



MINUTES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Public Meeting, Tuesday, June 21, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. **Chair Lisa Colbert called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Comm. Branton arrived at 7:14.**

COMMISSIONERS ROLL CALL: Present: 4D01 Nancy Roth; 4D02 Renee Bowser; 4D03 Lisa Colbert; 4D04 David Sheon; 4D05 Krystal Branton arrived after roll call. Absent: 4D06 Bill Quirk. Quorum declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Sheon** expressed concern that speakers were added to the agenda after Commissioners had agreed on a schedule of speakers to go on the agenda at the Executive Meeting. **Comm. Sheon** asked if the presentation could wait for the next public ANC 4D meeting. Mr. Chris Collins of Hollins and Knight explained that the presentation was timely due to the request by ANC 4D that the BZA postpone the hearing on the Transitional Housing later in June, before the next meeting. **Comm. Sheon accepted the addition of speakers. Comm. Bowser asked to amend New Business by adding Andrene's request for a letter of support for application** to put in a sidewalk café in front of her restaurant. **Chair Colbert** moved that the agenda be accepted with changes. **Comm. Sheon** seconded. Unanimously passed with 2 edits.

MINUTES: **Comm. Roth** pointed out minor edits to be made in the May minutes. **Comm. Colbert** moved to accept the May 2016 minutes as written. **Colbert** called for vote. **Sheon** seconded. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: **Comm. Branton** read the May Treasurers Report aloud. May spending totaled \$1,412.88.98 leaving \$11,466.22 of funds in account. \$900.00 was spent on rent for ANC storage space at Colony House, **Comm. Branton** moved that the commission accept the report. **Comm. Sheon** seconded. **Motion unanimously passed by acclamation.**

Comm. Roth requested an allocation of \$300 to have a website set up by a local resident, paying him \$30/hour for up to 8 hours, plus 2 hours of training of commissioners on how to operate it. **Comm. Roth** moved that the commission approve the allocation. **Comm. Bowser** seconded. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

Comm. Sheon discussed a meeting of Jefferson St. residents on May 30 and plans for an expungement summit scheduled on June 28 at Brightwood Park UMC at 6:30. **Comm. Sheon** asked for ANC 4D support and for \$225 out of ANC budget to support printing and distribution of flyers. **Comm. Roth** seconded. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Comm. Bowser reported that she had sent a letter asking Sarah Bardin of the Board of Zoning Adjustment to postpone the hearing on the zoning exception for the transitional housing project at 5505 Fifth St. NW. **Comm. Bowser** said she had noticed a variance between what the developer was now presenting and what facts were previously presented to the public by the city about the

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facility. Comm. Bowser explained that the process needed to slow down so the public could fully understand what is going into the project, and offered a resolution urging the BZA to postpone the hearing on the zoning exception for 45 days. **Comm. Roth asked if the Commission could wait to vote on the resolution until after the presentation by the development team and city officials and Commissioners agreed to postpone the vote.**

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Sheon described efforts of DC Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to improve triangle parks throughout the city. At ANC 4D's triangle park at Hamilton, 9th and Illinois Ave. NW, DPR plans to install tai chi and yoga stations, with Zen gardens and wifi at the narrow end of triangle, while leaving open space in the larger corners. Comm. Sheon also noted that seniors walking back from the stores on Georgia Ave. had commented that they liked being able to rest on the benches. DPR will offer opportunities to discuss its plans throughout the community before any decisions are made. ANC 4D's 2016 Fun Day is to happen in tandem with a set of DPR events to inform public of the changes.

Comm. Sheon said the Brightwood-Petworth Community Alliance was planning to present a Jobs Fair aimed at the neighborhood's youth.

Mr. Edward Singleton, a neighbor whose residence faces the triangle park, said he "adamantly" opposed changes in the park and that it be left alone. He believed adding free wifi and tai chi was not necessary. He said 35 residents who live around the park had signed a letter that they would like the park to remain open space and green, as is. **Comm. Roth asked that the neighbors living around the park consider the needs of other neighbors who also use the park, and be open to changes.**

Comm. Roth said three businesses on Kennedy St. had submitted applications for liquor licenses on Kennedy St.: the ANXO cider brewery and tasting bar, the Blanken Downs Beer Garden, and Tony's Place, which would expand its seating capacity. Comm. Roth said the community would pursue settlement agreements with all three establishments, and that the agreements could be submitted to ABRA at any time in the hearing process.

