



MINUTES Advisory Neighborhood Commission Public Meeting Tuesday, August 16, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. Vice **Chair Renee Bowser called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm.**

COMMISSIONERS ROLL CALL: Present: 4D01 Nancy Roth; 4D02 Renee Bowser; 4D05 Krystal Branton. 4D06 Bill Quirk. A quorum was declared and was present for all votes. Absent: 4D03 Lisa Colbert; 4D04 David Sheon. Comm. Quirk left at 8:06.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Bowser added one item to New Business:** an update on Martin Luther King library renovation. **Comm. Quirk moved to accept the agenda as amended. Comm. Branton seconded. Motion unanimously approved by acclamation.**

MINUTES: **Comm. Bowser noted that ANC 4D had agreed to send a notice of support to DDOT in support of Andrene Finn's application for sidewalk seating at her café. Comm. Bowser moved to accept minutes with amendment. Comm. Quirk seconded. Vote passed unanimously by acclamation.**

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: **Comm. Branton read the July Treasurer's Report aloud. July expenditures totaled \$574.50 leaving \$9,999.40 in account. Comm. Branton moved to accept Treasurer's Report as read. Comm. Bowser seconded. Motion unanimously passed by acclamation.**

OLD BUSINESS

Concern was expressed about funding the grant requested by the Coolidge HS Alumni Assn. because the amount spent on the alumni event appears to greatly exceed the amount of funds raised for the benefit of the students. Gottlieb Simon, executive director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, spoke from the floor about the rules pertaining to ANC grants. He indicated that previous rulings had not favored ANC grants related to an entertainment event. An alumni gala would probably be considered an entertainment event. **Comm. Bowser moved to table the vote until the Sept. meeting to understand the rules better. Comm. Roth seconded. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Roth introduced a resolution calling on the Dept. of General Services and the DC Office on Aging to make the Kennedy Theater accessible to community-based groups for community meetings when the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center was not in operation. **Comm. Roth moved that the Commission vote in support of the resolution. Comm. Quirk seconded. The motion passed with three voting in favor, none voting against, and one abstention.**

Comm. Bowser announced that the ANC Fun Day would be held in the triangle park on Sat. Sept. 10 from noon to 4 pm. She asked for volunteers to step up with service or funds.

Comm. Roth announced that the ANC 4D email list had gone live and that the recipient list would expand.

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Comm. Bowser noted that in early 2017 the Martin Luther King Library would close for a 3-year renovation costing \$220 million. **Comm. Bowser urged those interested** to attend a public meeting the following night a public meeting was scheduled allowing comments on the final design. One concern was that in 2007 the Mayor's office recommended that the adult literacy program at the central to be expanded into the branch libraries but that never happened. Now the adult literacy program might shrink.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Member of community expressed concern about people not cleaning up after their dogs. Requested a sign but still don't have one.

Adrian Merceron, who had reported a derelict house at 4904 Kansas Ave. at the July meeting, said DCRA, Health Dept. and Dept. of Environment and Energy are now considering getting a condemnation notice issued after having previously promised him a list of repairs that would be performed on the property. **Bowser commented** that it had been very hard to get DCRA to fix up an apt. building in her SMD. **Comm. Roth asked** why the change in course, and what happens when a building is condemned. Mr. Merceron answered that the condemnation is expensive for the bank, which incentivizes the bank to act on the problem, and DC wants the bank to bear the cost of repairs. But Mr. Merceron, who lives next door at 4902 Kansas, worries that the condemnation would make it even harder to get repairs done.

Comm. Roth introduced Julia Moran Morton, Vice President of Affordable Housing at Housing Up, a development company that is pursuing the DHCD contract to build mixed income housing at 809-813 Kennedy St. NW.

Comm. Roth introduced Sarah Scruggs of Manna Inc., a development company also pursuing the DHCD contract for mixed-income housing. **Comm. Roth said Manna's concept was to build senior housing at a higher income point.** She added that Manna has not received a response from DHCD to its proposal to develop housing for limited-income seniors at 608 Kennedy St.

Adrian Merceron, at 4902 Kansas Ave. said he had put up a banner about a house attached to his, at 4904 Kansas Ave, He said it has been in foreclosure for seven years and that it posed a danger to him and his family due to its unsound condition. He had complained to numerous government officials since 2010 but was not getting response from Mayor or Councilmember. Banner went up out of desperation. Roof was open to rain, and pieces of metal were blowing off the roof, endangering children and others. Comm. Sheon said Office of Attorney General will take over when DCRA will not. **Comm. Sheon moved to write a letter to support homeowner and urging DCRA director Melinda Bolling to make needed repairs and charge to property owner. Comm. Quirk seconded.** Letter to be to OAG, with copies to DCRA, Metro Police, Councilmember Todd. **ANC unanimously voted in favor.**

GUEST SPEAKERS

John-Paul Hayworth, executive director of State Board of Education, described what his agency, which is independent from the Mayor's office. The SBOE establishes basic standards for public education and holds schools accountable for achieving those standards. Noted that the Office of Ombudsman offers

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conflict resolution services when a family and school have difficulties. There is also a student advocate at SBOE that provides training to families on parents' rights. He said he has been attending ANC meetings and to help the public understand what SBOE does. **Comm. Roth asked** whether SBOE has any authority over schools' physical facilities He said no authority, but some influence on physical facilities because content of education may require facility improvement. SBOE approves regulatory language for statewide policy, and has authority to convene public hearings. Comm. Bowser asked about the difference between Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and No Child Left Behind legislation. Mr. Hayworth said the ESSA changes the ways schools and teachers are held accountable for student achievement. He added that for the first time decisions regarding the local school system could be made locally instead of at the federal level.

Karanja Slaughter and Keishon Keane from DHCD came to discuss DHCD programs and a new solicitation for the development of the vacant lots. Slaughter summarized various DHCD services and divisions. Mr. Slaughter directs the Property Acquisition and Disposition Division. Emphasis in on mixed-income development, with family-style units.

Mr. Keane is project manager for the vacant lots at 809-813 Kennedy Street, for which DHCD has put out a development solicitation. He noted that this was a really challenging site to acquire and Mayor Muriel Bowser had really pushed on it. The zoning is 2D, a low-density corridor. Diverse cultures in area and want to embrace that in the new project.

Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Keane announced that DCHD had extended the response deadline to September 22, and that the date of the community stakeholder meeting would also be moved back.

Tommye Cave, executive director of the Downtown Clusters Geriatric Day Care first asked the audience to stand up and stretch. She delivered a rousing presentation about the programs that support elders aging in place in Washington DC.

Arriving at the end of the meeting Ward 4 CM Todd's staff member Jordan Rummel noted that a public safety meeting had taken place that evening at Emery Recreation Center that was spurred by a recent shooting there. It was very well attended, and notes will go up on the listserv.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comm. Bowser announced that the ANC 4D Fun Day would be taking place Saturday Sept. 10 and asked for volunteers to step forward.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Comm. Bowser adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.**