



MINUTES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Meeting

TUESDAY, November 17, 2015

7:00 PM, Truesdell Education Campus, 800 Ingraham St., NW

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Chairwoman Colbert called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 4D01 Nancy Roth; 4D02 Renee Bowser; 4D03 Lisa Colbert; 4D04 David Sheon; 4D05 Krystal Branton; and 4D06 Bill Quirk. A quorum was present for all votes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Comm. Bowser asked to amend the agenda to move Washington Latin item to the beginning of meeting. Comm. Colbert asked that community comments be moved to the beginning of meeting. Comm. Bowser moved to accept all amendments, Roth seconded. The amended agenda was unanimously approved by acclamation.

MINUTES: Comm. Quirk moved to accept the October 2015 minutes as written, motion was seconded by Comm. Branton. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: Comm. Branton read aloud the Treasurer's Report for the previous month of October 2015 showing monthly expenditures totaled \$105.00. DC allocation of \$3,357.51 arrived in the ANC treasury. With bank charge total in treasury was \$12,572.80. Comm. Quirk moved that the commission accept the report as read. Comm. Roth seconded. The motion unanimously passed by acclamation.

Comm. Colbert moved to allocate \$1,450 from ANC treasury for following:

- \$800 – 2016 calendars showing ANC meetings and commissioner contact information;
- \$250 – ANC holiday party/coat drive scheduled for Dec. 13;
- \$400 – certificates of thanks to be awarded at the ANC party.

Comm. Sheon seconded motion, which passed unanimously by acclamation.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Comm. Colbert announced ANC holiday party to be held Dec. 13 at Sandovan Restaurant 4-8 pm to include new-coat collection for DCPS students, sizes 5-18. ANC 4D is planning a community health fair next spring with Howard Univ. at Emory Rec Center.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Christopher Alexander, Northwest Saturday Academy is parent of two elementary students at Shepherd ES. The program, which is designed to encourage interest in STEM studies through training and education of 3rd-5th graders. Students create a research project. Fall 2015 semester focus was trash and recycling, with computer science program from MIT to start in spring 2016. Enrollment is now open. Classes to be held at Shepherd ES plus now West ES.

David A. Ross, ARTLAB+ at Hirshhorn Museum described free arts/technology enrichment program for teens 13-19, 4-7 pm every school day. Each session begins with open studio time, followed by period of instruction in specific disciplines, such as sound engineering, digital art, etc. Metro fare provided to qualified kids.

Bethany Bezak, DC Water, spoke about DC Water's extensive display at back of meeting hall of new green infrastructure projects in Rock Creek area in order to seek public comment about specific infrastructure project plans within the ANC. She encouraged attendees to examine and discuss.

Alexandra Zeitz-Moskin, ServeDC, is looking for volunteers to remove snow from walks of Ward 4 seniors and disabled residents this winter. At present residents who do not remove snow promptly can be fined \$25. Authorities have used discretion in imposing fines in past but will enforce it this winter. New legislation exempts seniors and disabled from fine, but there still is need for community volunteers to ensure safety of pedestrians. Commitment to volunteer is very flexible. Other needs of seniors include transport to and from appointments in winter. High school students may sign up.

NEW BUSINESS

Martha Cutts, Washington Latin PCS, asked the Commission to support a request for a zoning exception allowing the school to reduce the setback for an HVAC unit on the roof of the new gym being built. HVAC is to go on a shorter building where locker rooms will be. A screen will go around them but it needs to be closer to the edge than regulations specify. **Comm. Bowser read a motion to support the school's zoning exception request. Comm. Quirk seconded. Vote in favor was unanimous by acclamation.**

Comm. Bowser described a resolution in support of ending homelessness in DC, urging that Homeless Services and Reform Act not compromise on safety and sanitation issues. Also it urged the creation of affordable housing in Ward 4. **Comm. Bowser** said DC Housing Authority repaired 259 houses for use of homeless families but sold them at market rate. **Comm. Sheon** suggested an amendment calling on DC Council to establish a commission of DCRA, Office of Mayor and OTR members to expedite the conversion of persistently vacant houses to homes for homeless families, to be run by Manna or other nonprofit. **Comm. Sheon** added that getting into a home is "game changer" for a homeless family, who can better access city services. **Khalil Thompson** from Mayor's Office said Mayor's plan would move families into temporary spaces for short period. **Comm. Bowser** said not giving families more privacy puts children in danger, citing events at DC General. **Comm. Bowser moved to pass resolution as amended. Comm Sheon seconded. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

Comm. Bowser moved that ANC pass resolution to Public Service Commission to take comments on Pepco-Exelon merger another 60 days to Feb 18. **Comm. Sheon** seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

OLD BUSINESS

Comm. Sheon reported that the Office of the Attorney General has called for a Show-Cause hearing against the Clubhouse. No public comments are accepted for this hearing.

Comm. Sheon reported that owner of Castello Lounge did not come to mediation session at ABRA. Next step is protest hearing. Public input is welcome at this hearing. ABC Board will decide whether the neighbors' concerns will become a condition of granting a license to Castello's.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Dolly Turner from office of **CM Brandon Todd** commented that council budget amendment included funds to acquire and rehab vacant houses for affordable housing.

Comm. Roth introduced Sam Fitz from ANXO Restaurant to plans for use of 711 Kennedy St. commercial building, where the restaurant group just signed a 12-year lease. The first stage is to build a cider brewery in the industrial space, and later to open a retail bar and restaurant onsite. They expect to create about 30 jobs including 5 needed skill sets. He said they would like to hire as many local people as possible.

Comm. Roth reported that several neighbors had planted tulip bulbs in tree boxes on Kennedy St.

Comm. Sheon announced the ANC needs help with its website, with pay of \$50/quarter and asked if anyone was interested in performing this job.

Paul PCS representative said the school had completed its new addition and wished to offer the use of the space to the community.

ADJOURNMENT: **Chairwoman Lisa Colbert adjourned at 8:50 pm.**