

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Chris Hart (Chair), ANC 6E01
Kevin Rogers, ANC 6E03
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E04 (joined at 7:28 p.m.)
Ahmad Abu-Khalaf, ANC 6E05
Dylan Forest (Secretary), ANC 6E06
Davina Carson, ANC 6E07 (joined at 9:00 p.m.)
Dale Prince, ANC 6E08
Ritanch Hans, (Vice Chair & Treasurer), ANC 6E09

Absent:

George Viedma, ANC 6E02

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Chris Hart with a quorum of 6 out of 9 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Forest seconded to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2023 ANC 6E Virtual Public Meeting as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

4. UPDATES FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN'S OFFICE –

POC: Jeanne Mattison, Constituent Services Coordinator,
jmattison@dccouncil.gov; 202-724-8072

- Councilmember Allen's Brickie Awards are tomorrow, December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Atlas Performing Arts Center.
- 24/7 bus service will begin on December 17, 2023, \$2.00, run every 20 minutes. This was funded by the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment. It is important for late night employees and patrons.
- DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment will vote on legislation to curb dangerous driving on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

- Had a great community safety walk last night. Commissioners Hart and Hans joined us along with DDOT and MPD.
- DC Department of Human Services' Emergency Rental Assistance Program: The next round starts January 1, 2024 on a first-come, first-serve basis; Hotline: 202-507-6666.

A question and answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart asked about WMATA budget cuts. Response: Will get back to him on this. Chris Laskowski is a point of contact at the Transportation Committee; claskowski@dc.gov; phone: 202-724-5355.
- Commissioner Forest – **(1)** echoed what Commissioner Hart said about WMATA; **(2)** asked about the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022. Response: Will get back to him on this.

**5. PUBLIC SPACE PERMIT: 111 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW STREETSCAPE PLAN (GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY) [SMD 6E07]
POC: Kelly Blevins**

Representatives Present: Daniel Solomon
Asha Shagle, Oehme, Van Sweden
Danai Tinsley, Whiting-Turner
David Avitabile, Attorney, Goulston-Storrs.

- Existing Streetscape Plan:
 - Existing street tree to remove
 - Existing concrete sidewalk to remove
 - Existing granite curb and brick gutter to remove
- Proposed Streetscape Plan:
 - Pressed concrete paver
 - DDOT Standard concrete paver
 - Existing Oak to remain
 - Benches and streetlights will be updated to meet codes
 - Located in Mount Vernon Triangle and will adhere to their standards.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart – **(1)** asked about the slight adjustment of the bus stop (GTU shuttle). Response: Shifting to the east; **(2)** asked about the bike lane on Mass Avenue. Response: Will be sidewalk level; **(3)** protected bike lane: will this be part of a broader plan for bike lanes on Mass Avenue? Response: Yes, per Will Handsfield, DDOT.
- Commissioner Forest asked whether the bus stop will be closed during construction. Response: Whiting-Turner (contractor) indicated that the bus stop will be accessible. It will be outside the construction area fencing and an accessible path to the bus stop will be maintained. Georgetown indicated that when the bus shelter is moved, they still intend to keep the stop in service.
- Commissioner Prince - **(1)** asked if there is a bike lane on New Jersey Avenue and, if so, what kind of bike lane? Response: DDOT will address this later; **(2)** asked about bike rack locations. Response: Most of the bike racks are on New Jersey Avenue with some on Massachusetts Avenue.

- Commissioner Hans asked whether there will be parking outside the building.
Response: There will be no parking around the site; bike lanes will replace the existing parking. There will be a shuttle stop and PUDO. 111 Massachusetts Avenue also has a large existing parking garage.

