



**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – FINAL APPROVED
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4D
Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

The monthly public meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017. **Chair Lisa Colbert called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.**

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Hemingway moved** to approve the agenda with edits concerning the review of three quarterly Treasurer's Reports. **Comm. Branton seconded. The commission unanimously approved the edited agenda.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Comm. Roth offered an update on short-term rentals (Airbnb etc.). She is not opposing CM McDuffie's bill yet, but reserves the right to do so in the future, depending on the updates/revisions expected from Chairman Mendelsohn. One resident asked for clarity and Comm. Roth outlined her thoughts on the bill as previously shared in the July 2017 meeting.

Comm. Bowser offered an update on transitional housing for the homeless located at 5505 5th Street, NW. Next meeting is Tuesday, Sept 26, 2017, 6:30-8:30PM. Comm. Bowser reviewed the purpose of a Good Neighbor Agreement, as described in July 2017 meeting. The Agreement spells out what neighbors require of the facility as a positive presence in the community, and ensures neighbors have recourse if the terms (safety, maintenance, behavior of staff or facility residents, etc.) are violated.

Comm. Hemingway introduced Ted Van Houten, DDOT Transportation Planner, to offer the current state of play on the Sherman Circle single-lane trial. Mr. Van Houten recapped the three-week single-lane trial that was in progress at the time of the meeting. He reminded residents the origin of the trial is a result of the 2016 Rock Creek East Livability Study, in which DDOT recommended Sherman Circle vehicular traffic be confined to one lane plus bike lane and green infrastructure. The timeline would be 4-8 years and the cost would be \$940,000. The public called for an assessment of what can be done to improve pedestrian safety and calm traffic in the meantime. After the Grant Circle one-lane trial showed results that informed the ultimate decision not to make it one lane (despite the Rock Creek East Livability study suggested it also be one lane), residents called for a similar trial at Sherman Circle. Over 3 weeks DDOT is collecting traffic data. DDOT had also issued a Notice of Intent, which included a 45-day public comment period ending Friday, Oct. 27. He assured the ANC that commissioners could consider a resolution after that period, before DDOT makes a decision.

Mr. Van Houten took commissioner and community questions.

- Comm. Bowser – Question about 5th Street south of Kansas being one way – Mr. Van Houten says this is a project to look at the existing bike lanes that on 5th Street south of Grant Circle through Park View to see if they can be protected – such as a buffer between the traffic and bike lanes. This project has not started and there has not been public engagement yet.

- Comm. Bowser – Has DDOT considered special lights like a Hawk signal (pedestrian-activated beacon or sensing pedestrians). Mr. Van Houten said Sherman Circle does not have enough traffic to warrant a Hawk light.
- Resident Richard Fleming – If it doesn't get level of traffic to warrant a Hawk light then why would we need traffic calming at all? He noted that we (he and his family) also care about aesthetics. Given Sherman Circle has more foot traffic and it's become a place to gather, thus there are more traffic incidents. He noted that the Circle should not be a place for people to gather, especially with kids or dogs. He questioned whether the Circle would be more or less safe with traffic backups. Mr. Van Houten noted that no decision has been made – DDOT is in the process of collecting data and public comments, then will share results and make a decision. He reminded us that the Sherman Circle model showed that there would not be traffic backups; so they want to see if the trial bears this out.
- Representative of Petworth Action Committee, Kim Lockwood – the PAC opposes lane changes and recommends the \$900,000 be spent instead on senior housing. She asserted this is not about pedestrian safety, it's about the bike lane. She said the PAC has posed several alternatives. DDOT should leave the two lanes and add a bike lane. She also noted that DDOT sent out the Notice of Intent two days after the trial started.
- Representative of Petworth Action Committee David Dzidzienyo – The Grant Circle trial was a “true catastrophe” and that this was not an open process. DDOT had met with a select group to gather support and that DDOT is making inconsistent decisions. The PAC has told this to the Mayor. DDOT should spend the money on 5th Street and improving the roads. He insisted this is not about public safety – and asked DDOT to consider other options before deciding.

Submit comments through Fri., Oct. 27 to:

Theodore.vanhouten@dc.gov; Ted Van Houten, DDOT, 55 M Street, SE, Suite 400, Washington DC 20003

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Colbert explained how a new 4D04 commissioner would be elected at ANC 4D's next meeting,

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017 (the poll will be open from 6:30-8pm). Candidates are Chrysanthe Courniotes and Jamie Barden, and only 4D04 residents may vote. To determine which candidate would be listed on top of the ballot, Chair Colbert asked candidates to choose a card from a deck, with Ms. Courniotes picking #5 and Mr. Barden picking #4. Thus, Ms. Courniotes will be listed on top.

Comm. Hemingway introduced Emily Dalphy, Transportation Engineer, 5th/Kansas/Emerson intersection.