Comm. Bowser reported the owner of the apartment building at 220 Hamilton St. was "vacating by neglect." Comm. Bowser also spoke about tenants who had been vacated from the building at 5509 9th St. NW and said the DCRA budget for inspections is inadequate, and that tenants needed to organize to pressure DCRA to conduct inspections of apartments. If you live in a rundown building, said Comm. Bowser, you can participate in efforts to force owners to fix it up.

Andrene's Caribbean and Soul Food Carryout is applying for a permit to open a small sidewalk café. **Comm. Bowser asked Commission to send a letter of support for the sidewalk café.** The proprietor Andrene said restaurant has been open since 2006, and operates 11am-9 pm. Proprietor had mistaken the permit application due date, and permit application had gone in late. They can resubmit the application only with support of ANC. Café would only have 2-3 tables seating 8 people in front, perhaps under a retractable awning. **Comm. Bowser moved that ANC 4D support the application for a small sidewalk café. Comms. Sheon, Branton and Roth seconded.** Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

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Attendee was opposed to any new liquor licenses on Kennedy St., especially for beer garden.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Attorney Chris Collins, Holland & Knight introduced team and showed pictures of the facility. Zoning calls for residential density of 2.8 but the facility would require a 3.0 density, which is equivalent to apartment house. **Comm. Bowser asked about the floor plan and the absence of kitchens.** Jay Melder (Dept. of Human Services) noted that each unit would have a refrigerator and each “neighborhood” would have a microwave. Families would get three meals a day. **Comm. Sheon, Comm. Bowser,** and members of the public pressed the speakers on why the plans for the facility did not give resident families private bathrooms or cooking facilities. Melder said the plans had been exhaustively vetted and further rethinking would delay closure of the DC General Family Shelter.

Myles Smith of Kennedy St. Development Assn. noted that if the zoning variance was to be granted before the city acquired the property, the value of the property would increase, and the sale price for the city would be higher. He wondered why the city didn’t try to negotiate the price of the property ahead of the zoning variance. Stephen Campbell (Dept. of General Services) said the price of the building has not yet been determined and would need to be approved by the City Council. Myles Smith said the city should determine a price before the variance was achieved. Audience member asked why other sites have not been examined in Ward 4. Campbell said other sites were not large enough.

Comm. Bowser reintroduced the motion to postpone the June 28 hearing for 45 days until further information was available about the price and the nature of the facility. **Comm. Sheon seconded.** Melder said that the plight of families now at DC General should be given greater priority in the debate.

Chair Colbert asked for a show of hands in favor of the resolution to postpone. **Comm. Roth counted 18 hands** raised. **Comm. Colbert asked for show of hands opposed** to the resolution. One hand went up. **Chair Colbert called on Commission to vote. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

Nykisha Cleveland, Office of Police Complaints, a civilian agency that functions independent of the MPD, described the agency’s investigative procedures when a civilian accuses the police of abuse or other improper actions. The Office produces a report after interviewing witnesses, the officer, and the complainant that goes both to the complainant and the accused officer. The police chief ultimately decides whether to discipline the officer. The agency also puts out a set of recommendations annually covering issues of concern in cases of abuse. **Comm. Bowser asked how long the process took.** Answer: up to 90 days, depends on the case. **Comm. Branton** asked if they provided representation to either side. Answer: no. Audience member commented that office was of no help to him when he had a complaint because their website links were not working. **Greg Billing,** head of Washington Area Bicyclist Assn. noted the Office of Police Complaints investigated police malpractice with bike riders and succeeded in changing practices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comm. Roth announced Kennedy St Festival on June 25.

Comm. Bowser announced her newsletter contained info on how to get lead testing kits.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Comm. Colbert adjourned the meeting at 8:59 pm.**