

ADVISORY NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSION 1B
Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

Thursday, July 11th, 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 11th, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center, Commissioner Tony Norman being present as chair. Other commissioners present during the meeting: E. Gail Anderson Holness, Juan Lopez, Sedrick Muhammad, Ricardo Reinoso, Jeremy Leffler, Marc Morgan, James Turner and Emily Washington. Commissioners Deborah Thomas, Dyana Forester and Zahra Jilani were not present.

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

Announcements

Chairperson opens introductions. Leffler, Reinoso, Morgan, Norman, Turner and Washington introduce themselves.

Norman announced that the design committee is not meeting this month.

Leffler announced the ABC committee meeting is moved to the 8th.

Chairperson opens community announcements.

A man calling himself Gerard criticizes the committee for failing to get 10 letters of protests through for the ABC committee. He gave the chairman the list of the establishments.

Norman said that for a number of the protests, the letter was due for the following Monday. He also said that the ANC would be addressing the issues that caused the original delay.

Leffler said that he tried to email the chairman and the staff person about the issue earlier but did not receive a response in time to resolve it.

Norman said that this was an important issue, and it is partly the responsibility of the Chair, the single district member or the applicants to tell the ANC the deadline of each letter, the ANC is too understaffed to figure out the dates themselves.

Gerard said that the ANC had a poor record of filing letters of protest recently.

Norman responded that the ANC was hold weekly internal meetings to resolve the issue.

Morgan calls the roll. Morgan, Leffler, Muhammad, Reinoso, Forester, Lopez, Washington,

Turner, Norman are present at the time of roll call.

Presentations

Turner says that this week the Mayor, Councilmember Graham and Darren Jones did a ribbon cut on the Sherman Avenue street-scaping project. James introduces a resolution is to recognize Darren Jones for his effort on the street-scape project and commitment to ANC 1B and Washington D.C. He gave a brief biography of Darren Jones. He motions for approval.

Mohammad seconds.

Norman thanks Turner and Jones for their work.

Mohammad says Jones is great leader.

No objections. Motion passed. Unanimous approval of motion.

Norman introduces a representative from JBG

She say she had been before the ANC in the last year to develop several parcels on Sherman avenue. Went through historical process. Construction is planned in the parcel within the next 30 days with Balfour Beatty. Construction will take 21 months to complete.

Someone asks about the traffic impact.

The representative says they have a specific plant with DDOT. They said they would avoid using main thoroughfares in busy hours.

Turner asks Tony what process the developers will go through as they get approval.

Tony said that the ANC have already gone through the process and the ANC had voted on this 3 times.

Tony asked JBG about a property they sold a property on 13th street. He said that he was disturbed by this. He worries the new developers might not have the same promises to the community.

JBG says that it's extremely tough to know when they need to sell.

Tony suggests that agreements should go with the land.

Turner said that this was an important role for the design committee.

Tony introduces a representative from the mayor's office.

The representative there would be a town hall meeting about a new health care law taking place Tuesday, July 23rd at 6:30.

Tony added the mayor's office would be taking a tour of the district, and encouraged commissioners to contact the mayor's office about issues in their area.

Commissioner Muhammad introduces himself to the committee. He also announces his next meeting will be on August 7th at the Christopher Price House.

Committee Reports

Approval of Minutes

Tony asked if there was any corrections of the June 6th minutes.

Corrections:

Fix spelling of Muhammad's name.

Change Matt to Mack. And Gerard street.

John from Town Nightclub, not Midtown Nightclub.

Change to 965 Florida avenue from 925 Florida avenue.

Vote needs to added for the Compass Rose.

Morgan moves to accept the minutes. Mohammad seconds. Minutes for June 6th were approved unanimously.

Tony asked if there were any corrections of the June 20th minutes.

Corrections:

Change 925 to 965 Florida Avenue.

Morgan moves to accept minutes. Mohammad seconds. 6 yea. 2 abstentions. Mohammed and Leffler abstained. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report

Turner says ANC treasury is \$32,000, and that they received their allotment of \$6100. Turner says there were four expenditures: printing and copying for \$130, service of the independent contractor, web hosting charge for \$55 and service charge from Industrial bank for \$6. Turner moves approval. Lopez seconds.

Leffler asks if the ANC is clear on 2012 expenditures.

There was also a minor discrepancy that the D.C. auditor is looking into. Turner says that the ANC made a clerical error and accidentally made several IRNs for a previous employee. The ANC may need to pay roughly \$2,000, and then will probably receive a refund.

Leffler asked about a previous motion to pay for moratorium town hall. Turner said that it's been paid.

No objection to the treasurer's report. Unanimous consent, motion passes.

Norman said they Turner, Morgan and the staff person are meeting once a week to resolve logistical issues, every Thursday at 6pm. He invites any commissioners to sit in the meeting.

Norman also said he would begin trying to start with the least controversial committees first.

Leffler says the ANC should rotate committees.

Transportation Committee

Norman introduces Klemens of the transportation committee.

Klemens said that JBG is asking for curb cuts for Atlantic Plumbing sites at 8th and V streets with underground parking areas. The transportation committee recommends not opposing the curb cuts.

