



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMISSION 6B REGULAR MEETING
Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital**

921 Pennsylvania Ave SE

7:00 PM

9 May 2017

Quorum

7:00 PM

Commissioner Jayraman recognizes a quorum. Commissioners Samolyk (6B01), Hoskins (6B02), Loots (6B03), Oldenburg (6B04), Hagedorn (6B05), Burger (6B06), Grace (6B07), Jayraman (6B08) present.

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Krepp moves to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Hagedorn seconds. The motion carries 7/0/0.

Community Speakout

- A representative from the People For Fairness Coalition spoke about an initiative to install public restrooms downtown. The representative notes that DC has fewer public restrooms downtown than other jurisdictions and asks the ANC to adopt a resolution on clean, safe public restrooms. Commissioner Oldenburg asks for this issue to be referred to a committee. Commissioner Burger agrees to take the matter up at a future meeting of the P&Z Committee.
- Cameron Windham from the DC Office of Attorney General furnished the attendees with a 2-year report and a one page pamphlet on human trafficking. The DC OAG volunteers to return for a full briefing and Q&A at a later time.

7:15 PM (Commissioner Ridge arrives)

- Rose Martinez from the office of Councilmember Robert White wishes for the audience to know that she is here to listen to community concerns.

Community & Commission Announcements

- Commissioner Burger announces that a presentation on the redevelopment of the Safeway will be heard at the June P&Z Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Ridge announces that a neighbor was recently raped by a stranger met through the dating app Tinder.
- Commissioner Krepp mentions the newhilleast community on Facebook, mentions DC Water charges, and mentions the upcoming temporary closure of portions of the WMATA Orange Line.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Loots moves to adopt the consent agenda. Commissioner Hagedorn seconds. The motion passes 9/0/1.

Presentation

The ANC hears a presentation from Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education.

Niles reports that the recent budget proposal from the Mayor represents the 22nd consecutive balanced budget in DC and claims that it is the largest public education budget ever. Niles reports that enrollment in DC is growing, that the housing trust fund will be growing, that 5 million dollars extracted from Excellon have found a high purpose, and that spending will increase on MPD recruitment and retention. Niles shares many additional numbers with the audience and notes that there is a big gap between seats and demand for seats.

Commissioner Ridge notes that the idea that we would refer to a child's education as a seat is wrong thinking.

Commissioner Loots presses Niles on accelerated funding for Jefferson Academy. Niles parries with a claim that these issues are decided on the basis of objective criteria, though no discussion of these criteria or Jefferson's score is offered.

Commissioner Samolyk echoes Loots' concern.

Commissioner Krepp notes the dilapidated and unsanitary bathrooms at Elliot Hine and Capitol Hill Montessori. Krepp wonders if Watkins modernization money was diverted to Elliot Hine. Niles asks for more specific information.

Commissioner Ridge asks about a bias against children attending private schools in the Kids Ride for Free program. Niles promises to look into the matter.

Commissioner Burger wishes to know who assesses school facilities in order to determine a score.

Commissioner Jayraman wonders about oversight of charter schools and notes that some schools are able to find new space while others are not. Niles notes that charter schools are very entrepreneurial and somehow able to find space.

Commissioner Samolyk wishes to know why charters start at 5th grade, not 6th grade. Samolyk notes that this drains traditional DCPS schools of students after fifth grade. Niles offers many words, though none that appear to satisfy.

Niles takes questions from the audience.

Ellen Opper-Weiner asks what the budget will do about non-resident students and how much money the city receives in tuition from non-resident students.

Niles pivots to an unasked question about residency. Opper-Weiner tries to bring the discussion back to the actual question. Niles answers that few, if any, students pay tuition.

Commissioner Samolyk says that her family lost a Pre-K space in a DCPS school to an out-of-state family.

Commissioner Loots observes that enforcement is money well spent and offers anecdotal evidence that several students at School Without Walls attend from out-of-state.

Samina Clugg, a parent at Capitol Hill Montessori, wishes to know if DC supports education campuses and notes that the trailer situation is dire.

This discussion continues back and forth until the Chair attempts to bring it to a conclusion.

