



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 [FINAL APPROVED]

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. Vice Chair David Sheon called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm.

COMMISSIONERS ROLL CALL: Present: 4D01-Nancy Roth; 4D02-Renee Bowser; 4D04-David Sheon; 4D05-Krystal Branton; 4D06-Amy Hemingway. Absent: 4D03-Lisa Colbert. Quorum was present for all votes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved with minor one modification:

- 1) Commissioner Roth added an announcement re: branding meeting on Kennedy Street.

Comm. Hemingway moved to approve as amended. Comm. Roth seconded. The commission unanimously approved the agenda (5-0).

OLD BUSINESS

With respect to **Library Tavern's Application for Class "C" license**, Commissioner Bowser reported after mediation there is an overall agreement among key parties, especially now that the issue of entertainment has been addressed. Once final, residents will find the "Settlement Agreement" on the ABRA website.

Resident questions:

- Community comment from Myles Smith with Kennedy Street Development calling for ANC 4D to be open to business development.
- Question concerning alcohol – the proprietor will serve alcohol at a reasonable time around lunch.

Commissioners Bowser and Sheon noted that there are a lot of things that impact businesses; and "Settlement Agreements" "like fences, make good neighbors."

With respect to **changing bus stop location at Kennedy and Georgia**, Commissioner Roth reports that DDOT rejected the ANC resolution. She will follow up for more detail.

With respect to **DHCD affordable-housing project at vacant lot 809-813 Kennedy Street**, Commissioner Roth reports that DHCD has not announced a decision, thus no further update at this time.

Resident questions:

- Resident asked what does the fence mean? Comm. Roth says it's due to safety.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Branton introduced the idea of a **Senior Resource Fair in partnership with Office of Aging**, Saturday, June 3, 11am-2pm at the Washington Latin Public Charter School. She is requesting \$500 for room rental and related logistics.

Resident questions:

- A resident asked, can we have it outside, weather permitting? Comm. Branton prefers to plan inside – to manage climate, bathrooms, etc. Volunteers are welcome.
- A resident asked, why not host at a public school? Comm. Branton noted the fee would be similar.

Comm. Branton moved to fund the event. Comm. Sheon seconded. The commission unanimously approved the motion (5-0).

GUEST SPEAKER:

Amended agenda order to introduce At-large Councilmember Elissa Silverman when she arrived at 7PM.

Comm. Sheon introduced her. She focused on various legislative updates including:

1. *Vacant properties:* introduced a bill to use our resources better, working with DCRA's vacant property division – onus is now on property owner to show DCRA that they meet the criteria to be removed from the vacant property list. Also worked on getting other properties (e.g., commercial) into productive use.
2. *Lifting ANC rental fees on public venues:* bill introduced by CM Gray, CM Silverman co-sponsored, to waive fees for ANCs and other community groups that want to use public venues – pending a hearing
3. *Chairs Labor & Workforce Development Committee:* Goal is to get people into jobs and careers – with employers big and small.
4. *Serves on Three Other Committees:* Finance & Revenue, Government Operations, Housing

Budget process – Council is making key decisions over next seven weeks. Invites people to engage and testify on behalf of their concerns and important programs.

Commissioner Questions:

1. Comm. Bowser – what funding is there to support enforcement of housing codes?
 - a. CM Silverman – DCRA must enforce, put liens on properties, then have OAG take them to court; she has discussed with Director Bolling, they know where the problems are, need coordination, especially on rental housing where they know the landlords are slumlords – once they have a certain number of reports on one property they need to go in and review the situation. DC doesn't have a way to coordinate among all of the agencies
 - i. Mayor's budget allows for more strategic approach to go after bad actors
 - ii. Office of Tenant Advocate has suggested an alert system – she is in favor of this approach
2. Comm. Bowser – what plans do you have for community jobs at Walter Reed?
 - a. Her committee will be looking at this – both construction and permanent jobs available (developers only chosen for first phase – ensure they have plan for future phases)
3. Comm. Sheon – raised concern about a requirement calling for child care workers to be college educated, noting this would disenfranchise people and create a barrier for work.
 - a. CM Silverman shares that there is a child development gap in ages 0-3 – credentials could help. There is a bill that is studying the issue of credentials to ensure they are not doing harm to child care industry. We have a child care shortage and it's too expensive – we don't want to depress this industry. She believes just the lead teacher would need the credential.
4. Comm. Sheon – invites CM Silverman, DCRA, and others to create a taskforce and seek legislation for returning citizens and DC Opportunity Youth to solve the problem of getting them entrepreneurial/job/career opportunities as well as reduced new business license fees.

