



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 [FINAL APPROVED]

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. **Chair Lisa Colbert called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.**

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Approved with minor modifications:**

- 1) Replace ABRA speaker with Office of Peoples' Counsel speaker, Stephen Marencic; and move the OPC Pepco announcement to the Guest Speaker section.
- 2) Add to New Business: Chair Report on 2017 calendar and hiring of a web coordinator.

Comm. Colbert moved to approve as amended. Comm. Sheon seconded. The commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Comm. Sheon outlined new approach to managing meeting time including implementation of a gavel and a stop clock.

OLD BUSINESS

Following up on the DHCD affordable-housing project at vacant lot 809-813 Kennedy Street, Comm. Roth offered a summary of the current state of play, showed the grid comparing proposals, and introduced a resolution to support the residents' top three choices.

Comm. Bowser posed a question: recapped that under the statement of offer, housing can be met by being at 50% of the AMI (area medium income), now called FMI (family median income). It is not clear from the grid whether Flywheel and Housing Up meet these specifications, i.e., the minimum requirements. Thus, we should not consider them until we confirm they meet the standards.

Comm. Roth further outlined the top 3 choices from residents: 1) Flywheel Development (15 family-style condos – ownership opportunity); 2) Housing Up (27 rental, mixed income); and 3) Ditto Residential (36 units targeted toward artists). Note: for condos, AMI target is 80%.

Comm. Colbert decided to table discussion until certain information is clarified. Came back to issue at 8:50PM.

Resident questions: Who established AMI for the District? Comm. Bowser says AMI is for the metropolitan area. Currently, \$109,000 (one half is above and one half is below). Hurts DC given wealth of MD and VA surrounding areas.

Comm. Roth added a qualification to the resolution that stated the three proposals are endorsed, "assuming they meet the DHCD requirement of at least 50% of the units being set aside for families earning 50% AMI."

Comm. Roth moved to pass a resolution to endorse top three proposals per criteria laid out in resolution including the amendment that they meet DHCD minimum requirements. Comm. Bowser seconded the motion. The commission approved the resolution 4-0 with one abstention (Comm. Sheon due to potential conflict of interest).

Following up on ANC 4D's support of the protest of the Class C license application by the Library Tavern LLC, which is trying to open at 3rd and Kennedy St NW, Comm. Bowser shared that the residents and Mr. Siyamak Sadamak are engaged in mediation but they are still negotiating, especially closing times as well as parking. He agreed to closing at 1am on weekdays and 2am on weekends and says nothing can be done on the parking. Focus is on coming to terms on requirements for noise, parking and hours, though progress has been made on the noise element. Comm. Bowser is preparing a summary in writing.

Comm. Roth offered an update on the potential to change the bus stop location at Kennedy and Georgia. No major updates until next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Roth offered an update on Kennedy Street Branding. Comm. Sheon asked what it looked like and Comm. Roth offered her thoughts on the visuals. She will bring pictures next time. Talks are ongoing. Trash cans, flags, benches, street lights and other physical structures will have branding. A resident later said the proposed branding designs were on the DDOT website on Kennedy Street, and the web assistant succeeded in bringing the images of the proposed branding signs on the screen.

Resident questions:

- Is there a theme? **Comm. Roth and Sheon suggest they are trying to give it an identity and set it apart from other areas, making marketing easier for business success.** DDOT chose to work off the Kennedy Theater logo.
- Is community giving public input into the branding? **Comm. Roth: DDOT provided opportunities for public input, including a public meeting on March 8, that was promoted via ANC and other avenues.** No other meetings announced at this time. Comm. Bowser offered to call DDOT to ask if they will have another meeting for public input on branding.
- What is span? **Comm. Roth: North Capitol to Georgia Avenue.**
- What are the plans for triangle? Will they be closing a portion of the street near 2nd Street. No.

