NoMa Parks Foundation (NPF) - NPF’s Stacie West provided a status update on various NoMa Parks projects. Commissioners have received an electronic version of the monthly report prepared by the Foundation. Below are a few highlights from our Committee discussion:

Swampoodle Park:
- This new park at 3rd and L St NE opened on November 17, 2018. It includes a dog park and child play area, which are separated via fencing.
- Now that construction is complete, DPR has authority over the park (e.g., hours of operation) but NoMa Parks is still cleaning the grounds and addressing a few construction “punch list” items.
- In terms of usage, the park has seen more visitors than expected. NoMa Parks has not received news of any negative incidents (e.g., dog bites or personal injuries).
- One nearby resident has complained about noise from excessive dog barking, both during and after park hours (7 am to 9 pm). NoMa Parks referred the resident to DPR and will attempt to mitigate barking noise by: adding signage, possibly introducing more plantings, and installing a new gate latch to prevent access during off hours.

Other Projects:
- M St Underpass - The light installation opened in October and is operating as planned.
- L St Underpass - Installation began in late November. Most of the work on the north side is completed and that sidewalk has reopened. Work has commenced on the south side. Expected completion: April 2019.
- Tanner Park - Construction on this new park in Eckington, which is linked to NoMa via the Metropolitan Branch Trail, is expected to commence soon. Expected completion: Late 2019.
- Central Civic Plaza - NPF is still seeking/negotiating to acquire additional land to serve as a central plaza.

DC Water - Water Main Inspection and Repair (6th St NE)
- In late October 2018, DC Water began inspecting and repairing a 66” water main that runs south across 6C and Capitol Hill. Specifically, the main runs along 6th St NE from Florida Ave south to Eye St NE, and then jogs eastward on Eye St to 8th St NE where it turns south and runs all the way to Eastern Market at Pennsylvania Ave SE. The water in the pipe flows in a southerly direction from the Brentwood Reservoir, which sits north of Union Market.
- Constructed in 1968, this 66” water main carries 22-25 million gallons of water annually and has 10 shut-off valves along its span. Because of its age, the line is compromised at various points. As part of its Capital Improvement Project, DC Water has taken the main offline so that contractors can physically enter all ten segments of the line.
The water main project came to resident attention because the valve at 6th and M does not fully close and, as such, DC Water was forced to install a “blowoff” standpipe at 6th and Eye St. This standpipe siphons water out of the pipe at the lowest elevation point along the main. Residents were concerned because we witnessed non-stop water flow into the combined sewer system. At one point, the sewer at 6th and Eye clogged with leaves and water inundated Eye Street. As a result of our complaints, DC Water resolved/mitigated the issue by running a hose from the standpipe directly into the sewer system so that no water enters the streets. They also constructed a box around the standpipe so that the water diversion is no longer visible to the public. In the future, DC Water will add signage at all blowoff standpipes so that the public will understand why clean water is flowing into the sewer system.

What to expect in the coming months:

- Inspection/repair project will run through July 2019.
- Signage and road barriers will be erected to protect workers at all points of entry. Depending on the state of the main, road closures may become necessary.
- In the event that water service interruption becomes necessary, residents will receive notice 48 hours in advance.
- The standpipe at 6th and Eye will need to flow into the street again at some point.
- All questions should be directed to Willis Thomas at willis.thomas@dcwater.com (202) 787-7616 or, if need be, DC Water’s 24-hour emergency command center at (202) 612-3400

Additional DC Water projects in 6C:

- 3rd and N St - Water main repair (late Fall 2019)
- Constitution Ave Water Main Replacement Project: 2nd to 7th St NE - this will necessitate an open cut in the roadway (late Fall 2020)
- A St NE - small diameter water main replacement: 3rd to 5th St NE (Summer 2020)