

ADVISORY NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSION 1B
Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

Thursday, June 6th, 2013,
7:00 PM, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street N.W.

The regular monthly meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B occurred on Thursday, June 6th, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center, Commissioner Tony Norman being present as chair. Other commissioners present during the meeting: Dyana Forester, E. Gail Anderson Holness, Zahra Jilani, Juan Lopez, Sedrick Muhammad, Ricardo Reinoso, Jeremy Leffler, Marc Morgan, James Turner and Emily Washington. Commissioner Deborah Thomas was not present.

Chairperson Tony Norman observed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Presentations

Sam Washington, a representative of Historically Black Colleges and Universities chapter of DC (HBCU) and a co-chair of HBCU Erin Horne McKinney, made a presentation. He announced that a 5k/2k run to raise money for scholarships in the Washington D.C. area at Howard University would take place June 29th.

Holness asked if there was any specific thing the presenters wanted. They said that the presentation was purely informational and to let affected ANCs know.

Holness asked how people could get engaged. They said that people could visit www.hbcu.org for more information. He also said there would also be a health and college fair at the library.

The single-member districts the race will go through will be 10, 11 and 1.

The presenters said that there would be a flyer campaign to let the community know about the race. They added that this is the first time this event will take place in the District of Columbia.

Dyana asked what the impact will be on traffic. The presenters said that there would be very little impact on traffic because the size of the race it would not require any road closures.

The chairman opened public comment.

A man commented he supported the race but asked HBCU to include the locals.

Community Events, Announcements, Comments and Concerns

Commissioner Juan Lopez and Commissioner Emily Washington introduce themselves to the ANC.

Sedrick Muhammad announced that he would be holding his monthly meeting Wednesday, July 3rd, at the Christopher Price House

Holness announced that she would be holding her monthly meeting June 13 7 p.m. at 4th and W.

Morgan announced the LaDroit Park civic association would be meeting June 28th 7 p.m. At the Florida Avenue Baptist Church

Leffler announced the ABC committee would be meeting June 19th at the Thurgood Marshall Center at 7-9 p.m.

Holness said that the Grants committee would be meeting June 10th. She also announced that in July Delta Sigma Theta sorority incorporated would be celebrating its 100th anniversary in D.C.

Tony Norman announced there would be a community meeting for the development at 965 Florida avenue June 11th at the D.C. Housing Finance Agency 1815 Florida Avenue N.W. There will be a special ANC meeting June 20th to make a selection on which developer should be selected for the sight at the Reeves center.

Muhammad said Turner emailed him about a scheduled outage in the area of 13th and Euclid, Euclid between 11th and 12th, 11th and Fairmont, Georgia Avenue and Gresham.

Zahra Jilani announced a Sustainable U meeting at June 19th the Lawrence Dunbar apartments where there would be discussion about switching to wind energy.

Meridian Hill Neighborhood Association announced they would have a contingent at the D.C. Pride Parade that weekend.

The chairman of the transportation committee announced that they meet the last Thursday of every month at Thurgood Marshall. They are planning a meeting about widening 11th street.

Gary Clarke Sr., a representative of Pep Rally for Peace in the Streets, announced on July 27th they would hold the 8th Annual Feed the Homeless Project outside the Howard Theater. He also said that there is a tremendous rise of homeless youth and that would be the focus for this year.

A man named Mack announced a tournament of games on 14th and Gerard Park.

Kevin McMahon announced he opened a Frozen-Yo business across the street from Howard University and wanted to introduce himself to the community. His wife asked that if anyone is doing a fundraiser she would be willing to donate coffee and offered to donate coffee to meetings.

John from the Town Nightclub said that, as a member of the ABC committee, he wanted to defend the ABC committee, saying that they had a difficult task of going through every restaurant license at the same time. He felt that the ABC committee wasn't given the respect it deserved from the committee.

Tony Norman responded that the commission respects the ABC committee and he said that the commission never had a position that the ABC committee was dysfunctional.

Presentations (cont'd)

The Carlson family is asking for a curb cut. They have a letter of support from the DDOT and council member Graham.

Ronald Carlson, Gloria Carlson, 1800 Vermont Avenue. Purchased the property in 2007 and renovated the location at 2008. Requesting a letter of support for a curb cut on the 11th street. The owner claims that because there is no alley access to the property, the property is entitled to a curb cut. They hired an architect to design the smallest curb cut possible.

Norman stated he supports the Carlson families and he said this issue would normally go to the transportation committee, but there was a mix-up, and he apologized for the confusion.

Lopez makes a motion to support, Tony seconds. There is no objection. Motion passed.

Leffler announced the opening of Hospitality Highschool within the ANC at 9th and T.