Comm. Bowser introduced a motion to revise ANC 4D's budget to add \$2,000 to printing, equipment budget line item – up to \$9,000 from \$7,000 total. Comm. Sheon contextualized this by offering that we investigated buying a new printer; but decided that it was not worth the money and we support a local business, Quality Printers, which is more affordable than other service providers.

Comm. Colbert made an amendment to the motion, to add \$1,200 for this fiscal year for personnel, a web coordinator for our website.

Comm. Colbert offered another budget addition for local transportation of \$50 per commissioner yearly for a total of \$300. Residents were supportive of a larger local transportation budget, up from \$15 to \$300 total for all commissioners.

Comm. Colbert moved to support these three budget changes/additions. Comm. Sheon seconded the motion. The commission unanimously approved the motion.

Comm. Colbert offered administrative updates:

- 1) 2017 Calendar – Commissioners agreed to hold 11 meetings in 2017, with a break in August, with commissioners free to meet informally in August. **Comm. Colbert introduced a motion to amend our calendar. Hemingway seconded the motion.** Comm. Sheon clarified that the meetings remain the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30PM, with permanent location to be confirmed. **Four Commissioners voted aye, with Comm. Roth voting nay. The commission passed the motion with a 4-1 vote.**
- 2) Web Coordinator – Robbin Smith volunteered to support this function for two months; we decided to hire him for part-time support at \$25/hour. At our planning meeting, we will discuss whether we create a new webpage or use the existing webpage provided by the Office of the ANC. Comm. Roth asked why we are not using the website created last year. Comm. Sheon clarified. **Comm. Colbert made a motion to hire a web coordinator. Comm. Hemingway seconded the motion. The commission unanimously approved the motion.**

Comm. Bowser shared updates on the District’s Comprehensive Plan, which is due for amendments in 2017. She is interested in seeing more detail around what’s working, what’s not and what’s being contested and what’s being supported. **Comm. Bowser moved to pass a resolution to request Office of Planning prepare a 10-year report to better inform the Comprehensive Plan. Comm. Colbert decided to table this motion. Came back to issue at 8:54pm.** Comm. Bowser took questions from Comm. Hemingway on whether there are already performance metrics on the elements included in the Comprehensive Plan. Comm. Bowser did not know. **Comm. Bowser again moved to pass the resolution. Comm. Sheon seconded. Four Commissioners voted aye, with Comm. Hemingway voting nay. The commission approved the resolution with a 4-1 vote.**

COMMUNITY COMMENTS: the following were raised:

- 1) Ward 4 MOCR Jasmin Benab:
 - Mayor Bowser’s District Address on March 30 at 5:30PM, at University of District of Columbia.
 - April 22 is Earth Day Community Clean up.
 - Two arrests were made for illegal dumping; “no dumping” signs are now placed over 4-block radius; they are continuing monitoring; and getting bigger dumpsters when needed. Thanks residents for providing info/311 tracking #s.

Questions from residents included:

- Street sweepers concern: Ms. Benab will look into it and respond directly to Comm. Bowser.
 - Illegal dumping continues at Decatur & New Hampshire (across from cemetery): been since Mayor Bowser was Councilmember. Ms. Benab said they're still working on it. Two "no dumping" signs have not worked; monitoring the area.
- 2) Malcolm Jolly from Councilmember Todd's office offered two updates on illegal dumping and traffic calming efforts in Petworth with Comm. Hemingway.
 - 3) Attendee announced that Dorothy Heights Elementary School is in need of many repairs: Roof repair. No heat. Electrical issues. Gym floor bubbling up. Toilets overflow.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Maureen Schmelling, Water Control Manager, DC Water. Offered overview of the lead pipe issue, how it impacts residents and what residents can do. Ms. Schmelling brought lead test kits for residents. Commissioner and resident questions and comments included personal stories on testing kits and potential costs of replacing lead pipes, unintended impacts of having done so, and costs of alternative methods of having safe water like filters/boiled waters when water bills are already high; how the age of homes factor in; addressing why lead pipes are more prevalent in Petworth; **Comm. Sheon insisted it was the moral obligation of DC Water to disclose lead levels for new home buyers** and asked whose responsibility it is to share this information and rectify the situation; and potential subsidies for low-income or other affected groups; timeline for replacing lines in street/public space.