Reinoso asked whether the design review committee had made no action on the same issue. Klemens said he didn't know.

Mohammad asks if there was a representative of JBG to speak.

A representative of JBG said that they would prefer a wants a letter of support form the ANC for the curb cuts. There would be 2 curb cuts, and would actually reduce the number of curb cuts. This was presented to the Design Review Committee. The project is by right, it will include 5000 square feet of retail and includes artist studios. They would also need approval for special pavers. They hope to begin construction in August.

Tony says the design committee expressed concern that the aesthetics weren't pleasing.

Reinoso moves to support JBG in their request for curb cuts and specialty pavers. Mohammad seconds.
Unanimous consent.

Klemens says that at 1300-1400 block of W street, despite being marked no heavy vehicles, WMATA sends off-duty buses down street. Moved to send a letter to WMATA to stop moving buses down W street.

Mohammad asks if MPD has contacted WMATA.

Klemens says WMATA has ignored MPD as far as he knows.

Lopez moved to send a letter to WMATA to ask that they send a representative to the transportation committee to explain their reasoning for sending buses down W street. Turner seconds.

Unanimous approval by the committee.

Grants Committee

Holness introduces herself. She says she has to excuse herself after her committee agenda. Holness asks Norman to move the design committee up on the agenda. Norman agrees.

Holness submits the Grant committee report to be approved and to accept the Grant committee's recommendation to increase the cap to \$1,000.

Turner explains that the current cap is \$500 per year per grantee and the current budget is \$7,000. No one has submitted grants this year.

Holness moves to increase the grant cap to \$1,000 and to allow multiple grant requests provided the grantee has multiple programs of value to the community. Washington seconds.

Reinoso asks why the \$500 cap was set.

Holness says they originally had a low budget, but since then the budget has been increased.

Morgan asked what the budget of the Grants committee was.

Holness answered \$7,000.

Leffler asked what the grants committee has done to advertise this service.

Holness said that publicizing the grants committee is the treasurer's job and that he has put the information on the website.

Leffler expresses curiosity about why there isn't more than one grant application.

Holness answered that the grants committee has done an adequate job of advertising its services, but that there is simply less need for grants this year.

Lopez expressed that before increasing anything that they should have a look at the budget, perhaps into more staff to fix logistical issues. He suggests keeping the budget as it is until the ANC fixes their internal issues.

Turner explains the reason why the ANC has increased the budget is because grants are very important to running an ANC and is a core function of an ANC.

Holness says they need to accommodate the community before there is a focus on staff.

Morgan pointed out the ANC doesn't have to grant \$1000 for each grant.

Holness adds the reason why there has been few grants is that there are few community organizations that need grants.

Leffler disagrees with Holness, saying there are many associations that need money and are taking it from developers. Leffler recommends to limit the the number of grant requests to two per year.

Holness says this is the first time she has served as chair of grants committee, but that she has lived in community for over 30 years and the ANC should throw its support behind any worthy community organization. She calls for the question.

The motion was restated: it is to raise the grants cap from \$500 to \$1,000 and to eliminate the restrictions on multiple grants as long as the grantee has programs in the community.

Mohammad comments that the ANC has been in financial shambles, and if this is changed it might result in financial difficulty. Lopez seconds Mohammad's statement.

Washington asks Turner when the decision to budget \$7,000 for the grants committee was.

Turner answers last August.

Mohammad said we shouldn't have an open invitation for as many grants as possible.

Motion is up for a vote. 5 in favor, 4 opposed, motion passes.

Holness moves to give a \$500 grant to Mack Thompson for his Tournament of Games. Morgan seconds.

Norman states that he is a supporter of the Tournament of Games.

Mack Thompson says that the Games will take place on the last Saturday of July 27th.

Washington congratulated Mack for including high school students..

6 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Holness asks to leave.

Leffler makes a motion to limit to 2 grantees per 6 month for every 6 month period. Morgans seconds.

Turner asks that the commission look at what funds are available for next year.

Mohammad says that it doesn't look good to vote on something involving grants while Holness isn't here is deceptive.

Turner says that the number of grants given cannot exceed the budget allocated to the grants committee.

Leffler calls for the question.

Washington makes a friendly amendment to limiting grantees to apply twice a year instead of once every 6 months.

Mohammad reiterated that it is deceptive to vote on something after the chair has left.

Tony says that she was in the room when the motion was made.

Leffler says that his motion is not hostile to that of Holness.

The motion is to limit to no more than twice a year to grant to the same grantee.

Lopez asks whether it is fiscal or calendar year.

Leffler clarifies every fiscal year.

4 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions. Motion passes.

Design Review Committee

Jamison Grella, the resident of 416 W street, presents to the ANC. The concept is for a roof deck and a roof access vestibule. There was one amendment from the original concept, to move the W street side railing so it wasn't visible from the street. He has reached out to abutting neighbours, both of whom are supportive.

Norman asked whether they have received support from the civic association.

Grella answered they were pending a decision from their civic association.