Three representatives of the new highschool made a presentation to introduce themselves to the community. They will move in on June 17th and begin classes on June 20th. It is a college preparatory school that prepares students for a career in the hospitality industry. They specifically target students with low academic performance. The representatives believe that this would be a way to improve the prospects for local students. They mention that entry-level positions in the hospitality industry are often better paying than those of other industries.

Tony opened up community comments. There were no community comments.

Officer's Report

Approval of Minutes

Norman asked for a motion of approval of the minutes. Commissioner Muhammad moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Forester seconds.

A representative of JBG Gragg asked without objection if the previous month's minutes and each month moving forward that each incidence of "JBG" instead read "JBG Gragg". There was no objection.

There was no objection to the acceptance of the minutes. Unanimous approval of the minutes.

Public Safety Committee

Lieutenant Deborah Pierce made a presentation. She reported a 15% drop in robberies in the last 30 days in PSA 303 and 304. She said there is a trend of robberies of people in cars and also robberies by 4-5 juvenile females. 304 has had a theft of mail problems but Pierce has said the police department

is working on identifying the subjects. There has also been a problem of bicycle thefts. She asked that those with stolen bikes to visit the MPD website to identify their bike.

Pierce also warned about residents leaving the door ajar as they are taking out trash, as this is how thieves gain access to condo and apartment complexes.

A resident complained of police officers not being proactive about a group of juvenile drug users who frequent 14th and Clifton. Pierce responded that few complaints had been made in that area, but that she would look into it.

A man complained about a group of loiterers in PSA 305, who take drugs and defecate in the area. Pierce suggested the resident use text number 50411, which dispatches to a Washington commander and would get generally better response.

Norman opened up community comments.

A man praised Commander Pierce.

Another resident asked about the National Bike Registry.

A business owner talked about 10 men on the 2000 block of 14th street who harass customers, drink and urinate. He asked if there was any way of moving them along. Pierce said she would take care of it.

Grants Committee

Mrs. Holness introduced Mack to come present to the committee.

Mack talked about the “Tournament of Games”, which he called a opportunity for people in the area to come together. Events include basketball, food and dancing contests. This would take place in Columbia Heights on July 27th. He requested a grant of \$500.

Holness expressed her support for the Tournament of Games.

Norman said there might be a limit on grants.

Holness said in response there was an increase in the budget of the grants committee and that they had not received any requests for grants. She also said that there should be an exception for this grant because of the importance of this particular program.

Leffler said that perhaps the issue should be tabled until July as there was uncertainty and that Turner was not present to clarify these issues. He motioned to table this issue until the July ANC meeting. Dyana Forester seconds. There was no objection.

Norman asked Mack if tabling this would effect the tournament. He said no.

Noman said he was a strong supporter of the tournament but that the commission should follow

its own policies.

Mack complained that the processes of the grants committee are quite difficult to understand and inconsistent.

Washington said she looked forward to the event.

Design Review Committee

Norman said that the proposal for the artwork on T street will be resubmitted and no action was required.

There is a proposal for a basement renovation on a historic property on 330 T street. The design committee approved it. Morgan said he supported it. Morgan moved to support the basement renovation to the historic review board. Holness seconded. There was no objection.

The committee approved the proposal for a additional third floor at 2315 15th street. Reinoso said he supported the project. The owner says he has approval from both neighbors and the Meridian Hill Neighborhood Association. There was no community comments. Reinoso moved to support the exception. Morgan seconded. There was no objection.

The committee reviewed and supported the proposal for 2737 13th street. The proposal is for a third floor addition. The owner had letters of support from neighbors. The owner requested a letter of support for the historic review board. Washington moved to support the proposed renovation to the historic review board. Muhammad seconded. There was no objection.

The committee reviewed the Shaw-DuPont Citizen's Association (SDCA) on their zoning appeal, and had recommended to take no action. The zoning appeal could potentially cause an establishment called the Compass Rose to lose their liquor license.

Leffler asked why, seeing as they had already voted to approve the liquor license of the Compass Rose, this issue was being brought up again. Norman answered this was not technically about the liquor license but was a zoning issue.

The SDCA said the appeal was about the process of zoning. They believe the cap of liquor licenses have been met because of the arts overlay district.

Jilani expressed her support for the Compass Rose.

Norman said that this is not normally something the ANC would weigh in on as this has to do with a legal interpretation.

A representative of the Compass Rose made a presentation. She said that she believes the SDCA is using this to target her establishment. She says that the establishment went through all the proper channels and that the location's use as a drinking establishment has been established for over 10 years. She also said that this is an appeal of an email sent by the board of zoning administrator and that emails cannot be appealed. She says that the establishment has been harassed legally by the SDCA.