- a. CM Silverman agrees with need for this; mentioned Aspire to Entrepreneurship pilot program
- 5. Comm. Hemingway – asked for an update on Paid Family Leave Act
 - a. CM Silverman shares that the bill is law, now need to fund it. There is \$20M in the mayor's budget; need an additional \$20M. Two additional bills introduced that Chairman Mendelsohn may advance, which feature the mandate option. She believes the insurance model makes the most sense, over the mandate option, especially for small businesses.

Resident Questions:

1. A business owner/resident raised concerns about the yellow/orange stickers concerning vacant/abandoned property.
 - a. CM Silverman – if you meet the exceptions, they should not put a yellow sticker on your property (raised with Director Bolling, CM Mendelsohn) – because it looks like your vacant when you're not.
2. A resident raised concerns about affordable housing – too many condos, no affordable housing – are contractors getting tax breaks even if they don't provide affordable housing. What are we doing to set aside development for affordable housing?
 - a. CM Silverman – we are not doing enough. For development that is 10 or more units (affordable housing) inclusionary zoning is mandated; but the units are too expensive. The Council is working on a bill (that the Zoning Commission approved) to lower the income level to get the rental or homeowner units. We don't have enforcement or coordination strategy. She references TOPA – tenant right to purchase act – but we don't give tenants enough resources to take advantage of it. She asked DHCD (Polly Donaldson – head) to do DOPA – District could have ability to hit pause button and work with a developer to ensure it's developed appropriately. This has been on the books since 2008; have yet to write regulations to use it. We also need to fund the Housing Production Trust Fund at \$100M. Overall, we need a strategy to ensure the housing that is currently affordable remains that way.
3. A resident asks about affordable child care and technical training
 - a. CM Silverman discussed "soft skills" being biggest barrier to employment. Communications skills, being timely, working through child care issues, for instance. Transitional Employment Program to address life skills. Mayor Bowser has \$15M in her budget for child care. We may need to subsidize our child care workers.

John Thomas, Chief Performance Officer, District Department of Transportation addressed issues concerning infrastructure improvements. He shared that infrastructure is the longest lead-time asset we have.

DDOT conducts condition assessments on all roads and sidewalks: they look at the asset itself; review service requests and complaints; if there are previous issues/accidents, they are prioritized.

You can review condition assessment criteria on the DDOT website – search for "asset management."

Mayor Bowser and DDOT Director Dormsjo are taking key steps:

1. FY17 Mayor's Budget – \$15M+ for sidewalk construction – you will see ramp-ups on this (similar to Alleypalooza)
2. Two programs to address all sidewalk needs
 - a. in-house crew – street and bridge – quick fix, horizontal side cut or asphalt patches to reduce tripping hazards (reduce tripping hazards)

- b. asset crew – big projects during outward facing years

Additional things DDOT is focused on

- 1. 311 working group to improve agency-agency coordination
- 2. Performance management team – evaluating business process to match realities
- 3. Weekly TranStat meeting – data collection on performance

The 13 service requests Comm. Sheon is tracking – they will be addressed in 30-60 days.

Commissioner Questions:

- 1. Comm. Bowser asked about condition assessments. Referenced 300 block of Jefferson Street. What is criteria for fixing hazardous areas?
 - a. He discussed the various weights for these issues. See asset management on website.
- 2. Comm. Hemingway asked about the comprehensive of the assessment as well as the ancillary issues related to potholes such as houses shaking when buses travel over them.
 - a. Mr. Thomas noted that this is a citywide assessment separate
 - b. from the service requests.
 - c. He also noted that the bus/pothole issues is not a widespread issue. It's something that engineers would be called to review and he will also look into ticket management.
- 3. Comm. Roth asked how DDOT prioritizes issues, especially those where someone was already hurt. For example, the Brightwood Park United Methodist Church issue. Also raised the hole at the Truesdell Elementary School, where children are vulnerable to potential harm.
 - a. Mr. Thomas said that they assess the asset itself and whether previous accidents have been reported. In serious cases, they would bring in quick fixes to make the site safe. He'll look into both issues.
- 4. Comm. Sheon reiterates that this is a broken system in which service requests disappear. He urges DDOT to aggressively spot-check the system. The service is inexcusable; people need to be held accountable.