In response to complaints about unsignalized crosswalks and confusing walking directions at this intersection, Comm. Hemingway and Comm. Colbert met with Ms. Dalphy to discuss ways to improve the intersection. Ms. Dalphy informed the community that DDOT prefers people cross the street at a controlled crossing, particularly at bus stops. They typically consider how they can move the bus stops closer to the intersection to get pedestrians crossing closer to the signal. For this project, they also will engage WMATA and consider the 62/63 bus lines. The potential bus stop changes are an ongoing discussion. In the meantime, initial short-term recommendations from DDOT are:

- Upgrade signal to be fully ADA compliant. Currently, there are no curb ramps for those with poor vision or disabilities or even a stroller or walker. They would be able to do this easily at 3 of the 4 corners.
 - Making the southwest ramp compliant would have an impact on one resident's garden but not on the public space or parking. They would consider the trade-offs with residents.

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

- Removal of north side of crosswalk at the intersection of Emerson Street and Kansas Ave.
 - This encourages crossing at the signalized intersection of Kansas Ave. and 5th Street.
- Add new high visibility crosswalk markings at Kansas Ave. and 5th Street.
 - This would enhance pedestrian safety.
- Add new high visibility crosswalk markings at the southside of the intersection of Emerson Street and Kansas Ave.
 - This would enhance pedestrian safety.

Comm. Hemingway reminded the community that she and Comm. Colbert would engage the residents directly adjacent to the intersection.

Ms. Dalphy responded to resident questions:

- Taushia Walker – Has DDOT considered a button to press for cars to stop both at Kansas in coordination with two bus stops but also at Emerson? Ms. Dalphy noted that DDOT is limited in how close they can put signals. This is a longer-term option – it takes 1.5 years. Overall goal is to get people cross at signals, but also preserve the ones that are already there. They’ll consider options.
- Wardette Penn – Has been asking for bus to move to the triangle across the street due to the impact that bus riders have on her property. Ms. Dalphy informed the community that a resolution will help with moving bus stops/Wmata engagement.
- Mary Evans – people fly down 5th Street. Can DDOT install a stop sign or signal? Ms. Dalphy says that based on evidence this is not an ideal solution as people are looking ahead at the signal beyond where she is recommending there be a stop sign. This gives people a false sense of security. It is not prudent to put signals back-to-back in this space. DDOT will take a look at it again.

Comm. Hemingway said the ANC might later consider a resolution on moving bus stops.

Comm. Branton announced a Water Forum hosted at Washington Latin PCS, Tues., Oct. 24, 6:30-8:30pm.

On June 19, resident Jonathan Nobil shared a very high DC Water bill on the Petworth listserv. Many residents responded and discussion was emotional. Soon thereafter, Cecily at St. Paul’s Church told Comm. Branton that the church and cemetery’s water bill was \$16,000-18,000 per month. Other churches and cemeteries are having an issue as well. ANC 4D has invited DC Water and others to discuss. NBC’s Tom Sherwood is investigating this issue. At the Forum, we are considering covering lead, water bills and drainage and flooding issues. Residents with high bills will be able to engage onsite with DC Water.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

Jasmin Benab, Mayor’s Office – general updates

- Mayor Bowser celebrated the first day of school by reminding drivers to slow down at school intersections as part of the “Slow Down” campaign.
- Mayor Bowser will soon announce new legislation to protect District seniors and vulnerable adults from financial exploitation and abuse at the 10th Anniversary of the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center.
- Last month Mayor Bowser attended the PAC meeting where we she learned more about a host of concerns like rats, public safety, etc. Thus, every Tuesday, MOCRs are doing multi-agency blitzes – sweeps to abate alley/streets, identify trash/illegal dumping – so each area can have a clean slate. They are engaging residents to let them know when they’ve been through their area.

Malcolm Jolly, Councilmember Brandon Todd's office – Council now in session, more to come soon.

- Resident – what is purpose of new DCRA fine increases? Malcolm will get back to him on this.
- Resident – 9th and Gallatin park needs to be cleaned.
- Resident – DPW needs to clean the trash cans better; trash is hanging out, especially dog poop.

Chair Colbert paused Community Comments to allow the guest speaker to address residents.

Comm. Hemingway introduced guest speaker, Interim Director DC HSEMA Brian Baker, to speak on emergency preparedness. September is National Preparedness Month for the District as designated by Mayor Bowser. As part of this month, they kicked off Ready DC campaign with a new website: ready.DC.gov. They are increasing community outreach and welcome invitations to speak at events.

He shared four keys to preparedness:

1. Be aware
 - a. sign up for AlertDC, a text alert system
 - b. Information on app HSEMA (via iTunes, etc.)
 - c. Geolocation system – shows you where your evacuation route is to get out of city
2. Make a plan
 - a. With your family, neighbors
 - b. What documents you might need if you have to evaluate or leave unexpectedly
 - c. Take pictures of all documents – prescriptions, insurance information, etc. Have hard copy also.
 - d. Include plan for pets, older families
3. Build an emergency kit
 - a. Have a kit ready for your personal situation (you may have power out or shelter in place situation)
 - i. Medication
 - ii. Pet food
 - iii. Supply water, food
4. Stay informed – see “be aware” above
 - a. Watch local news
 - b. Listen to the radio
 - c. Check out HSEMA on social media

Comm. Roth told Mr. Baker she had trouble imagining how to plan without knowing where she could go in advance. He again outlined the guidelines above and on the ready.dc.gov site.