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Forest seconded that ANC 6E support the public space permit for the streetscape plan presented by Georgetown University for 111 Massachusetts Avenue NW and that the support be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

6. NEW UNENCLOSED SIDEWALK CAFÉ PERMIT REQUEST: MENOMALE, 35 N STREET NE ([SMD 6E05])
POC: Ettore Rusciano

Representative Present: Ketly Perdomo

- Diagram presented.
- Seating for 15 persons.
- Separated by planters.
- 6' clearance

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart asked for a more detailed description of changes requested by DC agencies. The changes will include ensuring the 10 feet of sidewalk clearance required by DDOT.
- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked how ANC 6E should proceed if there are going to be changes? Commissioner Hart stated 6E could table it or support it with a stipulation.
Review Date: December 15, 2023.

[Commissioner Blackson joins at 7:28 p.m.]

MOTION: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf moved and Commissioner Forest seconded that ANC 6E support the application for a new unenclosed sidewalk café for Menomale at 35 N Street NE with the stipulation that all the technical comments from DC agencies, including DDOT and others, will be addressed and that the support be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

7. DDOT UPDATES ON PROPOSED NEW JERSEY AVENUE PROTECTED BIKE LANES (FROM D TO H STREETS NW) [SMDs 6E07, 6E08]
POC: Will Handsfield, DDOT

- **New Jersey Avenue NW Schedule:**
 - Design (Fall – Winter 2023)
 - Public Comment Period – 30 business days from NOI (Winter 2024)
- **Mid-City East Livability Study:**
 - The purpose of the Mid City East Livability Study was to address the day-to-day transportation challenges that residents face in meeting their daily needs, enhance community access and circulation (e.g. walking and bicycling) for residents of all ages and abilities, protect local streets as the “home zone” of

- neighborhoods and communities; and provide opportunities in the public rights of way to celebrate community identity and place.
- Four Primary Objectives: (1) Link the communities across the major arterials; (2) Reconnect the communities to the larger city particularly via complete bicycle networks and safe pedestrian access to transit; (3) Reclaim minor streets and corridors from commuters and restore them to community needs and character; (4) Increase resiliency to flooding and other climatic effects
 - **Project Limits:** New Jersey Avenue NW between Louisiana Avenue and H Street NW
 - Wide lanes and more lanes than needed for traffic volumes.
 - Fire Station
 - High pedestrian activity (Georgetown Law, Hotels, Residential Developments)
 - Missing connections in the bicycle network
 - **Existing Conditions – Roadway Characteristics**
 - Functional Classification: Minor arterial
 - Lane Configuration: 60-ft wide 4-lane roadway with parking
 - Posted Speed Limit: 25 MPH
 - **Lane Reduction Proposed Cross Section:** Goal is to develop safer roadway patterns.
 - Conversations are continuing with Georgetown University, who have suggested changes to DDOT's designs, including a preference for the entire segment of 1st Street between F and New Jersey to be closed and turned into a public plaza.
 - Key unresolved issues for consideration (from DDOT's perspective):
 - Right turn lane from northbound to New Jersey to eastbound F: The current designs have the bike lane cross the traffic lane (similar to design of L St., NW bike lanes). Should this be a protected turn with a dedicated right turn light for cars?
 - Should the small segment of G Street between New Jersey Ave. And Massachusetts Ave. be closed to car traffic?
 - Should the bus-only left turn pocket from southbound New Jersey to eastbound Massachusetts be maintained, or should it be opened to all traffic?
 - Should 1st Street between E Street and F Street remain a two-way street, and how should the traffic movement from New Jersey to 1st (and vice versa) be handled at the complicated intersection with F Street?

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Prince – asked about the small part of 1st Street between F Street and New Jersey Avenue and if you closed that little part, what happens next? If you close south and north on 1st Street, do we know about the profile of traffic on 1st Street?
 - DDOT response; The intersection of 1st and New Jersey is complicated due to the angle of New Jersey Avenue relative to the street grid. They are considering other options aside from the existing plan to close the southbound slip lane, including closing both directions of the small segment between F and New Jersey
- Commissioner Hart asked do we communicate our comments through the NOI process? Response: Comments should be in the form of a resolution.

**8. (TBC) DMPED PRESENTATION ON CONDITIONAL AWARD FOR CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN NORTHWEST ONE (NEW COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE) [SMD 6E03]
POC: TBD**

Representative did not appear.

9. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D (PSAs 101 and 102)

Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley reported on crime for the last 30 days per the following:

- o Overall Crime down 6%.
- o Struggling with Property Crime with Thefts from Auto.
- o Violent Crime:
 - Robberies: 3 Attempted robberies – two still open; other one closed by an arrest.
 - 2 Shootings: **(1)** one at 2nd and D Street – closed by arrest; **(2)** 1200 North Capital Street (Tyler House) – 3 people injured – case still open.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Hans asked about activities on H Street between 4th and 5th Streets. Response: Not aware of anything catastrophic.
- o Commissioner Prince asked about a robbery case on F Street on 11/20/23 near the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Response: One person arrested, a juvenile; put on home confinement – did not work out – he did another robbery but we hope to close with arrests of the other suspects.
- o Commissioner Forest asked about an incident earlier today at 1st & M Street NW. Response: Lieutenant Felip Simic stated it was a suspicious package (envelope with powder inside) that turned out to be nothing.

10. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 5D (PSAs 501/502)

Did not join the call.

11. UPDATE FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS) – Marcus Manning, Ward 6 Community Liaison, 202-538-1241, marcus.manning@dc.gov

- o DMV Black Restaurant Week, December 3-10, 2023; more info at: <https://dmvbrw.com>
- o On December 7, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., Mayor Bowser is expected to announce that the District is launching a real-time crime center at MPD HQ to monitor surveillance cameras 24/7 365 days a year. DC Police are entering into agreements with police from Maryland and Virginia, including Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police and the Secret Service.
- o He does his Ward 6 community walks on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**12. ANC 6E WEBSITE UPDATE
POC: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf**

Commissioner Abu-Khalaf stated that the OANC is supposed to be working on unified websites for all ANC's but the process is taking longer than expected. It has now been pushed to Spring/Summer of 2024. He also noted that the OANC unified websites are optional.

He would like to propose moving forward separately by commissioning 6E's own website designer. A new platform would make it easier to add content and 6E could possibly hire a part-time person to manage the website and maybe a part-time communications officer.

Commissioner Hart stated the current ANC 6E website has very low security.

Commissioner Abu-Khalaf received one proposal from a web developer at a cost of \$3,600 to build a new website with a new platform to make it easier to add new content and then to migrate over the content from the old website.

Discussion followed and there was consensus to do an RFP for additional proposals for website development. Commissioner Abu-Khalaf will draft up an RFP and will share it by email with Commissioners along with any additional information received from the OANC.

**13. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO FY24 BUDGET FOR WEBSITE DESIGN
POC: Commissioner Hans**

Tabled.

14. APPROVAL OF FY 23 Q3 AND Q4 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION: Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded that ANC 6E approve the quarterly financial reports for FY23 Q3 and Q4. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Rogers).

15. OPEN FORUM

o Commissioner Hart raised the following:

- **Agenda Item Requests:** He would like to institute a new policy for agenda item requests in that agenda items must be submitted for consideration at least two weeks before the meeting and to ensure that presentation materials are provided a week in advance to review.

Following discussion, there was consensus to make this a “practice” rather than a “requirement.”

- **January Officer Election:** Commissioners need to come prepared with roles for which they would like to be nominated. An outside person will be needed to conduct the Election which will be by simple majority.
- **ANC 6E Meeting Schedule:** The meeting schedule will have to be voted on at the January meeting. He will poll Commissioners about dates.

[Commissioner Carson joins at 9:00 p.m.]

- Commissioner Carson stated she is involved with the “Dress for Success” organization and would like to receive contact information from anyone who has gently used, nearly new, professional attire to donate.
- Commissioner Blackson stated she is holding a community event on December 15, 2023 and is accepting clothing, toys, and gift cards. She will collaborate with Commissioner Carson on this.

7. NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2023

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 8 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
Cell: 703-606-2010
Email: karen-jehle@outlook.com