



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – FINAL APPROVED ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4D Tuesday, June 20, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, June 20, 2017. **Chair Lisa Colbert called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.**

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chair Colbert moved to approve the agenda with two commissioner announcements added. **The commission unanimously approved the agenda.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Comm. Bowser offered an update on short-term family housing at 5505 5th Street, NW. She and Chair Colbert serve as members of the advisory team along with Kate Judson (nearby neighbor), ANC 4B Commissioner Natalee Snider, former ANC 4B Commissioner Ronald Austin, and staff persons from Councilmember Todd's and the Mayor's office. Organized by Departments of General Services (DGS), Child & Family Services and Health & Human Services, the advisory team's purpose is to coordinate community feedback and input opportunities on issues and concerns related to the development of the short-term family housing; to share information; to provide feedback on concerns about residents' quality of life during construction; and to develop a "good neighbor" agreement.

The timeline for construction is late June/early July, to be completed by fall 2018. Mayor's groundbreaking will be in July 2017. Community Outreach Coordinator is Jackie Stanley of DGS– she is the liaison between community and construction; and the DGS Project Manager is Jai Hargrove – concerns are to be directed to both of them. DDOT/DGS promised 72 hours' notice before street alley closure, parking disruption, and utility turnoff. Rodent control program will be shared with the community. Construction will be 7a-7p M-F, 9a-5p Sat, none on Sunday or holidays. "Good neighbor" agreement will be among the community, the management of the short-term housing site and the residents of the short-term housing site. It will be established with community input and the deadline to draft it is the conclusion of construction. It will include goals such as maintain a peaceful, clean and safe neighborhood; having open communication; helping everyone address problems and concerns that may arise; and offering public service to benefit all of the community. Specifically, it will address property maintenance guidance, neighborhood code of conduct, and the government agencies will set the main ground rules for the residents of the short-term family housing. Finally, we want the community to name the building – the deadline to submit suggestions is Thursday, June 22. Submit online: <http://bit.ly/ward4STFH>

- Comm. Sheon question: is the city plan to contract a private firm to manage the building after it's built; and if so, does the public have input into that contractor?
 - o Comm. Bowser answer: right now, just managing the construction phase; they are open to input on management, among other things.

Comm. Sheon offered an update on the Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Program (IIEP), on which 4D passed a resolution to support – unfortunately, funding is not included in the FY18 budget.

Comm. Hemingway offered an update on West Education Campus modernization, for which 4D passed a resolution to support – half of what the community and 4D’s resolution called for was granted in the FY 2018 budget including: planning is expedited by one year and completion is expedited by one year; however, the resolution had called for construction to be expedited by two years.

Comm. Hemingway offered an update on the 14th Street 59 Bus Line, for which 4D passed a resolution to support – funding for the express bus line is included in the FY18 budget.

- Comm. Sheon asked a question about when would it start.
 - o Comm. Hemingway answer: reports have said as early as December 2017.

Chess Girls DC organizer Robin Floyd-Ramson provided a recap of how the group used the \$800 grant 4D provided to them. Launched at Emery Recreation Center, this effort taught chess to 15 local girls. Note that they will host a citywide tournament at Emery in October. Using the grant contribution, twelve classes were conducted and the money was spent on teachers’ pay; pink chess boards for the students; and banners and notebooks for the classroom. Robin also donated chess books to create a permanent library there. Dr. Swan shared the success stories of various girls they are engaging through chess – not only are they building strong sport and educational programs at Emery, they are instilling confidence and cognitive skills in the girls.

Comm. Roth offered an update on the DHCD Kennedy Street Housing Development. She does not know which developer will do the development but a new obstacle has surfaced. The developer of a parcel immediately adjacent to the vacant lots on Kennedy Street will only have 12 units and he needs a 3-inch water supply to the main but the main itself is only 4 inches in diameter. He was told by DC Water that his firm needed to supply the entire water main from his development to the corner, but it would be prohibitive for a project of this size. The problem is it would run right past the proposed DHCD 27-unit development. The question is how can they use a 4-inch water main going down the middle of the road? Comm. Roth was told that because this is a public-private partnership, the government runs into this frequently and they have funds set aside to replace to infrastructure as needed. On the 800 block of Kennedy Street they will have a solution; but all along the street there are smaller private developments without the benefit of a government partnership, and all would need to utilize the 4-inch water main. This may impede future development.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

COMMUNITY COMMENTS: (Timed 2 min.)

David Krucoff from Douglass County Maryland LLC offered that the only politically and economically feasible way to enfranchise and empower the people of DC is through Douglass County Maryland. Visit www.douglasscountymd.com for more information.

Charles Robinson from the Jefferson and 2nd Street intersection reported potholes. It’s been paved but the intersection is full of potholes. Comm. Bowser will follow up.

Captain Mitchell from MPD announced that violent crime is down in the Fourth District, but theft from auto and stolen autos are still high. There has been an increase in property crime (especially at WalMart/retail, homes, hospitals). While the District Vice Unit no longer exists the Crime Suppression Team (CST) is the closest substitute – and Commander Manlapaz is deploying CST to address package theft. Please contact Captain Mitchell with any issues at 202-436-6038, Juanita.mitchell@dc.gov.

