearing for District Agencies, March 26-April 26—Mr. Eckenwiler requests authorization to testify on behalf of ANC 6C at the March 29, 2018, hearing on the DCRA budget and the April 9, 2018, DDOT budget hearing for additional public space inspectors.
The vote to approve the consent calendar was unanimous. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Miller.

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee
1. Solid State Books, LLC, 600 H Street NE, ABRA-108894, new retailer’s class D license request—The commissioners voted unanimously to protest the license on the basis of the effect on property values; the effect on the peace, order, and quiet, including noise and litter, and the effect on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety. This is the usual ANC 6C procedure in order to negotiate a settlement agreement with the establishment on behalf of the community. Steve O’Neil was designated representative for ANC 6C at the hearing, with Mr. Miller as the backup. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Mr. Miller.
2. Wunder Garten, 1101 First Street NE, settlement agreement amendment request—The establishment seeks greater flexibility in the type of events it has, such as movie nights and blue grass music. Jason Starr, who serves on the ANC 6C Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee and is the nominee for vice chair (to be voted on at the April meeting), will help negotiate the request. The motion to approve the renegotiation was approved unanimously. **Motion:** Ms. Wirt/Ms. Edelman.

Grants Committee
Ms. Lord, chair of the Grants Committee, announced a spring seminar to provide information to the community on how to apply for ANC 6C grants. The event will be on April 21, 9:30 am to about 12:00 noon at the Anthropology, 625 H Street NE. Council Member Charles Allen will be there.

Transportation and Public Space Committee
Union Pub, 201 Massachusetts Avenue NE, request to convert an unenclosed sidewalk café to an enclosed sidewalk café during inclement weather, application # 10575606—The commissioners understand the applicant’s need for the enclosure to mitigate against season fluctuations in business that create staffing challenges and difficulty in keeping costs low. Nonetheless, the enclosure plans do not comply with DCMR 24 210.8, which states that no enclosed café shall project more than 20 feet from the building line or occupy more than 60 percent of available surface space. The existing awning, to which the canvas and clear plastic panels would be attached, covers the entirety of the public space and extends approximately 35 feet from the building. The commissioners voted unanimously to oppose the application because the plans are not in compliance with the sidewalk café regulations. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller.

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee
1. Proposed PUD for Parker/Second/K Streets NE (nonvoting item)—No application has been filed yet, and no timeline submitted. The project combines several lots, and approximately 65,000 square feet. No plan of benefits or amenities has been prepared commensurate with the relief to be sought. Loading, parking, and use of public space could be problematic at this site.
2. Budget oversight hearings, Historic Preservation Office—Items discussed to be in the testimony at the May hearing are inclusion in HPO maps of the historic district expansion from Second to Fourth Streets,
F to H Streets NE, and, at the request of Ms. Healey, improvement of the HPO website so that the public can better track applications and see the drawings in Historic Preservation Review Board applications. Testimony will request a budget increase of $1,250 to pay for five new signs designating Swampoodle Park. Mr. Eckenwiler asked for authorization to testify on behalf of ANC 6C. The motion passed unanimously. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Mr. Miller. Mr. Eckenwiler also asked to be designated ANC 6C representative at the March 29 hearing to provide rebuttal to the DCRA director’s two points: DCRA’s allegedly perfect record before the BZA in zoning appeals, and DCRA’s effort to make construction permit drawings and other file documents available to the public online. The commissioners voted unanimously to support. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Healey.

3. Funding for sign language interpreting, request to send a letter to Council Member Anita Bonds—Ms. Edelman asked that ANC 6C send a letter to Council Member Bonds requesting the DC budget be amended in FY2019 to reinstate the fund for sign language interpreting at ANC meetings. Two years ago a pilot included such funds, but the money was removed as it was not used during the pilot. The amount requested in the ANC 6C letter is $15,000, based on the understanding that Ms. Bonds would support this amount. ANC 4C and 6A also plan to request reinstating the fund. The hearing-impaired gentleman who has been attending ANC 6C meetings agreed to testify at any related hearing on the matter. The motion passed unanimously. **Motion:** Ms. Edelman/Mr. Miller.

4. B22-663, Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2018—The Office of Planning has put forward a draft of one section of the Comp Plan, the Framework Element, which has been proposed as legislation by the mayor. The draft was not made available for public comment, despite OP’s promise to do so. Important proposed changes include three themes important to planning in DC in the next 5-25 years: cost of housing and affordable housing, adoption of technology to prepare DC and its growing population for climate change, and the need to ensure that DC remains inclusive and diverse. Several text revisions were suggested: Section 206.1, adopt policies to strengthen pedestrian and cyclist safety and encourage alternative transportation modes (and change reference to Capital Bikeshare to a more general reference to bike sharing); Section 209.1, emphasize that one of the greatest challenges to ensuring domestic security is lack of local control over important public spaces, including the National Mall; Section 215.10, insert “or triple-up” in the discussion of families feeling the pressure of rising housing costs; and Section 227.4 concerning PUDs, replace “commendable” with “commensurate.” Mr. Eckenwiler asked to be authorized to represent ANC 6C at the March 20 hearing. Members of the public (Meg Maguire and Jim Shulman) commented on the language of OP’s proposed draft, focused on “fuzzy” language, the poor balance between marketing and planning elements, the lack of specificity—because the draft reads more like a general vision statement than a legal document. The commissioners voted to support the PZE committee recommendations and authorize Mr. Eckenwiler to testify, 5:1:0. **Motion:** Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Edelman.

**Parks and Events Committee**

1. Update on NoMa parks—The M Street NE overpass is projected to be completed by April 2018; the L Street NE overpass, by May 2018; and the park at Third and L Streets NE, by April 2018. The committee requests a letter of support to be sent to the Council recommending the park be named Swampoodle Park. The request was unanimously approved. **Motion:** Ms. Healey/Ms. Edelman.

2. B22-0234, the Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2017—This legislation prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf blowers by January 1, 2022. The deleterious effects of these leaf blowers include noise; negative health effects, especially on the ears of people who use these machines; wind speeds up to 150 mph, which can stir up pollution, spores, and debris, which is particularly bad for small children and pets who are low to the ground; and the potential for ozone damage. Battery-powered leaf blowers are less damaging. Their up-front cost is high but the purchase is cost-effective over the years. The industry on
its own is beginning to phase out gas-powered blowers and promote battery-operated machines. The motion to support sending a letter to the DC Council outlining the negative effects of gas-powered blowers was approved unanimously. **Motion**: Ms. Healey/Ms. Edelman.

3. The committee will begin to address environmental/sustainability issues in April, when the Sierra Club will attend. Some topics the committee could consider include recycling and composting.

The motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm was approved without objection. **Motion**: Mr. Eckenwiler/Ms. Wirt.