Commissioner Krepp asks Niles for clarification about whether a student will spend their entire educational career at Capitol Hill Montessori in trailers. Niles responds that the career will be spent instead in an unrenovated building. Krepp's response is best transcribed with multiple exclamation points!!

Commissioner Jayraman asks Niles if she will return to a future meeting. Commissioner Samolyk invites her to brief the O&CS meeting. Niles accepts.

Appointment of Resident Members

Commissioner Krepp nominates Lisa Boss to the O&CS Task Force and Kevin Brown to the Hill East Task Force.

Commissioner Oldenburg notes that these appointments came too late for her to properly consider them.

Commissioner Jayraman moves to appoint these resident members. The motion carries 9/0/1 without a second.

Alcohol Beverage Control Committee

The Alcoholic Beverage Committee voted to recommend sending a letter to ten representative ANCs proposing a task force dedicated to promulgating best practices regarding rodents and trash.

Commissioner Jayraman moves that the ANC send this letter. The motion carries 10/0/0.

Planning & Zoning Committee

Case BZA 19504
428 New Jersey Avenue SE

The Planning and Zoning Committee voted to recommend that the ANC oppose the zoning relief sought by the applicant. Commissioner Burger asks for a presentation of any information that has come to light since that committee meeting.

Meredith Moldenauer, zoning attorney for the applicant, reports that a meeting was held with the community on Saturday.

Commissioner Samolyk is unconvinced that the applicant is actually organized as a 501(c) non-profit and remains adamantly opposed to a grant of relief. Samolyk argues that this will be a landmark case.

Commissioners Loots and Krepp note their opposition.

Commissioner Ridge expresses a desire to see neighbors use property covenants as a tool to further restrict conversion of residential units to businesses.

Mike Wilson, Gene Smith, Lucy Heinz, and other neighbors speak in opposition. They argue that the applicant's proposal would make housing even more unaffordable, would increase the volume of used condos, trash, black SUVs, and other Congressional paraphernalia found in the street. They argue also that informal catering in proposed businesses of this type undermines neighborhood restaurants.

Ilene Varta, Nancy Iris, Marsha Lea, and other neighbors press additional points in opposition. An informal inventory of the block conducted by neighbors shows 36 percent of the residential stock of the block devoted to non-residential uses at the moment. Neighbors feel that this is already too much.

Moldenauer proposes that the ANC could support the proposed relief and instead pursue non-residential users operating without permits.

Peter Rooney and Jeremy Allison, neighbors also, close out the audience discussion with additional statements of opposition to the sought relief.

Commissioner Burger offers an amendment that the ANC allow the Chair to designate a Commissioner to appear at BZA on behalf of the ANC.

Commissioner Hoskins expresses hope that a deal is still possible between the applicant and the neighbors. Hoskins will abstain.

Commissioner Jayraman observes that the Congress and its supporting organs, like the applicant, should expect no special deference from the ANC.

Commissioner Krepp argues that more enforcement is necessary.

Commissioner Samolyk notes that two other party houses have recently been shut down.

Commissioner Loots seconds Commissioner Burger's motion to amend. The motion to amend carries 8/0/2. The ANC takes up the committee's recommendation to oppose, as amended. The motion carries 8/0/2.

(Commissioner Grace leaves)

9:08 PM

Comprehensive Plan Recommendations

Ryan Danks, Resident Member of the P&Z Committee for 6B06 led a working group to develop a set of changes to the Comprehensive Plan that the ANC could propose. This slate of changes was considered at the P&Z Committee.

Commissioners have a brief discussion of some late alterations to the working group's effort. Details include comments from Capitol Hill Village about supporting aging populations citywide, a proposed retention of commercial zoning in the 300 block of 15th Street, and a reiteration of the importance of the Boys and Girls Club building as an essential community facility.

Commissioner Burger moves that the ANC support the changes proposed by the working group as subsequently amended based on Commissioner input. Commissioner Jayraman seconds. The motion carries 9/0/0.

Transportation Committee Report

Commissioner Oldenburg dispenses with the reading of all but one item from the report. That outstanding item is a proposal to name (or re-name) the alley in Square 762.