The SDCA representative countered that they had given notice that they believe the Compass Rose is in violation.

The representative from the Compass Rose said that while the establishment has not yet received their liquor license, she has gone through all the proper channels and has received support from the board of zoning appeals. She also says that she has signed a voluntary agreement with the SDCA.

Turner asked why they were discussing an issue for which they had no jurisdiction. Morgan said he didn't think this was a credible case.

Leffler made a motion to send a letter to the DCRA saying they voted to support the Compass Rose for their liquor license and that the commission believes they would make a great addition to the neighborhood. Morgan seconds. No objection raised. The motion passes with unanimous approval.

The SDCA representative asked for a roll-call vote. Norman said there being no objection there was no need for a roll-call vote.

Norman said that the design review committee had no specific recommendation on the proposed Meridian Hill historic district.

Reinoso says that he has been in discussion with the different parties.

Holness introduced the developer for the Howard Town Center, Eric Siegel. She expressed her support for the developer and the project.

Siegel asked for the ANC to support the Howard Town Center to be recognized as a project of special merit for the mayor's agent. He said that the two historic properties on the location, the WRECO bus garage and the Bond Bread Building, has seriously hampered the development. He said that preserving the facades of the building with cost an additional \$14-15 million. He says that it's impossible to excavate the contaminated soil under these buildings and also keep the buildings intact. He asks for the ANC to recognize the Howard Town Center as a project with a great deal of community benefits.

Forester asked if the developers have coordinated with development on 965 Florida avenue that will also include a grocery store. Holness responded she thought the question was unfair as no one had been awarded that development. Forester restated her question as whether the developers plan on working with the 965 Florida avenue development.

Eric Siegel responded that they would.

Norman said that the design committee voted to support the development at the Howard Town Center.

Forester moved to support the Howard Town Center as a project of special merit. Holness seconded. There was no objection.

Holness said that her residents are excited about the project.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Turner introduced himself.

He said that the ending balance of April \$43,105. Two expenses, \$800 for a contracted employee and a service charge of \$1.48. They received a quarterly allotment of \$6,108.45, minus \$600 for incomplete receipts.

Turner moved approval of the report. Muhammad seconds.

Leffler asked for printed copies of treasury reports in advance.

Turner said that at the treasurer's meeting he learned that the allotments of FY2014 would be flat of about \$26,000 per year.

There was a vote on the motion to accept the treasurer's report. All in favor except one abstention.

ABC Committee

Leffler talked about the moratorium. They had a hearing on the moratorium, where Leffler expressed his opposition to the moratorium. He noted the mayor is now opposed the moratorium as are some council members.

Leffler noted that the ANC has missed a few deadlines when it comes to sending letters on protests. He wanted to note for the record that there needs to be better communication amongst the chairs of the committees and those responsible for sending letters. He also said that he inquired under what conditions ABRA would accept late letters. He said that the only extenuating circumstances they accept are death and serious illness. He also said that there was some attrition on the ABC committee as a few members have dropped out. He said that there should be a community meeting to establish policies on standardizing ABC issues. He would like to establish such standards by the end of the summer.

Norman added that it's extremely important to establish a standard of when liquor licenses should be protested.

Leffler said he is already working on some standards and that the ABC committee has a working group. They are looking at ANC 2B as a template.

There was a review of the application for the alcohol license of Bravo Lounge. The ABC committee had voted to protest the license until the patio hours were revised. However, Leffler believed that there was little reason to protest the liquor license as the owner was taking action. Leffler recommended no action.

There was a review of the application for the alcohol license of Ching. This is a new establishment hoping to open in 6 months. There was a motion made by the ABC committee to protest the establishment's alcohol license pending revised outdoor hours to hour 11 weeknights, midnight weekend, also to ask the commissioner to negotiate a Settlement Agreement to deal with outside noise mitigation requirements and outdoor litter and debris control, plus additional enforceable settlement agreement items per ABRA.

Leffler motions to protest the alcohol license of Ching on peace, order and quiet pending revised outdoor hours to hour 11 weeknights, midnight weekend, and to enter a settlement agreement to mitigate noise. Lopez seconds. Washington asked for a roll call. All vote in the affirmative except Washington, who votes no. Motion passes.

The committee recommended to protest the application of Ching based on the class of license to change from CT to CR. Leffler made no motion, stating he was uncomfortable forcing an establishment to change its license.

Morgan said it was a slippery slope for a commissioner to not make a motion based on the recommendations of his committee.

Leffler said he wasn't preventing anyone from making motion, he just didn't want to make a motion himself. He said that the reasoning behind protesting on the basis of license is that a CR would adhere to peace, order and quiet while a CT doesn't.

