

ANC 7B Community Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2020
6:30 pm
Via Zoom Video/Conference Call

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Humphrey. A quorum was present.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners Present:

Patricia Howard-Chittams 7B01
Tiffany L. Brown - 7B02, Vice Chair
Nicole Smith-McDermott – 7B04
Villareal Johnson – 7B05, Secretary
April Pradier – 7B06
D.L. Humphrey – 7B07, Chairman

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Howard-Chittams requested that Doug Klein be added to the Agenda. Commissioner Humphrey also noted that WJLA was present at the meeting. An additional item from members from Commissioner Johnson’s Single Member District was added to the agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Howard-Chittams

Moved that the items requested by Commissioner Chittams and Commissioner Humphry be added to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nicole Smith-McDermott.

Discussion: Commissioner Johnson requested the addition for issues related 2318 32nd Street and 2907 Denver Street was requested to be added to the Agenda as an action item.

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

Report of the Secretary

Commissioner Humphrey requested review and approval of the 5/21, 6/18, and 7/16 meeting minutes. Commissioner Humphrey noted that these minutes were only received at 4:07 p.m. that day. Commissioner Humphrey noted that it had been an ongoing issue regarding the minutes. He noted that there will be a discussion regarding these minutes and all outstanding minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson

Moved that the Commission approve the May meeting minutes and the June meeting minutes to satisfy the requirements of the report with edits that Commissioner Chittams wants added.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith-McDermott.

Discussion: Commissioner Johnson stated that the minutes had been provided to the Commission two prior times and that Commissioner Chittams' statement is inaccurate. Commissioner Chittams noted that the concerns related to the minutes were substantive and reflected more than just grammatical or structural edits. Commissioner Chittams reported that the questions were related to what was occurring when someone presented to the Commission.

Outcome: The motion was defeated - One vote for the motion, four votes against the minutes.

It was determined by the Chair, Commissioner Humphrey, that the issue with the minutes would be revisited at the end of the meeting.

Report of the Treasurer - Deferred

Report of the Metropolitan Police Department

Lt. Hawkins presented a summary of the statistics related to PSA 605, 606, and 607. Lt. Hawkins discussed the issue of large gatherings and noted there is no loitering or "hanging out". She noted the Mayor's order regarding wearing masks. Lt. Hawkins noted that MPD is using an education-based approach and MPD has identified neighborhoods and homes with large gatherings frequently and has reached out to the homeowners and talked to them, requesting them to refrain from large gatherings.

Commissioner Humphrey encouraged each member of the community to participate in the PSA meetings where you can ask the information about their community.

Presenter

Lewis Ferebee, EdD, DCPS Chancellor – Discussed the Reopen Strong campaign for students to return to school. The Chancellor stated that the school system will continue to prioritize safety. Students will be learning from home until the end of the first term which is November 6, 2020. Noted that there may also be a hybrid instruction as well.

There was a discussion regarding opting in for devices. Chancellor Ferebee noted that it was important for everyone to have what they need to be successful. It was noted that DCPS has collaborated with DC Health regarding returning students to school and will work to give families as much notice as possible prior to returning to the in-school setting. DCPS also recognizes the fatigue that staff is feeling and felt it was best to end the school year early, reconnect with staff, and provide training for trauma response training for adults which ended in June. They are thinking about Childcare and those staff and those who cannot teach from their homes. DCPS is working with the Principal's to allow teachers to teach from their school wherever possible.

Sharona Robinson offered to accept any additional comments on behalf of DCPS.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Smith-McDermott –

- Public Space Construction Permit Application #352915 at 3250 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20020 – Resubmission – Due August 11, 2020

This was a resubmission and she requested additional information on this request. The application was removed from the system. This would be the third resubmission at this time. There will be no action required for this

- Public Space Permit Application #357243 filed for paving: Driveway(s) Residential at 3436 Texas Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20020 – New Due September 3, 2020.

There is no opposition to this permit.

Motion: Commissioner Smith-McDermott moved that the Commission approve the application for the paving of the driveway. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Patricia Howard-Chittams.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Smith-McDermott informed the Commission that there was a developer on the zoom meeting who wished to discuss the property located at 2318 32nd St. which is in Commissioner Johnson's SMD. She noted that there is not a public space permit for the lots in question.

Vik Narula is seeking to purchase the property on 32nd Street, he had not purchased the property yet. He stated he did have a discussion on the development plan with the neighboring property owner. They have determined that they, the developer, is not going to be building three properties on those lots. They will be going back to the current owner as there is a feasibility study regarding the development of the property. Commissioner Johnson was called back on the line by Commissioner Humphry. Commissioner Johnson informed the Commission that if there were residents who need a question and answer, and it can be opened up for them at another time. Commissioner Johnson stated that there were residents who met with Mr. Narula this morning and they left the meeting with the developer satisfied.

Community Member Bridgette Thomas, gave a short statement regarding the aforementioned property. She stated that she and Ms. Jackson, whose properties abut the properties in question, wanted to go on record that they did not go away satisfied that the developer was not going to build multiple properties on the available lots. She noted that Mr. Narula had plans to purchase three properties on that space which abuts her property and the Jackson's property. Ms. Thomas informed the Commission that Mr. Narula also proposed to build these homes and asked that new homes be 2.5 to 3 feet from the Jackson's and the Thomas' property line which they believed is a violation of the zoning code. Ms. Thomas did note that they do find it acceptable for the developer to build a property comparable to what is already in the neighborhood and that the homes abide by the current zoning code of 8 feet between the houses. The neighbors have concerns, and they have more than 100 signatures in support of their position. They asked for the support that there only be one home built on the property in adherence to current zoning regulation.

