



ANC 6B
Capitol Hill / Southeast
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2019; 7:00 pm

Attendance:

Nine Commissioners Present: Kasie Clark (vice chair), Corey Holman (treasurer), Chander Jayaraman (chair), Denise Krepp, Kirsten Oldenburg Brian Ready (parliamentarian), Jennifer Samolyk, Jerry Sroufe (secretary), and Kelly Waud.

1. Welcome and Agenda Adoption

Chairman Jayaraman convened the meeting at 7:03, welcomed guests, and requested that the Commissioners identify themselves and the Single Member Districts represented by each. At the request of Commissioner Sroufe one item (HPA 20-037: 716 L St SE) was moved from the Consent Calendar and placed as item #8 in the Planning and Zoning Committee report. The agenda was approved (Holman/Ready; 9-0).

2. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda, including three ANC letters and two ABRA Settlement Agreements, was approved with one modification. (Sroufe/Ready 9-0). (See appendix of minutes for a list of items on the Consent Agenda.)

3. Presentations

Jaime Yarussi, Deputy Inspector General for Business Management and Public Information Officer, DC Office of the Inspector General, led a discussion about the work of the OIG. Commissioners asked about several aspects of OIG work: How many investigators? (23, each handling 10-12 cases). Investigative reports online? (Yes). Confidentiality provided in OIG investigations? (Yes, and there is a hotline provided.) Independence of the OIG? (Yes). Ms Yarussi also discussed procedures for filing citizen complaints with the OIG office and, in response to a question, referred specifically to ongoing cases about out-of-city residents enrolling in the DC Public Schools.

Jay Melder, Assistant City Administrator, attended in place of the City Administrator to discuss two issues before the ANC: (1) the proposed relocation of the heliport run by Congressional Aviation from a site near Audi field ; (2) pending award of a contract for additional public housing in Reservation 13.

Regarding the search for a new heliport site, Melder insisted from the outset that because a proposal had not been received for a specific site he could say little about the issue of possible location of the heliport. He acknowledged that Congressional Aviation would likely propose

relocating its heliport to the general area of 12th and Water Streets. Commissioners expressed their opposition to this site: (1) the music program and concert area of new bridge park would be impacted directly; general noise and safety concerns, and (3) fear that the service would begin seeking private clients, resulting in an increased number of take offs and landings. In response to a range of questions from Commissioners he repeated the same answer: that in the absence of a request from Congressional Aviation to locate on a specific site, he was unable to provide any additional information. He could not, for example, state how many sites were being considered. Commissioners expressed dissatisfaction with the City's failure to date to answer specific questions that had been developed during a community meeting in September.

Mr. Melton said he would respond within a week to the questions that had been submitted to his office in September.

The issue of immediate concern regarding public housing in Hill East, formerly known as Reservation 13, was the pending award of changes in a public housing agreement that appeared to work to the detriment of low-income residents. Additionally, several Commissioners expressed the view that the prime recipients of the planned development, Donatelli Development and Blue Skye Development, were likely to receive huge payback in 15 years when requirements for affordable rents were removed. Of most concern to Commissioners was the impending vote of the City Council to award the contract on November 19, one day after a planned meeting to discuss community issues.

Following the discussion with Mr. Melton the ANC considered and passed two motions for action. One action was to send a letter to Council Member Bonds urging delay of the vote scheduled for November 19 until December 5 to permit time to consider the information developed at the Hill East Community meeting scheduled for November 18. Approved 9-0; Chairman Jalyaraman to be the lead author of the letter.

The second action resulted from a motion to send a letter to a variety of city agencies urging them to attend the community meeting on the 18th and to participate in the discussion. The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-1. Commissioner Krepp will be the lead author of this letter.

4. Community Speak-out

Scott Betz, Program Manager for Architrave, announced that his group was awarded the contract to conduct a strategic plan for the Eastern Market. He announced the availability of a website designed to encourage community involvement in the two-year project. Mr. Betz emphasized that the final project would be an implementable plan for improving the sustainability of the Eastern Market. Commissioner Samolyk provided a "shout-out" to the District for its prompt action in removing nuisance stickers from light posts in ANC 6B01 and 3.

A resident, John Schwab, called attention to the continuing issue of the problems associated with the large tent erected behind the CVS and across from the South East Library on D Street. Several Commissioners (Samolyk, Sroufe, Ready) and Councilman Allen have been working to have the city Encampment Program engaged in the problem created by persons living and, reputedly, selling from the tent. Tyler Williams, community liaison from the Mayor's Office, reported on ongoing efforts to address the issue and coordination with the police and the Encampment Program.

5. ABRA Committee

In addition to Settlement Agreements considered by the ABC and placed on the Consent Agenda, the ANC consider three additional settlement agreements. The motion to support the renewal of the SA for Capitol Lounge without modification was approved 9-0 (Samolyk/Sroufe). The motion to support

the renewal of the SA for CAVA without modification was approved 8-0 (Ready/Sroufe). The motion to support the SA for Skill Zone was approved 8-0 (Ready/Sroufe). (One Commissioner was out of the room for these votes.)

A fourth ABRA issue was the request for a transfer of a Class C Tavern License held by a WTS Restaurant Management. Because Settlement Agreement included entertainment, a summer garden, and a sidewalk café, Commissioners had questions about hours of service and potential noise problems. The final decision involved a compromise on hours of operation and the understanding that a review might be requested in six months to see if sound restrictions placed in the Settlement Agreement might be modified. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Jayaraman, second by Commissioner Ready and passed 8-1-0.

6. Planning and Zoning Committee

The P and Z committee recommended approval of HPA 20-037, involving a request to make major additions to a contributing structure at 716 L St SE. The items had been removed from the Consent Calendar for reconsideration. Following discussion, the application was approved 8-0-1.

7. Reading of Reports in Agenda Packets

The Hill East Task Force issues were fully discussed during the “Presentation” period and no further report was offered; Barracks Row Main Street announced plans for a forthcoming meeting (November 19). Other reports included in the agenda packet but not read included: Eastern Market Metro Plaza; Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee; and the Financial Report.

8. Barracks Row Main Street Report

Martin Smith, Executive Director of Barracks Row Main Street, informed the Commissioners about the most recent in a series of grants received from the DC Department of Housing and Community Development. The \$500, 000 grant can be used for technical assistance to small businesses and façade and architectural enhancements, but must be used exclusively with merchants serving low income areas. For BRMS, this means the funds can be used only south of the Southeast Freeway. Following the discussion Commissioner Jayaraman moved that the ANC write a letter to DHCD requesting greater flexibility in the use of the funds. Second by Commissioner Ready, the motion passed 9-0.

(Note: The application for DHCD community improvement grants for small business development and/or store front facades does not require notification of the ANC or approval by the ANC.)

9. ANC Administrative Matters

New Resident Members Appointed to Transportation Committee (Unanimously)
Brian Kirrane 6B03; Stephan Katz 6B07

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:13.