Stephen Marencic, Community Outreach Specialist, Office of Peoples' Counsel (utility advocate) offered update on Pepco's request for additional funding - \$77 million, which means consumers will pay more on their bill. This is a 17.5% increase or \$3-4 on your distribution charge which adds up over time. OPC would like to see 1) a lower increase of \$25 million, 2) that the only projects to be funded are "shovels in the ground" and completed; 3) that consumers don't carry the costs of the merger; and 4) that benefits of the merger are applied to residential consumers. April 12, 6pm – one more hearing. Public Service Commission. 12th & G Street, NW. Comment period is open through April 25. Text OPC 42828. Question: how to get on the witness list; Mr. Marencic suggested walk in or call Public Service Commission and submit written testimony/comments here: bwestbrook@psc.dc.gov.

John Thomas, Acting Chief, Capital Planning & Program Management, WMATA, responded to complaints received about noise/vibration in Petworth as a result of putting new safer subway cars into use. WMATA hired a noise/vibration consultant, Wilson Ihrig. Consultant has only been on board for 3 weeks – this is the information gathering phase. Geology engineer did testing a few months ago, but not as extensive as what this consultant will do – for instance, they will determine how many homes they have to go into in order to get best handle on the situation and present a testing plan to be completed by mid-April, which will be followed by testing in homes. Questions and comments covered the nature and length of the investigation.

MINUTES: Comm. Colbert moved to approve the minutes as written. Comm. Sheon seconded. The commission unanimously approved the motion with one abstention (Comm. Bowser had left the room).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Comm. Bowser read aloud the Feb. 2017 Treasurer's Report: total funds available \$15,002.15. Total disbursements came to \$381.69 with no deposits. Comm. Colbert moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Comm. Roth seconded. The commission unanimously approved the report.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. DC Community Carrot Ribbon Cutting, 508 Kennedy Street, Ste 209, 2pm (Sheon): Comm. Sheon invites you to attend and celebrate this exciting effort!
2. Fire on 8th Street (Roth): fire this month, Comm. Roth seeking resources for the family, which includes an MPD officer.
3. Condemned home on 9th Street (Roth): developer damaged a home next to their project so badly it had to be condemned. Be aware of any "doubtful construction activity" in the neighborhood. DCRA phone number for illegal construction: 202-442-9502 – ask to be referred to illegal construction. Comm. Roth is monitoring situation to ensure displaced family has resources.
4. Transitional housing for the homeless (Bowser): there is a diverse advisory group (is meeting with Deputy Mayor of Child and Family Services, DHS, ANC 4C, 4D) that met on March 9 to discuss short-term housing on 5th Street just north of Kennedy Street; next meeting on April 6 at 7, locating TBD (potentially at Emery Rec Center). Discussed "good neighbor agreements" – maintenance, safety, security, volunteer opportunities, etc. Conversation to continue.
5. Traffic calming efforts (Hemingway): recently met with 4D06 residents, MOCR Jasmin Benab, Malcolm Jolly, and Commissioner Karen Cooper (and DDOT did not show up) to discuss traffic calming and pedestrian safety around Sherman Circle, the intersection of 8th Street, Allison Street and Kansas Avenue near EL Haynes; 8th Street between Emerson and Allison Streets, and Buchanan between Georgia and Kansas Avenues. Follow up includes inviting DDOT Director Dormsjo to visit Sherman Circle and the EL Haynes intersection; and invite residents on Buchanan and 8th Streets to submit formal investigation requests to DDOT.
6. Comm. Colbert stated that the next meeting will be April 18 at 6:30 pm; however the location is TBD. We will post the meeting location on list serves and our website (www.anc4d.org).

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