ANC 6C Transportation and Public Space Committee
Kaiser Permanente Capitol Hill Medical Center
700 2nd St. NE, Room G3-G4
Thursday, December 5, 2019
7:00 pm

REPORT

Members in Attendance:
- Christy Kwan, chair
- Elissa McDade, vice chair
- David Abernethy
- Comm. Jay Adelstein
- Mark Kazmierczak
- Yancey Burns

1. NBC News - 400 North Capitol St NW | Application #340122

New security bollards and associated landscaping at the existing 8-story building on the corner of North Capitol St and Louisiana Ave NW. Bollards are required for the security of the NBC News offices. Existing bollards will remain along the property’s frontage on North Capitol St NW. Bollards within the project area will be replaced. This project will expand the bollards along Louisiana Ave NW for protection of a glass wall, a possible target, at the NBC News offices. The design aims to match as much as possible the existing bollard precedent and streetscape elements adjacent to the property.

Representative: Jay Hurt, NBC News [6C02]

NBC News is expanding into the ground floor space at 400 North Capitol NW and has plans for a glass front studio to host shows like “Meet the Press.” The design of the studio requires additional security because that corner of the building is currently unprotected by the existing security perimeter. To resolve the gap in the perimeter, NBC News proposes to add 16 bollards, spaced 2 feet from the edge of the building in a space that is currently un-landscaped. The application also seeks to beautify the existing un-landscaped patch with evergreens and tall grasses to soften, but not completely hide, the presence of the bollards.

The committee asked clarifying questions on bollard designs to ensure overall consistency with bollards in the surrounding blocks. NBC News indicated they have selected bollards with a classic column design and has been coordinating with DDOT, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Commission of Fine Arts.

Motion: Recommend the ANC to support this application. (Adelstein/ Burns)
Vote: Passed, 6 – 0
Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

The full Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 6C) usually meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm and will vote on all committee recommendations. Non-voting items from this committee meeting may be omitted from the full ANC agenda. Commission meetings are held at the Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE. For a complete ANC schedule and agenda, see www.anc6c.org.

2. 1212 6th St NE | Application #338283

The property owner of 1212 6th St NE is proposing to perform an addition/alteration and repair. This includes a one-story addition above an existing two-story, single family unit, to create a two family unit; electrical, mechanical, plumbing and structural scope included. Also includes a new open porch, lead walk with steps, window well, driveway off alley, and knee wall with fencing.

Representative: R. Michael Cross Design Group and Ryan Fiacco (owner) [6C06]

Mr. Cross presented plans for the public space at 1212 6th St NE, which is at the corner of 6th St NE and Florida Ave NE. The presentation and discussion with the committee were primarily focused on the knee wall with fence and the driveway that is adjacent to the alley. The committee asked clarifying questions to better understand private and public space at this location, in addition to a “building restriction line” that is unique to this block.

The applicants presented additional details on knee wall and fence. Because the house sits on a slope, proposed design includes a knee/retaining wall (~36”) topped by a metal fence (~36”). In total, this would measure approximately 72” from the sidewalk, but less than 42” if measured from the grade within the property’s yard. The proposed knee wall would be consistent in height and appearance with the adjacent neighbors on Florida Ave. The committee expressed concern about the overall height and requested a shorter fence if possible.

The committee also expressed concerns about the proposed driveway (which would occupy both private and public space) to the newly constructed garage. The committee requested to see a different surface treatment in the public space to reduce the possible usage of that space for parking or loading.

Motion: Recommend the ANC to support the application on the condition that the applicant uses a different surface treatment in public space portion for the driveway to the garage to prevent parking. The applicant is also encouraged to consider a shorter fence given scale of the neighborhood. (Kwan/ McDade)

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0

3. Union Station Expansion and Burnham Place Projects

Discuss recommending potential testimony to the upcoming National Capital Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2020.

Representative: None [6C04]

Commissioner Adelstein provided an update since the last Transportation and Public Space Committee meeting on November 7. The Federal Railroad Administration held a meeting for specific parties on November 19 and gave an update to the Union Station Expansion designs. Meeting slides were requested by Commissioner Adelstein; however, the FRA has yet to distribute to meeting participants. Notes on the changes include a potential 50% reduction in...
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parking spots but an increase in the parking structure height to six-floors. All traffic would continue to enter and exit the garage at H St. NE.

In addition, Commissioners Adelstein and Courtney also met with Councilmember Allen to discuss the overall progress and community concerns. Subsequently, Councilmember Allen has sent a [letter dated November 27](mailto:letter%20dated%20November%2027) elevating the ANC’s concerns to Mayor Bowser and Council Chairman Mendelson. Commissioner Healey noted the potential for the National Capital Planning Commission to include Union Station Expansion on the agenda for January 9, 2020.

**Motion:** Recommend the ANC to submit written testimony reiterating the points detailed in the [letter from November 16](mailto:letter%20from%20November%2016) from the ANC to the Mayor, and to include any project updates based on recent meetings. (Kwan/ Burns)

**Vote:** Passed, 6 – 0

### 4. Draft Comprehensive Plan - Transportation Element

The DC Office of Planning recently published a Draft Comprehensive Plan for public review. The Draft Plan establishes a vision and broad goals to help inform decision-making and provide context for residents, officials, and stakeholders and can help guide and inform more fine-grained planning efforts. The Committee will review and make recommendations to the full ANC on the Draft Plan’s [Transportation Element](mailto:Transportation%20Element).

Representative: None [6C]

The committee discussed the Transportation Element of the draft Comprehensive Plan and began discussing initial key takeaways. However, the committee agreed that more time was needed to thoroughly review and to provide line-by-line comments or edits for the ANC to consider. The committee agreed to develop shared comments over the next month for review at the January 2 committee meeting.

No motion.