

ADVISORY NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSION 1B
Government of the District of Columbia

Minutes

Thursday, September 5th, 2013,
7:00 PM, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street N.W.

The regular monthly meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B occurred on Thursday, September 5th, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the Reeves Center, Commissioner Tony Norman being present as chair. Other commissioners present during the meeting: Sedrick Muhammad, Emily Washington, Ricardo Reinoso, Jeremy Leffler, Dyana Forester, Juan Lopez, James Turner and E. Gail Anderson Holness. Commissioners Deborah Thomas, Zahra Jilani and Marc Morgan were not present.

Chairperson Tony Norman did not observe the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order informally at 7:00 PM.

Commissioners Juan Lopez, James Turner, Tony Norman and Ricardo Reinoso introduce themselves.

Community Announcements

Frank Maduro introduced himself as the Ward 1 liaison for the mayor, and said he's here to assist with any concerns.

Lieutenant Allan A.C. Griffith III introduced himself as being the new police commander of the Rock Creek Station which has responsibility for Meridian Hill Park and African American Civil War Memorial, Carter G. Woodson House, Asbury Park, Marconi Park and Cardinal Gibbons Park. He said he'll be at ancillary meetings on safety issues, and he said he can be contact no just from the standpoint of law enforcement, but also as the super-intendant of the park. He invited people to email him at allan_griffith@nps.gov or call him with the number (202) 426 7716 EXT. 17 or 18. He also gave the dispatch number for 202 610 7500, which is for immediate problems.

Turner asked what the scope of Griffith's responsibility was and how that would be different from calling other dispatch numbers.

Griffith said that they would be responsible for anything in or around parks. He also said there was no special connection between them and 911 calling the dispatch number directly would result in faster response.

Turner asked if he was attacked in Logan Circle if he should call the dispatch number.

Griffith said in emergency situations he should call 911, but in non-emergency situations he should call the dispatch number.

Griffith said he can be contacted through Reinoso.

A woman asked where she should go about parks outside of Griffith's jurisdiction

Griffith said she should go to nps.gov for federal parks and to go to the local D.C. government for city parks. He said city parks have green signs and federal park signs are brown.

Commissioner Emily Washington introduced herself. She said Forester, Reinoso and herself would be having a meeting at the Rita Bright Center on Saturday, 10:30.

Reinoso announced his weekly runs that would meet at 6:30 AM at the Reeves Center. He also announced that there is a new flea market on September 14th from 10 AM to 5 PM at 945 Florida Ave.

The D.C. Fire Chief said that over the last two or three years they have been trying to improve response time, and that response time has improved by almost a minute. He said that about 25% live in the District, which makes it difficult to have good response time. He proposes a 12 hour shift, which means a higher percentage of workers show up in any given day. This increases the workload, but there is a new contract offered to the union that compensates for the increase in time. He said that the military can't always respond in the event of something catastrophic. They have bought 30 new ambulances. He offered free blood pressure checks.

Turner expressed that first responders are underpaid. He asked how the D.C. government would make the city more affordable in the city for first responders.

The Chief mentioned some programs that first responders could use.

E. Gail Anderson Holness introduces herself.

A woman asked why an EMS unit caught on fire.

The D.C. Fire Chief said they did not know.

The woman asked if there was going to be a report released to everyone about how the EMS unit caught fire.

He responded they would be releasing a report when it is ready.

A woman asked what percentage and how many emergency personnel lived in D.C.

He said 25% out of 2,000 personnel.

Tony Norman thanked the fire chief.

Leffler introduces himself.

Holness introduces herself. She added that Howard University was playing against Morehouse College.

Norman added that Howard University started a task force to address safety.

James Turner introduced a resolution: Whereas Darren Jones is a proud Washingtonian, grew up in Pleasant Plains, and came from Catholic University, UDC and the D.C. public school system. Darren was elected an ANC commissioner in 1983, Darren is a member of the Pleasant Plains Civic Association in 1983, he was elected vice president in 1985, president in 1995 and continues in that role today. During his tenure he has dealt with drug issues on Hobart Street, worked to get speed bumps installed in a family neighborhood, sent kids to camp and families to Thanksgiving and helped seniors get their homes repaired. Darren co-founded with Sylvia Robinson the Georgia Avenue Community Development Taskforce and worked diligently so that residents of lower Georgia Avenue would have a voice in redevelopment in our next great area in the city. Whereas Darren was a consistent force in the redevelopment of Sherman avenue, and will certainly continue improving our community and 1B, be it resolved by ANC 1B that we recognize Darren Jones for his leadership and commitment to the community, and we encourage all that live in 1B to be involved and engage in ANC activities, civic associations, neighborhood watches, and events to better our community. Let Darren be a role model for you. The resolution was introduced and improved unanimously on July 11th, 2013.

