



MINUTES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Meeting

TUESDAY, October 20, 2015

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

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. **Chairwoman Colbert called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 4D01 Nancy Roth, 4D03 Lisa Colbert; 4D04 David Sheon; 4D05 Krystal Branton, 4D06 Bill Quirk. Not present: 4D02, Renee Bowser. Comm. Quirk left before end of meeting. A quorum was present for all votes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Roth asked to amend the agenda to include a motion for funding for beautification of Kennedy St. Comm. Quirk moved to accept amended agenda and Comm. Sheon seconded. The amended agenda was unanimously approved by acclamation.**

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

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: **Comm. Branton read aloud the Treasurer's Report for the previous month of September 2015 (a corrected version is attached) showing expenditures totaling \$1,064.97, leaving \$9,166.08 in the ANC treasury at end of FY 2015. Comm. Branton read aloud a review of the FY 2016 budget (attached) providing for a total of \$4,285.00 in expenditures for FY 2016. Comm. Branton moved that the commission accept the 2016 budget. Comm. Quirk seconded. The motion unanimously passed by acclamation.**

Comm. Branton further proposed to allocate \$3,006.00 for routine ANC needs including: equipment (tent and table): \$700.00; supplies: \$180.00; printing paper: \$80.00; binder: \$20.00; meeting signs with stakes: \$1,500.00; Renee Bowser's duplications: \$225.00; Post Office Box rental: \$196.00 (1-year renewal); flyer distribution \$105.00. Comm. Branton moved that the commission accept the allocation and Comm. Sheon seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Perci Johnson of DC Central Kitchen discussed the organization's training and education of young people for careers in the food service industry, and its food recycling programs. Participants' minimum age is 18. The program recruits trainees from churches, schools and other community based institutions.

Martita Fleming of the Washington Latin PCS discussed plans for addition of gymnasium. It will involve removal of asphalt roof and retaining wall, with construction beginning this week and completing at end of school year. Basketball hoops will be moved to what's now the parking lot, to be converted to basketball area. There will be an HVAC installation on the roof of the new gym, with a screen put up to cut noise and enhance aesthetics. Asked where school personnel would park, she said they have a big parking lot that would still be available, and also street parking next to the field was relatively underutilized. Comm. Roth asked if gym would be available for use by community. Ms. Fleming responded that it would not be open to public as a recreation facility, although it could serve as a polling place, or for a special event such as a blood drive. It is not yet clear whether the former parking lot will remain as a basketball court or change back to parking lot.

Councilmember Brandon Todd. In an impromptu visit Ward 4 CM Todd said City Council had just passed a supplemental budget for \$113 million to fund more police on street, with \$500,000 to be used for program to encourage installation of security cameras at private homes and businesses, so as to make footage available to police. An emergency bill now allows a third-party vendor to connect 911 calls with ambulances when there is a logjam. CM Todd also noted that \$47 million had been underspent and that Mayor Bowser would use some of those funds to purchase two blighted buildings on the 900 block of Kennedy St NW. **Comm. Roth asked how the two buildings, 929 and 931, would be used.** CM Todd said they would be developed as affordable housing, perhaps with some retail. **Comm. Sheon asked about whether anything could be done about vacant buildings throughout ANC 4D.** CM Todd said a task force had been started to identify and close loopholes in city's interactions with owners of vacant and blighted properties. His office sits in on task force meetings. A meeting attendee asked why water bills were going up. CM responded that water pipes are being replaced citywide but increase shouldn't be very much. Washington Gas was also improving its pipe infrastructure with bills to increase by about \$0.60/month. In regard to Pepco and Exelon merger deal, CM Todd said DC had come to agreement with Exelon and the Public Service Commission, which at first had not approved the deal, had now reversed and approved the revised application from Exelon, which would provide \$78 million in benefits to the city.

Amit Vora of the **Sunrise Group** and **Will Teass, Architect**, described a proposed project by the Sunrise Group at **525 Longfellow St. NW**. The 500 block of Longfellow St. consists of porch-front rowhouses on the north side, facing apartment/condo buildings on the south side—but 525 Longfellow is a detached house on an extra-large lot that breaks the row at mid-block. The project would raze the detached house on an extra-large lot built in the middle of a line of rowhouses and instead build three two-unit rowhouses that would reconnect the row. They had come to the ANC to ask for a letter of support requesting relief from zoning requirement of 18-foot width per rowhouse, so that they could build them 16'7" wide instead. Height would be 38 feet for all three, which is 9 feet above the rowhouses on each side. Three parking spaces were to be provided for the six new units. A block resident expressed concern about the parking, noting that parking on the street is already scarce, and asked if the number of parking spaces be increased. Audience members asked whether additional height was permissible. It was permissible if all three were that height, the team answered. Comm. Quirk had to leave early but asked Comm. Roth to cast a proxy vote for him in favor of ANC support for the requested variance. **Comm. Roth moved that the ANC support the group's request for zoning relief but on condition that the team sought to increase the number of parking spaces. Comm. Sheon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

Khalil Thompson, Ward 4 liaison to Mayor's office, introduced Jay Melder from the DC Dept. of Human Services to discuss the Mayor's initiative to end homelessness in DCs, which he said was an opportunity to end intractable problem. The Mayor proposed to close the shelter at DC General in 2-3 years and replace it with smaller 50-unit community-based shelters across DC. Shelters are for emergency service but homes are the solution to homelessness, he said. **Comm. Sheon asked if the newer shelters would have shared baths and kitchens.** Mr. Melder said some units would have private bathrooms, others would have shared male and female bathrooms, and residents could store food in their own units and would have microwave ovens, with meals provided by DC Central Kitchen. Comm. Sheon asked if vacant houses could be used to house the homeless. Mr. Melder said putting families in widespread houses would make it hard to deliver the services they need.

d

Reuben Pemberton from Dept. of Public Works told the meeting he just been assigned to the problem of condo building at 5401 9th St., where neighbors from outside the condo have been illicitly leaving bulk pick-up items at the building, and DPW had issued several fines to the building residents. He recommended that the condo install a camera to record the license tags of the trash dumpers.

ADJOURNMENT: Time ran out and the rest of the schedule was skipped. **Chairwoman Lisa Colbert adjourned at 8:57 pm.**