Commissioner Oldenburg notes that there was much discussion at the committee meeting about what the name should be. Mr. and Mrs. Wise, owners of property in the alley, proposed the name 'Lincoln Court' and circulated a petition among neighbors.

Mr. Wise says that 'Lincoln Court' references the Lincoln School, a previous occupant of the Square. Mr. Wise notes further that the Lincoln School is named for President Abraham Lincoln and that Mr. Wise is himself related to Abraham Lincoln.

Commissioner Ridge notes hazards with naming local streets for national figures and proposes that 'Lincoln School Court' would better capture the history of the Square and would make it more clear that the name honors the school, not the former President.

Discussion continues on this proposal.

Commissioner Oldenburg makes a motion to amend the Committee recommendation to 'Lincoln School Court'. Commissioner Ridge seconds. The motion to amend carries 6/1/2. The motion, as amended, carries 6/1/2.

Mr. Wise becomes disturbed and storms from the room.

Letter to DGS on Eastern Market

Commissioner Hoskins has circulated a proposed letter to DGS regarding leases for the weekend flea markets and regarding the ongoing closure of 7th Street for those flea markets.

Commissioner Hoskins notes that the existing leases with operators expire in July and that the former Frager's pad site is now privately owned and operated by EastBanc.

Commissioner Loots agrees that it is appropriate to keep the streets closed on weekends, but notes that the draft letter to DGS goes further to make open-ended requests that the street remain closed and that the leases be renewed.

Commissioner Oldenburg requests clarity regarding the open-ended nature of the request to keep the street closed, as the current Mayor's order that closes the street is itself open-ended. Commissioner Oldenburg would support a proposal to keep the street closed on a time-limited basis.

Commissioner Burger agrees with Oldenburg.

Commissioner Hoskins notes that the current market management and street closure issue is complex and volunteers to table discussion of the letter for a month and to hold a meeting with stakeholders.

Commissioner Hagedorn expresses a desire to see DDOT included as a stakeholder in such a meeting.

Commissioner Ridge expresses a desire to see the matter resolved before prospective vendors at Hine get an opportunity to work up a hardship regarding the closure of 7th Street.

The proprietor of Fairy Godmother complains that she heard about this proposed letter only late in the day.

Ellen Opper-Weiner echoes this complaint and argues that DC law does not provide for permanent street closure.

Chuck Burger wishes to see caution, consistency, and continuity.

Madeline Odental, program manager for Eastern Market, complains that the conversation is premature and expresses support for extending the leases.

Barry Margeson, market manager for Eastern Market, wishes for stakeholders to support any change.

Michael Berman, operator of the Sunday flea market, is glad that the issues have been raised and stresses that this conversation is time sensitive.

Commissioner Hoskins reiterates her suggestion that the matter be tabled.

Commissioner Krepp wishes to know when the issue could be taken up again prior to the expiration of the existing leases.

Commissioner Oldenburg proposes that the ANC write a letter to DGS in support of short-term lease extensions, during which the issue can be resolved to the satisfaction of stakeholders.

The issue is tabled. Commissioner Hoskins reminds all that this issue is personally important.

Letter to OZ and HPRB

Commissioner Burger previously circulated a draft letter regarding a recent failure of the HPRB to give Great Weight to the views of the ANC.

Commissioner Burger moves that the ANC send the letter. Commissioner Krepp seconds. The motion carries 9/0/0.

Outreach & Constituent Services Task Force Report

Commissioner Hoskins dispenses with the reading of the report.

Financial

Commissioner Burger dispenses with the reading of the report but notes that the quarterly statement requires a vote.

Commissioner Jayraman moves to approve the quarterly report. Commissioner Oldenburg seconds. The motion carries 8/0/0 with a Commissioner out of the room.

Hine Community Advisory Committee Report

Commissioner Hagedorn dispenses with the reading of the report.

Adjournment

Commissioner Oldenburg moves that the ANC adjourn until the next full meeting of ANC 6B on 13 Jun 2017 at the Hill Center at 7 P.M.