Norman said it was time to honor those people who worked in the community while they were alive.

Jones thanked Turner and ANC 1B. He said he didn't know if he didn't know he deserve it, but that it belonged to everyone in the community who worked.

Norman noted the meeting was now at quorum.

Abdul Hill represents the Rita Bright Center. He said the center runs over 20 programs focusing on athletics and education. Tomorrow there is a back to school celebration. He welcomed any volunteers to do tutoring.

A woman ask if the center works with ESL students.

Hill said yes they tutors for students like that.

A man what schools does Rita Bright have a strong relationship with.

He responded Meridian Charter School, Booker T, H.D. Cooke, Barnard, Shepherd and others.

Norman pointed out they are located in Forester's district.

Justin Brown introduced himself as a representative of City Year. They wanted to know more about the community, and wanted know ways they could improve the community.

Turner asked what area he serves.

Brown said he works in Ward 7 and 8.

Commissioner Muhammad introduced himself. He announced his monthly meeting at Wednesday October 2nd at the Christopher Price House.

Holness announced next Thursday the 1B11 meeting at the Kelly LaDroit Senior Building. She also expressed thanks to D.C. from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for hosting them.

Officer Reports

Approval of Minutes

Muhammad pointed out his name is spelled wrong in the previous minutes.

On page 4, Ricardo pointed out Kevin Lee is the legal counsel for Natural Market, and that Natural Market is on 2400 14th street not 15th street.

Holness moves for approval of the minutes. Reinoso seconds. 5 in favor, 2 abstentions. Motion passes.

Lopez asks that, on the minutes that quorums and motions be highlighted.

Turner says that the minutes are more of a transcript.

Norman asks the staff person to highlight motions on future minutes.

Lopez says it is difficult to notice quorums and motions.

Treasurer's Report

Turner gives the Treasurer's Report. The checking account balance is \$43,000. \$3,000 checks worth of checks were processed. The district allotment payment was \$6,708.

Approval of the treasurer's report moved by Turner, seconded by Holness. The motion was approved unanimously. Motion passes.

Turner introduced the draft FY14 budget. He said that FY13 had a number of outstanding expenses that had been cleared which makes it challenging to compare. FY14 would only use the allotment given by the city. The office rent has been halved, an increase for web-hosting, small allotment to replace office equipment and printer. Purchase of services will be for staff expenses, audio-video and temporary help and small amount for intern stipends. Turner pointed out that ANC 1B has the highest allotment of any ANC.

Leffler moved to adopt budget as proposed. Mohammad seconds.

Turner says the budget has to be approved this month.

Vote on Leffler's motion: 8 ayes, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Grants Committee

Holness reports that the Grants Committee did not meet in August. Also, the Grants Committee will from then on meet only every second month due to slow grant requests.

Commissioner Forester enters the chamber and introduces herself.

Leffler makes a motion to limit presentations by committees and individuals to 5 minutes and add the allotted times to the agenda.

Norman says that it has been standard that presentations only last 5 minutes, but without objection he suggested that the ANC can be stricter on that.

Turner suggests that meetings should only last an hour and a half.

Norman says he was not in favor of that.

Holness expressed her agreement to limit the meetings, and that having a timekeeper has proved successful in the past.

Norman asked if anyone would volunteer to keep the time.

Forester volunteered to keep time for presentations, but asked for a backup person.

Washington volunteered to be backup.

Forester suggested that times be put on the agenda.

Design Committee Report

1101 S Street

This is a large single-family residence with two structures, the exterior facade and the interior will be renovated. Wants to restore the historic brick facade. There will be no additions to the buildings. He reports he didn't get a response from his single member district person, Leffler. They think it will be a group residence. The large building will become a 6 bedroom house. The smaller building will become a single-family house. There will be one parking spot for the smaller house.

Leffler says he wasn't contacted by the applicant.

They are going before the historic preservation board.

Norman reports they asked the residents to come back to the next design review committee meeting.

1315 T Street

The applicants need approval from HPRB for a third floor addition to a rowhouse. They also need an approval from the BZA to remove a deck and build out a third floor. They've received the support of the Design Review committee, Zahra Jilani, and the BZA. They have reached out to neighbors and received letters of support. The additions will not be visible from the street.

Turner asked what the opinion of the Wallach Place Civic Association was.

The applicant was not aware there was a Wallach Place Civic Association.

Forester asked if the building was going over the existing buildings.

The applicant said no.

David Franco encouraged the applicant to meet with the Wallach Place Civic Association.