Questions:

- Comm. Bowser clarified what year-to-date represents. Captain Mitchell confirmed that Fourth District crime is down year-over-year.
- Comm. Sheon asked about a squatter situation. Captain Mitchell will follow up with Lt. Lamond.
- Comm. Hemingway asked about PSA 407 and Lt. Fowler, specifically follow-up needed related to Crittenden shootings a resident documented for Lt. Fowler. Captain Mitchell will follow up with Lt. Fowler.
- A resident asked a mobile camera unit placement and management. Captain Mitchell said MPD leadership determines where they go based on crime data and input from community. She also shared the “Sector” approach – the PSAs are divided into three areas of responsibilities, spread over Captains Mitchell, Larsen and Weedon. Essentially any manager on duty is able to handle any issue anywhere. 5th Street to Georgia Avenue is especially problematic in our area.
- A resident asked if we should continue to call 911 for emergencies. Captain Mitchell said yes.
- A resident asked about bike cops being on duty alone versus in pairs. Captain Mitchell acknowledged this is customary.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Chair Colbert introduced Bethany Bezak, DC Water, Green Infrastructure. After showing a 3-minute video, she shared that our neighborhood is in a combined sewer area with runoff from a rain event going into downspout and through gutters as well as sanitary flow that’s coming from homes and business is going into a single pipe. DC Water is preparing to implement Green Infrastructure project within the right-of-way: permeable pavement, parking lanes and alleys, in planter strip and curb extensions. Rock Creek Project A is the first project – EPA regulatory requirements says DC Water needs to manage 1.2 inches of rain that falls across 20 impervious service acres. Need to manage 18,000 bathtubs full of water and keep it out of the sewer system. Hired a contractor and a team. First phase is summer 2017. Two additional phases to follow. Note this is not in our ANC. For more information, visit www.dewater.com/rockcreekgreen or call 202-448-9040.

Team: DC Water; RKK (construction management); Anchor Construction (construction); Kimberly Manning (outreach).

Bethany also shared information about the “Drain the Rain” program, which offers a free rain barrel for your home. This is a voluntary program to disconnect your downspout from the sewer system, which will also automatically enroll you in the DOE discount program. Fifty people in this neighborhood are enrolled with 25 people who have already disconnected their downspout and received the free rain barrel. Contact: 202-787-4466 for more information.

Questions:

- Comm. Hemingway asked if the overall goal is to keep storm water out of the sewer system.

Washington Latin Public Charter School
5200 2nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

- Bethany's answer: Yes, and to slow it down.
- Comm. Bowser asked if you disconnect downspout and implement the barrel, what do you do with the water? And what happens if it overflows?
 - Bethany's answer: repurpose it so you don't have to use potable water that you pay for. If it backs up you can reconnect your downspout as needed.
- Comm. Roth asked why more permeable concrete isn't being used.
 - Bethany's answer: DDOT is required by DOE to implement green infrastructure to the greatest extent possible. Also, capital projects are being aligned with DDOT projects, for instance with Alleypalooza, to save money for ratepayers while implementing green infrastructure – including the use of materials.

Chair Colbert introduced Travoris Culpepper, Pepco Public Affairs Manager – Capital Grid Project.

The goal of the Capital Grid Project is to improve resilience of our area's power system. Notably, we don't generate any electricity in DC, it's bought on the wholesale market and transmitted through 4 transmission lines that comes into the area and supply the entire Capitol Region (DC, Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties). There is a need to network our system and make it more reliable and more resilient. The long-term plan includes building 10 miles of transmission lines (part of which goes through Ward 4 and 4D specifically) and building a new substation (Mount Vernon – K and 1st Streets).

Spring/Summer 2018 construction will begin. First is civil construction, including traffic controls. Construction will reach ANC 4D in fall 2019 – around Riggs Rd, Missouri Avenue and part of New Hampshire Avenue. Construction will be completed by Spring 2021.

Pepco filed notice of construction May 1, 2017 with PSC. Will also have to go through the BZA for the substation portion. Awaiting approvals.

Beyond building one new substation in the NoMa area, Pepco also plans to upgrade aging infrastructure and equipment, particularly at the Harvard and Champlain substations in Ward 1.

There are major project benefits: supporting local economy – jobs, minority, women, disabled, vets (had a job fair through a DOES partnership); also renewable energy benefits (e.g., increase solar by 5%).

Will continue community engagement (including phone and email for inquiries) and meetings as the process progresses.

Questions:

- Comm. Sheon asked about why we can't generate more electricity through solar and sell it back.
 - Mr. Battle's answer: district law has built in a provision for residents to sell back electricity generation and your sell back rate is higher than what you bought it for – up to 25% more than what you were using before (NOTE: Mr. Battle after the meeting stated that he had provided inaccurate information – Pepco does not allow solar owners to produce more than the energy than they consumed in the year before). Consider the load issue – don't want every home to be a generator pushing energy back into a system that can't handle it. We want to accommodate additional solar – we mean both the solar you're using and the solar you're not using and putting back into the system. In theory, the amount could increase in future years.