Leffler asked whether he had reached out to his single member district commissioner Zahra Jilani.

Grella says he hadn't reached out to Zahra Jilani, and that he didn't realize he had an individual commissioner until this evening.

Reinoso asked if anyone was opposed.

Grella said no one objects to the building. He says that the drawings would be submitted to OHP in a week.

Washington asked what the recommendation of the design committee was.

Norman said the design committee voted to approve unanimously.

Lopez asked why design committee didn't ask them about single member district commissioner.

Norman said that he had asked whether he had met his single member district person but that he didn't know who his specific SMD was. He added that every commissioner gets a copy of every project and so Jilani had opportunity to object.

Leffler says the design committee should individually inform single member district people

when there is a project in their district.

Norman said that the design committee doesn't have the staff to work out every project's single member district.

Morgan moves approval. Washington seconds.

4 yes. Lopez is opposed. 3 abstentions. Motion passes.

Public Safety Committee

Muhammad gave a 30 day public safety report for June 9th to July 9th. There was 1 homicide 21 robberies with no gun, 2 armed robberies with a gun, 3 reports of assaults with dangerous weapon. 35 violent crimes reported. 6 reports of burglary, 42 reports of theft, 38 reports of theft from auto, 6 reports of auto, for 96 incidents of property crime. Someone was murdered in Muhammad's district on July 4th. Every time there is a murder there is an emergency meeting. Muhammad said that people need to be more conscious of their surroundings. There was a memorial service last night. There was a proposal to ceremonially rename the 700 block of Fairmont Street in his honor to Omar Sykes street. Mohammad makes a motion to support the renaming of the street. Morgan seconds.

Turner asks to format this into a resolution from the commission..

Turner related about the emergency meeting, saying that the meeting was about how people can organize for safety.

Muhammad mentioned there is a plan to start a neighborhood watch.

Leffler said the commission should start an action plan.

Muhammad said they are working with MPD but that he can't share any details. But he added that the commission can step up for public safety.

No objection to motion to rename the 700 block of Fairmont Street to Omar Sykes street. Unanimous approval.

ABC Committee

Leffler gives the ABC committee report.

ABC previously voted for approval of midlevel deck behind establishment for Dixon Wine Bar. Now the establishment wants to utilize a back patio. This constitutes a substantial change. There will be speakers but not live entertainment. There is no abutting residence. The ABC committee vote unanimously to vote for substantial change. Leffler motions to support the ABC committee's recommendation

Turner seconds. No objection. Approval by unanimous consent.

Leffler says that the Right Proper establishment is applying for a CT license. Leffler says the ABC committee voted to protest the establishment pending they come before the ANC commission

The owner expresses excited to come into Shaw. He says it is intended to be neighborhood brew pub. The license is a tavern but is a full service restaurant because a CT license is required to brew beer. It is a family friendly restaurant. It is located at 1620 14th street right next to Howard Theater. There will be no loud music.

Morgan mentioned that LeDroit Park civic association supports the establishment.

Leffler says that it's clear that this is not a late night establishment.

Morgan makes a motion to support the license. Leffler seconds. Approved by unanimous consent.

Leffler introduces the owner of Pelican's Rum. This was formerly the Jamaican Jerk place at Vermont and U. He wants to serve higher end and rum based food. He wants to serve outside. He previously agreed to amend application to close at 11 during week because there are abutting property owners. Since then there was an objection sent via email.

The property owner says that he had opportunity to take over Jamaican Joe's. He says it would be better for fine dining. He passes photographs of outside patio. He had originally thought that he had an understanding with his neighbor but has recently received a note from neighbor that there was new concerns but doesn't know what those concerns are.

Muhammad asks where the trash receptacles are located.

The property owner says trash is in back area.

The Pelican's Rum neighbor says that the establishment's outdoor component would sacrifice her privacy in her home.

Morgan asks whether the two of them had met to resolve this.

The owner says he hasn't had the chance to resolve this issue.

Leffler asks whether the neighbor wanted to close the outdoor space entirely or whether she'd be fine with fewer hours.

The neighbor says that the outdoor space for the home is unacceptable.

Norman asked for Leffler's recommendation.

Leffler said either to table until August if the ANC is meeting in August, or, if not meeting in August, to have an executive meeting.

Morgan believes the outside patio is too small and violates the neighbor's privacy.

Leffler makes a motion to protest until he can sit down with both parties. Muhammad seconds.

Unanimous approval to protest.

Leffler encourages all to look at proposed standards for liquor licenses. He believes that they need to convene with the community to discuss new standards for liquor licenses.

Morgan says that Mr. Clarke has time sensitive project and a request for funding.

Mr. Clarke has an organization called Pep Rally for Peace in the Streets. The program is to feed homeless people. It will be on July 27th and outside Howard Theater. The budget is \$1500 and needs \$1100. The contribution would cover t-shirts.

Morgan moves to support Pep Rally for Peace \$500 for t-shirts. Leffler seconds. No objection. Unanimous approval of motion.

The commission decides to have a meeting in August.

Morgan makes a motion to adjourn. Lopez seconds.