Mr. Narula stated that they were in a feasibility period that the property had not been acquired at this time.

Commissioner Humphrey

- Resolution re: C.O.R.E Resolution – Discussion regarding the resolution regarding the opposition to the half-way house in 7F. This resolution in support of 7F's opposition.

Commissioner Brown

- Resolution re: Education – Noted that she received feedback from three commissioners.

Motion: Moved that ANC 7B approve the resolution regarding the safe reopening of schools for the school year 2020 – 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nicole Smith-McDermott.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

Update Items

Commissioner Johnson

- Rental Car Co Parking on Residential Streets -Commissioner Johnson reported that there was nothing to discuss on this matter.

Wendy Pohlhaus from the U.S. Attorney's Office where she is the Director of Community Outreach. There are three reasons why the defendants are released from jail. 1) Washington DC does not have cash bonds. We have finite statutory reasons for individuals to be held in jail. Even for many felony cases where the jail time is more than 1 year, there is no legal basis for someone to be held in jail. 2) When a case is brought to the prosecutor's office, the standard is a reasonable likelihood to be successful at trial. The reason why that is, the when a decision to charge someone with a criminal offense. Ms. Polhaus informed the Commission that some cases will be taken Federally. The U.S. District Court generally hears cases which occur in Washington, DC. Ms. Polhaus was asked to return at another time to go into depth regarding their work.

Announcements

Commissioner Johnson

- Good Hope Marketplace – Rosenthal Group/K&L Gates LLC - Commissioner Johnson was unable to be heard due an echo. Commissioner Humphry noted that there is a renovation occurring at the Safeway.
- Office of The Mayor – Wesley Leary, MOCRS – Was unable to remain on the call.
- Office of the City Councilmember – D.L. Humphry – a lot of the issues were raised regarding on DuBois Place.

Community Concerns – No Community Concerns were raised.

Commissioner's Roundtable

Commissioner Howard-Chittams – Took a moment to raise once again the issue surrounding the frequent hot spots in the area in 7B01. These are issues that have been raised for many, many years, and have not been addressed by those who are in power in this city. Commissioner Howard-Chittams asked each member to take a moment to look at yourself and see what you own.

Commissioner Humphry stated he was in support of Commissioner Howard-Chittams, and he would like to discuss further at our Executive Committee.

Commissioner Pradier - Received a letter in 7B06 from Verizon to put up the first 5G sim tower. Commissioner Pradier has reached out to DDOT and she has notified her that this has been a discussion at previous ANC's and that we voted against 5G Towers. It is in the 3700 Block of Suitland Road.

Commissioner Brown – 7B02 went on a tour of the facility. It will have 347 units and it is looking to be occupied in January of 2021. The developer is looking to provide the CVS to them by October of 2020. There is also to be a Chase Bank and a Nail Salon at the bottom of the building. We are having Watermain Replacements and hydrants throughout Hillcrest. It is disruptive. Former Commissioner Robin Marlin started to inquire about the PUD in June which nudged the ANC to remind the developer to fulfill their PUD. Rappaport will donate \$150,000.00 to our local schools, some of the schools are Beers, Randal Highlands, Stanton, Kramer, Anacostia. Those schools were designated based on the PUD.

A discussion occurred surrounding addressing smaller issues before they become much larger issues.

Ms. White Community Mediation DC, a DC Non-Profit which works with conflict resolution. They are a free community mediation center in Washington. They offer to create solutions by bringing people together. They are looking for volunteers. They can be reached at Info@CommunityMediationDC.Org 240-766-5311.

Commissioner Johnson was asked to restate his earlier motion. Commissioner Johnson did not respond to the request to restate his earlier motion.

Commissioner McDermott asked if there were any additional edits for the May and June Minutes.
Commissioner Humphry asked for a motion for the May minutes to be approved with the edits.

Commissioner McDermott noted that there is a dollar amount where it is not clear where it was not attached to.
Commissioner Brown noted that there is not a notation that the April minutes were approved with May minutes or in the June minutes.

Commissioner Brown-

Motion: Moved that the May minutes be approved with the following corrections: Approval of the April Minutes needs to be inserted in the May minutes.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the May Minutes were out since June and July. Commissioner Johnson stated that no one has time to do this and it is atrocious. This is a waste of time. There was time to do this months ago. Every public meeting there is a particular person who wants to be nuanced.

Commissioner Howard-Chittams provided a summary of the corrections made in the May minutes.
Commissioner Johnson stated that “as secretary, he does not have to write about anything other than action items”

Commissioner Smith McDermott emphasized that the minutes need to be done so that the Commissioner can get its allotment.

Minutes for tonight’s meeting – you have had an opportunity to review the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved that the minutes be approved with the suggested edits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pradier

Discussion: No discussion

Outcome: Motion was approved with one abstention.

Commissioner Humphry asked Commissioner Johnson when to expect the July minutes as they were not included in the minutes submitted to the commission by Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Johnson stated that “all that was needed was what was sent”. Commissioner Humphry asked Commissioner Johnson when the July minutes would be submitted. Commissioner Johnson did not respond.

The ongoing issue with the minutes will be addressed first at the next Executive Committee minutes.

On motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Smith-McDermott the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment

Submitted by
Commissioner Howard-Chittams