Marc Battle, Pepco Region at Potomac Electric Power Company, addressed the ANC 4D resolution concerning the Pepco rate increase request. He outlined a few notable points:

- The rate case is a fully litigated issue that takes a year during which there are a lot of interventions.
- The last time Pepco filed a rate case it was 2013 (based on finances in 2012).
- Ultimately, Pepco is required to spend money first and get projects in service to customers, and then they are able to seek cost recovery for what they spent, as is the case with a regulated monopoly in order to have checks and balances.
- Pepco filed the rate increase request in 2016 (based on 2015 financials). If PSC was awarded 100% of what it asked for, this rate increase would cost \$3.84/month per resident. But if PSC awarded half of what is requested (half of \$77 million), the impact is less than \$2/month per resident.
- Mr. Battle outlined rebuttals to several details in 4D's resolution:
 - o Pepco can only seek recovery of in-service items (projects that are "used" and "useful") – not future projects.
 - o None of the costs associated with the merger are covered by rates.
 - o Pepco would never seek recovery for anything not in service.
 - o Residents' bills are divided into generation, transmission, distribution, fees and surcharges. The distribution charge represents the part Pepco keeps – this is 20% of the bill. There is no proposal that bills will go up 13%; instead it's a 13% increase on the 20% distribution piece (or 1/5 of your bill).
 - o Post-merger, Pepco wants to include all of the employee salary and incentive programs as part of the rate request in terms of general cost recovery. Pepco maintains their approach to not asking for advertising cost recovery.
 - o Pepco's legal standard is that everything must be just and reasonable and not excessive. Pepco also proposes their rate of return meets utility industry benchmarks.
 - o Pepco agrees that Pepco shall meet all standards and will pay penalties if they don't meet standards.
 - o Notably, low-income customers will not be affected by the rate request at all because they don't pay definition charges at all.

Comm. Roth introduced Kimberly Manning, Consultant to DDOT. She provided updates on Kennedy Street Revitalization Branding. The Public Realm Design Manual was submitted on May 8. It included the logo for benches, bike racks, trash and logo street signs. DDOT makes the final decision about what light posts it goes on – much like the 14th & Decatur sign.

MINUTES: the following edits were requested:

- Comm. Branton asked to insert the follow-up meeting with Director John Stokes regarding DPR coordination.
- Comms. Colbert and Roth offered minor edits for inclusion.

Comm. Sheon motioned that we vote to approve the minutes with minor edits. Seconded by Comm. Roth. Unanimously approved (5-0); Bowser abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Comm. Bowser review the monthly treasurer's report. We began with a \$19,006.77 balance. We did not write checks last month. With our \$2 service charge, we had an ending balance of \$19,004.77.

We also needed to correct the summary of our 2nd Quarterly Report. We had included three checks that cleared in the quarter but were not written in the quarter. We followed protocols to reconcile this, reflecting that the total disbursements between January 1 and March 31 were \$1,371.

Comm. Bowser motioned that the Treasurer's report be approved. Seconded by Comm. Sheon. Unanimously approved (6-0).

Commissioner Announcements

- Comm. Hemingway shared that based on a site visit she spearheaded, DDOT is preparing a community update regarding traffic calming in Sherman Circle as well as meetings concerning next steps to address traffic calming at the EL Haynes intersection (8th/Allison/Kansas) and 5th/Emerson/Kansas.
- Comm. Hemingway reported that residents have raised concerns about group homes; thus the Mayor's office is coordinating a Group Homes Information session this summer with solution-oriented follow-up late this year.
- Comm. Bowser announced that Library Tavern is having a soft opening at 8pm, June 20. 5420 3rd Street.
- Comm. Bowser announced the 9th Annual DC Housing Expo and Home Show, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, Saturday, June 24, 10am-3pm.
- Comm. Sheon announced that DC Community Carrot will have its first-ever pitch competition on Saturday, June 24, at 2pm at 508 Kennedy Street. Over \$1,000 in prize money will be awarded for the winning business pitches.
- Comm. Roth reminded us that the Kennedy St. Festival will take place this Saturday, June 24, from 11-3, extending from 300-800 block of Kennedy Street. More than 50 vendors, entertainers and food trucks. Celebrate our neighborhood residents and businesses! Many kids activities related to festival theme, "Around the World."
- Comm. Branton announced that starting in July she will host SMD meetings at the Hampshire Gardens co-op every second Tuesday of each month.
- Comm. Branton announced the kick off of the Youth Garden at 9th & Missouri Avenue on Saturday, July 1 to help keep up a tradition that started 40 years ago.
- Comm. Branton announced a Community Yard Sale in the parking lot at WLPCS on Saturday, June 24 in the morning/early afternoon.
- Comm. Hemingway announced the Sherman Circle Clean-up on Sunday, June 25, 9:30am.
- Comm. Hemingway announced the PSA 407 meeting on Thursday, June 22, 801 Shepherd Street, NW, 7pm.

Chair Colbert announced that the next meeting is Tuesday, July 18; and we will have a break in August.

Chair Colbert adjourned the meeting at 8:39PM.