Resident Questions:

- 1. A resident noted the 311 app is great; but there is a big disconnect between the people and the technology. He urged DDOT to build in accountability, look at it more broadly, and address this systemic problem.
 - a. Mr. Thomas reassures his performance team is working on this.
- 2. A resident asked if DDOT is short-staffed.
 - a. Not really, Mr. Thomas said.
- 3. A resident asked if Mr. Thomas goes out himself?
 - a. Yes, Mr. Thomas says he does.
- 4. A resident asked if DDOT sends out emails when service requests are closed.
 - a. Yes.

Mr. Thomas said that he will visit ANC 4D in a few months to share updates.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Comm. Bowser introduced a **follow-up resolution concerning the effort to ensure Pepco rate increase is reasonable and responsible**. She outlined specifics to urge the Public Service Commission (PSC) to reject the

majority of Pepco's 2017 Rate Increase Request. This is in line with the requests of the Office of the Peoples' Counsel because post-merger Pepco is not fulfilling its pre-merger promises that led to the PSC approving the merger in the first place.

1. That the PSC allocate the entire balance of the customer base rate credit, approved by the PSC as part of the merger, to residential consumers because such consumers, unlike commercial rate classes, cannot pass on the rate increase as value of goods and services.
2. That the PSC authorizes a rate of return to Pepco of 8.6% as recommended by OPC rather than the more than 10% that Pepco is asking for.
3. That the PSC grant Pepco a reduced rate increase, which takes into account the realities found by the OPC to an amount consistent with the OPC's findings.

Comm. Bowser moved to pass the resolution with the three specific requests. Comm. Sheon seconded. The commission unanimously passed the resolution (5-0).

Resident Questions:

1. A resident asked if the other Ward 4 ANCs have supported a similar resolution.
 - a. Comm. Bowser does not know.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS: the following were raised:

- 1) Cameron Windham, Office of the Attorney General:
 - a. Karl Racine is the first elected Attorney General of DC. Separate from Mayor's office.
 - b. The office's first report is now available.
 - c. He provided materials concerning: Affordable housing. Consumer protection. Juvenile justice reform. Human trafficking.
 - d. Budget requests are available as well.
- 2) Ms. Janis Williams, Wise Up Action Coalition – she is a 4C resident that is overwhelmed by pop-ups and push-backs – the coalition is targeting DC Council, Mayor Bowser, Capitol Hill; need to protect residents, seniors. She asked residents to sign the petition. For more information, contact: Janis: Janisw66@yahoo.com

MINUTES: Comm. Sheon moved to approve the March meeting minutes as written. Comm. Roth seconded. The commission unanimously approved the motion (5-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Comm. Bowser read aloud the March 2017 Treasurer's Report: total funds available \$13,975.74. Total disbursements came to \$1,024.41 with no deposits. Expect an allotment shortly.

Comm. Bowser moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Comm. Branton seconded. The commission unanimously approved the report (5-0).

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Comm. Roth reported that everyone affected by the 9th Street house issue is settled in a semi-permanent place where they can stay as long as they want. Waiting on the insurance company of the owner to pay them.
2. Comm. Branton announced a Community Charm School, Emery Rec Center, Saturday, April 22, 12pm.
 - a. Added Queens Power Hour – encourage moms to stay with their girls; life coach and sessions for women at the same time

- b. Added that Chess Girls is up and running; October is Chess month- will host tournament
- 3. Comm. Hemingway shared information about Sherman Circle activities – Clean-ups and Socials, last Sunday of each month, 9:30am and 4pm, respectively – April 30 this month.
- 4. Comm. Roth announced the first working group meeting for Kennedy Street branding is tomorrow night (4/19) at 744 Jefferson Street, 6pm, Kennedy Street branding meeting (Roth)
- 5. Christopher Grayton from Yellow Cab shared information about a program for \$5 taxi rides for those registered with Metro Access. Must meet some requirements – see sheet and contact Yellow Cab Co of DC, Inc. 202-544-0912.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Vice Chair Sheon adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.**