Comm. Bowser asked what special outreach they do for those not online, and also seniors and vulnerable populations. He advised that they can come out to community events to reach more people. He also noted the importance of community – knowing neighbors and checking in on neighbors. She also asked about 16th Street as an evacuation route, but wondered if evacuation is even practical there. Mr. Baker advised that DDOT has traffic pattern scenarios to push people out of the city as well as the ability to change signals as needed. Know your limitations – car, medication, etc. Finally, Comm. Bowser asked if they could do a training program on DC TV? He said they are working on videos. In the meantime, paper materials are available, and they can do a demonstration (with flashlights and special kits).

COMMUNITY COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Luz Martinez, Councilmember-at-Large Robert White's office introduced herself (she is the scheduler) as well as Brianna Bledsoe (Legislative Counsel) (see newsletter for more information).

Jonathan Nobil, 4D resident, spoke about his DC Water bill issues as outlined on the list serv and in Petworth News. A resident asked, why did you replace your meter and who did it? He did not ask for this; DC Water just did it.

Jamie Barden and Chrysanthe Courniotes – Candidates for 4D04 seat – introduced themselves, why they are running, and why 4D04 residents should vote for them.

Robin Ramson, Chess Girls DC, Executive Director, thanked ANC4D and community for their grant. Girls ages 10-14 and 8-10 have participated. This initiative is also supported by Wards 3 and 4 Crime Prevention Center. They are active on Mondays and Wednesdays and soon hopefully Fridays. Girls plays chess at Emery Recreation Center on these days from 4-5:30pm.

Jasmin announced that there was a fire at 4th & Kennedy Streets. The Red Cross has supported. Authorities are still investigating. No injuries but family dog passed away.

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Comm. Hemingway moved to approve the July 2017 minutes as prepared. Comm. Roth seconded the motion. Abstain: Comm. Bowser. The commission approved the July minutes as prepared (4-0-1).

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Comm. Bowser introduced the following monthly Treasurer's Reports. She also noted that all details are found in the packets she prepared and shared on the back table.

- August 2017
 - Beginning: \$17,705.55
 - Ending balance: \$17,863.79
- September 2017
 - Beginning: \$17,863.79
 - Ending balance: \$17,811.79

Comm. Bowser moved that the August and September monthly reports be approved as presented. Comm. Branton seconded. The commission unanimously approved.

Comm. Bowser presented the Q3 quarterly report:

- Q3 2017 Quarterly report
 - Beginning: \$14,028.04
 - Ending balance: \$17,450.24

Comm. Bowser moved that the Q3 quarterly report be approved as presented. Comm. Branton seconded. The commission unanimously approved.

Comm. Bowser noted that we had to revote on the Q1 and Q2 quarterly reports due to adjustments to the 1st quarter and other adjustments and correcting the reconciliation figures on the 2nd quarter. She presented the following:

- Q2 2017 Quarterly report:
 - Beginning balance: \$15,397.04
 - Ending balance: \$14,028.04
- Q1 2017 Quarterly report
 - Beginning balance: \$17,237.32
 - Ending balance: \$15,397.04

Comm. Bowser moved that the Q1 and Q2 quarterly reports be approved as presented. Comm. Hemingway seconded the motion. The commission unanimously approved.

Comm. Hemingway asked whether ANC would use the DC Auditor's online system and Comm. Bowser said ANC 4D would use a manual spreadsheet system for now, as described in the Q3 paperwork.

Comm. Roth thanked Comm. Bowser for her tenacity in analyzing the numbers and working with OANC to reconcile our Commission's budget/ledger.

Comm. Bowser said ANC 4D FY 2018 budget would be introduced at Oct. meeting.

Commissioner Announcements

1. Sherman Circle Social: Sun., Sept. 24, 4-5:30pm.
2. National Parks Day/Sherman Circle Clean Up: Sat., Sept. 30, 10:30am.
3. 4D Fun Day: Truesdell field, 800 Ingraham St NW, Sat., Oct. 14, noon-4pm.
4. Halloween Parade for Kids: Sherman Circle, Sun., Oct. 29, 4-6pm.
5. Sparkle Lunch & Dancing for Seniors 60+: Hattie Holmes, Sat., Nov. 17, 11am-3:30pm.
6. Holiday Party & Coat Drive: Castello's, Fri., Dec. 1, 6-9pm.
7. Job Announcement – 4D seeks a part-time assistant; contact Chair Colbert.

Chair Colbert adjourned the meeting at 8:35PM.