



MINUTES Advisory Neighborhood Commission Public Meeting Tuesday, September 20, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, Sept 20, 2016. Chair Lisa Colbert **called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.**

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Quirk moved to accept the agenda as amended. Comm. Branton seconded. Motion unanimously approved by acclamation.**

MINUTES: **Comm. Bowser noted that she had not specifically objected to the Coolidge H.S. Alumni grant request as minutes stated. Comm. Bowser moved to accept minutes with amendment correcting the minutes as suggested. Comm. Quirk seconded. Vote passed unanimously by acclamation.**

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: **Comm. Branton read the Treasurer's Report aloud. August expenditures totaled \$893.14 plus \$2.00 bank fee, leaving \$9,106.26 in account. Comm. Branton moved to accept Treasurer's Report as read, Comm. Quirk seconded, motion unanimously passed by acclamation. 3rd quarter read aloud. Comm. Branton moved to accept, Quirk seconded, passed unanimously by acclamation.**

OLD BUSINESS

Comm. Bowser reported that she had reviewed the Coolidge Alumni grant application for \$1,000 to defray printing expenses for program for major alumni scholarship fundraising meeting. ANC 4D is not within Coolidge boundaries, she said, but a few 4D students do attend. Comm. Bowser proposed a grant of \$250 for an ad within the printed program instead of \$1,000 requested. Comm. Sheon said the breakfast event itself cost \$35K but raised only \$10K in scholarships. Comm. Bowser withdrew motion, noting she would study the application further. Comm. Roth said this would be third time the ANC had postponed its vote, and asked if ANC 4D proceed with vote on the original application before the event, which was scheduled for early Oct. Comm. Bowser noted funding could come in after the expense was incurred. The sense of the Commission was to postpone the vote once more.

Comm. Roth described the status of Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) solicitation for development of vacant lots on 800 block of Kennedy St. Over preceding weeks she had arranged several meetings between residents and developers intending to respond to the RFP. DHCD was holding a stakeholders meeting 6pm Wed. Sept. 21, at Emery Recreation Center and she urged attendance.

Comm. Bowser introduced a resolution asking the Board of Martin Luther King Library Trustees to hold public forum in Ward 4 to brief residents about the renovation plans for the city's central library. In addition the resolution she suggested the ANCs be given additional time to submit comments on the plan. The library will be closed for 3 years for the renovation. Comm. Sheon seconded. The resolution passed unanimously by acclamation. The resolution was signed by Chair Colbert and Sec. Roth.

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Comm. Roth said ANC website was still incomplete and asked attendees for help with it.

Comm. Sheon noted that HAWK signal for the pedestrian crossing Georgia Ave. at Emerson St. had not appeared on a DC Dept. of Transportation (DDOT) published list of new installations although DDOT had recommended the installation. Comm. Sheon presented a letter inquiring about the status of the installation, moved that it be sent. Comm. Roth seconded. Comm. Quirk asked where on Emerson the fixture would appear and Comm. Sheon said at Georgia intersection. Commission unanimously voted in favor by acclamation.

Comm. Bowser introduced a resolution in support of several additions to ANC Omnibus Bill, including request that ANCs not be required to pay for permits for community events. Comm. Sheon mentioned it cost \$800 for permit to use the triangle park for 2015 Fun Day. Another addition was preserving the public right to petition for past ANC records by filing FOIA requests, which current legislation would discontinue. Comm. Sheon did not have a copy and asked to be able to read before voting. Vote was tabled for reconsideration later in the meeting.

Chair Colbert summarized Fun Day noting that it cost the ANC about \$1,100. Chair Colbert also announced plans to give out six Thanksgiving dinners for needy ANC 4D residents. She also noted ANC 4D would again be hosting a holiday celebration and coat drive.

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Bowser mentioned that DDOT was proposing that restricted parking with residents-only parking be imposed ANC-wide only rather than keeping current practice of piecemeal implementation by individual block. The rationale is that block-long residential parking restriction now distributes parked cars into neighboring blocks. This would be residential parking on one side of street with two-hour parking on the other side. Comm. Bowser said the public comments period was extended to Oct. 10 and could be submitted to publicspace.policy@dc.gov, and written comments could be mailed to Alice Kelly, Office of the Director, DDOT 55 M St. SE 7th Floor, Washington 20003. Attendees asked many questions and many appeared to oppose the proposal.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Elias, proprietor of Elias Injera Market and Restaurant at 5427 Georgia Ave. NW, came forward with his representative, Jeff Jackson, to request that a letter from ANC 4D supporting his application for an interim liquor license, letting him serve while awaiting the permanent license hearing by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Comm. Roth said she had visited the restaurant and found it in good order, and had questioned constituents but heard no objections to the request. She also asked the attendees at the meeting if anyone had concerns about a letter of support, and received no response. Comm. Roth moved the ANC support the application with a letter. Comm. Sheon seconded. ANC voted unanimously in favor by acclamation.

Whitley O'Neal from CM Brandon Todd's office spoke about the activities of the Council Member in the coming weeks.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Melinda Bolling, Director of Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, noted that the agency was a "complaint-based organization." When investigating a resident's complaint about a property the agency

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will give the property owner a chance to respond to the complaint before imposing a fine. Commission's questions focused primarily on DCRA's response to vacant property inspections and enforcement of housing violations, which was thought to be inadequate in many instances.

Bolling noted that when necessary the agency will make the repairs but noted it was often "hard to recoup" the government's investment from the owner so most of the time efforts center on making the owner do the repairs needed to bring vacant and blighted properties back to productive use. **Comm. Roth asked how the agency deals with** institutional owners, such as banks that are far away and leave properties vacant to the detriment of neighborhoods. Bolling said DCRA traces to whoever has hired the property management company, and acknowledged it took longer to address than private owners.

Comm. Sheon spoke about need for transparency on DCRA permitting, construction, and inspection activities, including about the person who is doing the work. Bolling said the agency website will be upgraded to improve agency transparency, and that staff needed training to deal more effectively with customers in providing information.

Comm. Bowser said she was worried about enforcement when a DCRA inspector found housing violations such as at 220 Hamilton St., a neglected apartment building with broken windows visible from the street. She noted that 30, 60, 90 days would pass after the DCRA cited the landlord but no work was done. The only time it was done was if DCRA stepped in and did it. Why not enforce its own citations, she asked Bolling. Bolling said if the owner has a financial problem, such as bankruptcy, the Office of the Attorney General may step in, and may wait until the owner is able to pay liens put on the property for taxes and repairs. Bolling referred ANC 4D to craigs.stewart@dc.gov, 442-4406, for inquiries.

Comm. Sheon said he was ready to vote on Comm. Bowser's resolution recommending changes in the ANC Omnibus legislation. **Comm. Bowser moved that ANC support her resolution. Comm. Quirk seconded. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

Andrew Hass and LaToya Bell of the Employment Justice Center: described their work to help workers who who have been injured, and subsequently lost their job. They have succeeded in bringing progressive provisions for workers into the law. They hold workers' rights clinics to educate workers. Find out more at www.knowyourrightsdc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comm. Bowser announced Office of Tenant Affairs was holding tenants' summit on Sept. 24 at Kellogg Center at Gallaudet Univ.

Comm. Sheon announced a groundbreaking ceremony at the Homestead apartments at 812 Jefferson St. on Friday 10/23 at 9am.

Comm. Bowser announced the Safe Surrender program, which allows people with bench warrants to turn themselves was ending on 9/24.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Comm. Bowser adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.**