Leffler motioned to send feedback to the ABC committee stating that the commission did not feel this was enforceable and did not act on it. Norman seconds. There was no objection.

He reported that the ABC committee voted no action the Lincoln Theatre. They voted to support &pizza's full license.

A representative of &pizza introduced himself. He said that &pizza makes personal, gourmet pizzas. They will serve beer and wine. The store hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Marc noted that the commission voted to support a stipulated license.

The representative said that the plan was to get a stipulated license to tide them over until they could get a permanent license.

An attendee expressed her opposition to an establishment selling beer and wine at a late hour near a subway station.

Another attendee asked the store to limit the sale of alcohol at night.

The representative said he was happy to discuss concerns like that.

Morgan noted there were no residences near the establishment.

Another attendee said that she'd feel more safe with a store that is open late at night.

Another attendee said that he supports the establishment.

Jilani made a motion to support the establishment. Seconded by Norman. Forester wanted to note for the record she supported it. No objection. Motion passes.

Leffler said that he tried to get into contact with Queen Makeda but that they wouldn't respond. The establishment had 16 violations totaling \$20,000 and the establishment wasn't cooperative with ABRA. The establishment is now called Kiss Lounge. There was a unanimous vote to protest.

Leffler motioned to protest the liquor license of Queen Makeda. Morgan seconds. There was no objection. Motion passes.

The ABC committee took no action on Piola and the Black Cat. There was a settlement agreement change with the Black Cat.

The ABC committee voted to support the license change of El Rey.

A representative of El Rey said the establishment was changing from a taqueria to a German beer garden. He says the establishment is planning on developing an empty lot and is working on noise mitigation. They are building a 10 foot wall for noise mitigation along with a retractable roof.

Leffler made a motion to support El Rey in its substantial change. Turner seconds. All vote in favor with one abstention.

The ABC committee voted to table the discussion of Alero until negotiations have transpired. There were a number of modifications to the settlement agreement pending. The commission had previously voted to protest the establishment.

Jilani motion to approve the settlement agreement of Alero and hence lift the protest.

Leffler noted that the SDCA agreed to sign the settlement agreement but that the owner now doesn't want them to sign.

A representative of Alero said that they are working on the settlement agreement, but that the provisions about the summer hours were unacceptable to them. The representative said that he only wanted to sign an agreement between the ANC and Alero, not with the SDCA.

Muhammad asked what the feelings of the Ellington apartments were. The owner said that he had support from Ellington apartment and that most complaints came from the 13th street side.

Forester seconds Jilani's motion. There are three abstentions, all others in favor. Motion passes.

Lopez asked why Leffler didn't make a motion to protest. Leffler said that the owner was inexperienced and not knowledgeable of the process and that he trusts the man to go through the ABRA process.

Lopez makes a motion to protest the liquor license of the Bravo Lounge until the amended patio hours have been approved by the single-member district. Leffler seconds.

Norman asks the committee to vote down the protest as such a protest can be extremely onerous on small businesses.

Leffler clarifies that the protest would stand until the patio hours have been revised.

There was no objection to the motion.

Transportation Committee

Ben Clemens, the chair of the transportation committee, introduced himself. He noted that meetings are on the third Thursday of every month.

He discussed the street the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) wants to build through the middle of the block of 965 Florida Avenue. They discussed several proposals on the street. DDOT was against any closing the street to traffic. The transportation committee recommended the creation of a “woonerf”, which is a street that cars drive at walking speed to allow pedestrian traffic. Clemens said DDOT liked the proposal.

Turner asked if the transportation committee wanted W street reopened. Clemens said that they would.

Tony noted there would be a public meeting on the issue on the 11th, and that they would be discussing the issue during the design committee on the 17th.

Clemens said that in many parts of the world woonerfs are popular and have actually reduced traffic accidents.

Muhammad expressed his support for the proposal.

Turner asked how many people were in the transportation committee. Clemens said it was just him.

Turner said he would look for someone in his single-member district to join the transportation committee and has asked others to do so as well.

Muhammad suggested the transportation committee make a survey on what residents would like to have done with the road.

Norman said the meeting times should be announced on the listservs to build interest in the committee.

A local resident, Sharon Johnson, said she was concerned with the 1300 block of New York Avenue with the pedestrian crossings and asked the commission to deal with it. Clemens said he would

look into it. Muhammad said that that location is not in ANC 1B.

Leffler made a motion to have draft minutes and draft letters withing five business days. There was no second.

Morgan said the motion wasn't realistic, and that the committees could send in their own letters if they wanted to.

Norman said with the new staff person he didn't expect to have similar problems.

Lopez said the final responsibility for signing letter was the single-member district commissioner.

Leffler makes a motion to adjourn. Jilani seconds. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.