Leffler moved to support the historic concept review of 1315 T Street contingent on receiving a letter of support from the Wallach Civic Association by the next design committee meeting. Norman seconds.

Norman expresses concern whether the Wallach Civic Association will meet between now and the HPRB application.

Leffler argued it was not the commission's responsibility to ensure residents are available to give approval to a project.

Norman expressed reservations on making contingent the approval of neighborhood associations the approval of a project. Forester agreed.

Motion called to question. 2 in favor, 4 opposed, 3 abstentions. Motion fails.

Norman motions to support the committee's recommendation and the single member district's recommendation for 1315 T Street and the special exception. Seconded by Washington. Forester added it should be contingent on design committee's support and committee's support after meeting the Wallach Civic Association in September. 3 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions. Motion fails.

14th and Wallach Place

Sia Madani gives an informational presentation. The project is to restore two buildings and the construction of a new building on a pre-existing parking lot. The buildings are currently dilapidated. They want to keep the character of the street. They are asking for a rear yard set back. They are asking for relief on parking, lot occupancy and public space. They are asking for a minor height and bulk relief.

Norman said that there's no recommendation at this time.

Lopez asked the developers if they are still addressing the loading problems.

The developers said they were resolving it.

Lopez asked if they met with Wallach Civic Associations.

The developers said they had, and they had addressed suggestions for retail.

A man asked if they had received feedback about the variance requested for the height.

The developer said there hasn't been a pushback.

2231 12th street

Norman said this property was review by the design committee, it is an addition to a second floor. Thomas has not commented on it. The committee voted to approve.

Leffler votes to table this issue. Dyana seconds. Motion passes by unanimous approval.

ABC Committee

Black Cat

Black Cat is seeking a substantial change for modifications to the third floor. They want to move their storage space up a level and expand the bar level.

Motion by Leffler to approve, seconded by Muhammad. Motion passes by unanimous approval.

General Standards

Leffler introduces the general standards. He stresses these are guidelines and is not an attempt to supplant the ABC Committee. There were some changes: change the second bullet from "residents" to "households". He mentioned there is some debate as to the specific numbers of protesters needed for the ANC to take action. He also wanted to amend the document to read "the ANC is sensitive to CR to CT switches and will review each on a case by case basis."

Turner asks how many people were at the townhall.

Leffler said about 20.

Forester had a concern that there would be a too strict a rubric for assessments.

Leffler said that only one criteria has to be met.

Leffler makes a motion to adopt the guidelines for ANC 1B with 3 modifications: change “standards” to “guidelines”, on the second bullet, change to “multiple households within 200 feet” and on the 3rd bullet, strike out existing text and replace with “ANC is sensitive to CR to CT switches and will review each on a case by case basis.” Reinoso seconds.

Turner says the ABC committee has done good work.

7 ayes, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Transportation Committee

Klemens has only one agenda item that needs a vote. Representatives of Sweet Green are seeking a sidewalk cafe permit, and DDOT is looking for a letter of support from ANC. The cafe will have 9 tables and 18 seats. There will be 8 feet of clearance from planter.

Mohammad asks what is response of the people across the street, as he knew they had been opposed to the construction of the building itself.

The representatives say they have not received any responses. They met last Thursday with the group with an attendance of 25 people.

Reinosa moves to support Sweet Green's application for the outdoor cafe. Leffler seconds. There is no objection. Unanimous approval.

Klemens reported that WMATA responded to a letter sent by the ANC about off-duty buses being sent down a street not equipped to handle heavy vehicles. In response, WMATA agreed to looking into adjusting the routes of off-duty buses..

Norman compliments the town hall held by the transportation committee.

Forester comments that she received a notice from DDOT about recycling on the construction on 11th street and Cardoza. Klemens says he hasn't received it.

Forester commented it was too short a time to get a response from the community.

Tony said the commission can request an extension.

Reinosos proposes to support a statehood resolution by Eleanor Hart. He reads the resolution.

Mohammad seconds.

Eleanor Hart spoke on the resolution, saying it speaks for itself. She said it was based on a resolution passed by the Ward 1 Democrats.

Washington asks if D.C. statehood would require a constitutional change. Hart says no.

Washington says she opposes the resolution, saying that local corruption could be worse if DC was a state.

5 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Muhammad reports that between September 9th and October 2nd there have been no homicides, 2 cases of sex abuse, 12 robberies excluding a gun, 3 robberies with a gun, 6 assaults with a dangerous weapon that wasn't a gun, 2 assaults with a dangerous weapon that was a gun for 25 total incidents of violent crime. Muhammad reported 20 incidents of burglary, 55 thefts, 60 thefts from auto, 6 cases of stolen auto and 1 arson for a total of property crime of 142. The total crime rate is 167.