



## MINUTES Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Meeting

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015**  
**7:00 PM, Truesdell Education Campus, 800 Ingraham St., NW**

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. **Chairwoman Colbert called the meeting to order** at 7:02 PM at Truesdell Education Campus, 800 Ingraham Street, NW.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 4D01 Nancy Roth; 4D02 Renee Bowser, 4D03 Lisa Colbert; 4D04 David Sheon; 4D05 Krystal Branton; 4D06 Bill Quirk. A quorum was present for all votes.

MARCH MINUTES: **Commission Chair Colbert moved to accept the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Roth. Motion was passed unanimously by acclamation.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Commissioner Bowser amended the draft agenda** to include: Public Safety Meet-and-Greet to be hosted on Saturday, April 26 by DC Councilmember Anita Bonds; Extension of comments period on proposed Excelon-Pepco merger to April 29; and a discussion to be hosted on building “popups” in the neighborhood. **Commissioner Branton added to agenda guest speaker** Rebecca Lerlos-Otero of City Blossoms. **Commissioner Quirk moved to accept amended agenda, Commissioner Sheon seconded. The commissioners unanimously approved the corrected agenda by acclamation.**

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT: **Commissioner Branton read the report aloud. Commissioner Quirk moved to accept the report. Commissioner Sheon seconded. The motion was unanimously passed by acclamation.**

### SPECIAL GUESTS

**Dr. John M. Thompson, Executive Director of the DC Office on Aging, was introduced by Commissioner Branton.** Dr. Thompson said the job of the office was to help both seniors and also disabled adults 18 and older to remain at home and out of institutions for as long as possible. A symposium on aging would be offered free of charge on May 13. He described a the Office of Aging intergenerational programs in DC public schools and a new housing project in which seniors live in the same apartment building to serve as mentors for mothers who have aged out of the foster care system, who may lack parenting skills. New project would open at 6925 Georgia Ave. in fall 2015. **Commissioner Roth asked if seniors working in school and home settings be vetted and trained.** Dr. Thompson said participants would receive 30 hours of training and go through a criminal check.

**Robert White, of the newly formed DC Office of the Attorney General, was introduced by ANC Chair Colbert.** Mr. White described the function of the office in several areas, including enforcing consumer protection laws and ensuring that city legislation and contracting procedures were legal and fair. He explained that the office was trying to expand its outreach to the community and was looking for ways to improve the juvenile justice system. A juvenile justice specialist had just been hired in the office, which has applied for a federal grant of \$500,000.00 from the Dept. of Justice to try to use new programs that have been successful elsewhere. He also noted that the efforts of the Office of the Attorney General would yield gains to the city treasury through enforcement of penalties on scofflaws.

**Commissioner Branton introduced Anna Mulamba and Brigitte Valcin, AmeriCorps Volunteers at ByteBack**, a nonprofit trying to address the digital gap in economically depressed communities for 17 years. The two speakers described their computer skills education programs offered to seniors and low-income residents free of charge, with the objective of helping to enhance economic opportunities. Training includes how to type, fill out job applications, etc.

**Chris Powell, consultant to Emory Beacon of Light, was introduced by Commissioner Roth.** He described the Taste of Brightwood coming on May 9, designed to promote local restaurants, 11-3 at the Emory Recreation Center.

**Rebecca Lerlos-Otero of City Blossoms was introduced by Commissioner Branton.** This group mostly works in helping schools develop food gardens, with a new program recently started at West Elementary School in Ward 4. The work with students includes environmental education and good citizenship training. Age group ranges from age 3 to teenagers. They also work with non-school organizations such as the DC Office on Aging. Although they offer gardening education and support they do not offer master gardening programs, which are run by the DC Extension Service.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Chairwoman Colbert announced plans to hold a 4D Day in the triangle park at Gallatin St. and Illinois Ave. on Sept. 19, 2015 (rain date Sept. 26). She called for volunteers and donors** of food and equipment to support the event. Commissioner Sheon described it as a day to honor the community. **Commission Chair Colbert moved for ANC to allocate \$280.00 to pay for a space permit for ANC 4D Day. Commissioner Quirk seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

**Commissioner Sheon summarized a meeting held on March 24** among neighbors of the Georgia Line Convenience Store, which has applied to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to renew its liquor license and lift the current ban on Sunday sales. **Commissioner Sheon stressed** that it was impossible to draw any conclusion from the contradictory assertions of the opponents and supporters of the store's request, but added that all would be able to testify at the ABC Board hearing the following day, and he pledged that when the Board publicized its decision on the case he would seek to broker peace between the two sides.

#### COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Commissioner Roth introduced David Gottfried**, a community member who has been working with city officials on remediating a pair of blighted buildings on the 900 block of Kennedy St. NW.

A resident expressed concern about an unused lot that lies between Crittenden and Buchanan Streets NW. The owner of the lot hasn't been seen in over six years. The lot is overgrown and collects trash, which the city clears once a year. He wondered what could be done about it.

A resident announced that next year that the University of DC Law School would host a clinic to help low-income citizens file their tax returns. Income limit was \$50,000.00.

**Jasmin Benab was introduced by Commissioner Branton.** Benab is new member of Ward 4 Liaison to Mayor's office.

A resident of 800 block of Jefferson St NW wondered how to get speed bumps installed to calm speeding on that block. **Commissioner Bowser explained** that there were many calming devices, such as four-way stop signs, speed bumps, humps, and rumble strips. **Commissioner Sheon said he and Commissioner Roth, who each have constituents on that block, would work together to bring calming measures to the block.**

## NEW BUSINESS

**Commissioner Sheon introduced Dee Hunter**, a spokesman for **Amidou Bah**, who is planning to open Castello's Restaurant and Lounge, a 70-seat establishment on the corner of Hamilton and Georgia Ave. to serve people in the neighborhood. The restaurant would also put tables for 25 people on the sidewalk. Mr. Bah currently operates a restaurant/lounge on U St. He said the proprietor plans to work closely with the ANC and residents to reach a settlement agreement. That settlement had not been concluded, however, and the ABRA hearing was scheduled on Monday, May 18, the day before the next ANC meeting.

**Commissioner Sheon expressed confidence that the settlement would be reached and moved that the ANC support the proprietor's application for a liquor license contingent on reaching a settlement agreement. Commissioner Quirk seconded, stating that he would support new business, and all commissioners voted in favor by acclamation. Commission Chair Colbert pointed out that the vote would not count as the ANC's formal endorsement of the new restaurant because the ANC had not seen the specific settlement agreement at the time of the vote. Commissioner Sheon suggested that a meeting be held in two weeks with a quorum present to consider the agreement reached between the restaurant and the neighbors. No vote was taken.**

**Commissioner Roth announced that four retail establishments in ANC 4D01 had applied for the renewal of their Class B liquor licenses** and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation (ABRA) had scheduled hearings for each. S&G Liquor's hearing was scheduled on May 11, 2015, with protests due to ABRA by April 27. The other three were all scheduled on June 1, 2015, with protest letters due by May 18, 2015. They were: Roha Liquors on 600 Kennedy St NW; Jefferson Liquors at 5307 Georgia Ave. NW; and Target Liquor at 600 Kennedy St. NW. Commissioner Roth asked if any attendees knew of reasons the liquor license renewal of any of these establishments should be challenged but no one present responded.

**Commissioner Branton announced that one retail establishment in ANC 4D05 had applied for the renewal of its Class A liquor license:** Fair Liquors at 5008 First St. NW. Petitions or letters of support or protest were due by April 27, and ABRA had scheduled a hearing on May 11, 2015. No attendee at the meeting offered reasons why the renewal should be challenged.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chairwoman Colbert announced that DC Water and ANC 4D were co-hosting a Town Hall meeting on water and sewage issues** on April 23 at the Brightwood Park United Methodist Church. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson would attend in lieu of a Ward 4 council member.

**Commissioner Roth noted that DC Water had asked to deliver a presentation at the May 19 meeting** on the new green infrastructure program they plan to install on eastern end of the Kennedy St. corridor. This is the first project of its kind in the city.

**Commissioner Colbert announced the next meeting of ANC 4D would be on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.**

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at the April 21, 2015 meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.