

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D
Ron McBee, Chair
March 14, 2011
Business Meeting

Minutes
As Approved by ANC 6D on June 13, 2010

Present: Commissioners David Garber, Cara Shockley, Bob Craycraft, Ron McBee, Andy Litsky, and Roger Moffatt. Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton arrived shortly after the meeting had started.

Also in attendance: Bert Randolph, Staff Assistant.

Commissioner McBee called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Agenda

Commissioner Litsky moved/Commissioner Shockley seconded to approve the agenda as proposed.

2. Community Announcements

March 17 - 6:30pm - DC Water's Ward 6 Community Meeting - Watkins School
March 17 - 7:00pm - DC Circulator's Public Meeting - Marriott Courtyard
March 17 - 7:00pm - PSA 104 Public Meeting - Riverside Condominiums
March 19 - 10:00am - Southwest Duck Pond monthly neighborhood clean-up
March 26 - 10:00am - 2:00pm - SWNA Annual Elections - Safeway courtyard

3. Public Safety

The MPD discussed crime in the area, which last month overall was down 6%. Much of the overall drop is due to a decrease in auto theft which may be due to the closure of Zanzibar and H2O versus this same time period in 2010. Resident-focused crime, such as burglaries and assault, are up.

4. Approval of January Minutes

Commissioner Craycraft made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Litsky to approve the January minutes as submitted. The vote was unanimous 6 to 0.

5. Capper Carrollsburg HOPE VI Redevelopment Update

An update was provided on this Hope VI housing project, which is running about two months ahead of schedule in leasing and sales. Stimulus funds have allowed the Community Center,

promised as part of the Community Benefits Agreement, to be a line item in the budget, but total funds needed to start construction are not available at this time. Residents will start moving into new town homes in the July/August timeframe.

6. BZA Case – Special Exception to allow temporary placement and use of modular classrooms from May, 2011 to March 2012 for Capitol Hill Day School at 1000 5th Street, SW

Commissioner McBee made the motion and was seconded by Commissioner Garber to support the application as submitted. The vote was 6 to 1 (Commissioner Moffatt voted no) to approve plans for temporary, modular classroom for the school in the half block defined by L, Fourth, and K Streets, S.E. The group is restoring the former Dent School in ANC 6B, which is across 395 and it is expected the use of this temporary arrangement will be less than 12 months.

7. Fourth and M Streets SW

Commissioner McBee made the motion and seconded by Commissioner Moffatt to approved DDOT's plans to “prohibit left turns” onto M Street for cars going southbound on Fourth Street SW and turning East onto M Street, SW in approximately 30 days, along with other modifications. The vote was 5-1-1 (Commissioner Garber voted no and Commissioner Hamilton abstained). The Commission knows the lack of a left turn lane will be inconvenient for many vehicular drivers, but the number of pedestrians hit at this intersection in the past few months, and the backlog of cars unable to make turns with the current lighting pattern, indicate it is the least negative solution and safest solution for all users of the intersection, especially pedestrians.

8. Safeway Receipt-Check Process

Commissioner Litsky made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Moffatt that Commissioner Litsky will draft a letter to Safeway’s Eastern Division headquarters expressing concerns over the new receipt-checking process. The vote was 5-0-1, (Commissioner Craycraft was absent and Commissioner McBee abstained). Two Safeway district executives attended and discussed why the SW Safeway was chosen to test the new program. Their decision was made based on the very high volume of the store sales, its use of the new Safeway Signature food court-within-a grocery store concept, and the diversity of the customer base (residents, office workers, special event-goers).

9. DC Water Clean Rivers Project – Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program

M Street SE is going to be disrupted east of Ninth Street SE from April 2012 - December 2013 for the construction of an enormous holding tank/tunnel for run-off water, one of many projects to bring the District into compliance with clean water regulations dating back to the mid 1990's. The multi-billion dollar project will allow excess rain water to be held in 23' diameter underground tanks that will then drain into the Blue Plains facility for processing, rather than allowing raw sewage to flow into the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers as happens today in times of very heavy rainfall.

Currently 1/3 of the District's area (about 12,000 acres) consists of Combined Sewers. This means that storm water and sanitary water share the same pipe, or are "combined". When it rains, the combined system cannot handle all the flow; therefore, the sewers will "overflow" out into the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. This results in untreated wastewater overflowing into the Rivers, which affects aquatic life and can lead to high bacteria levels in the Rivers. The LTCP project will reduce the number of occurrences of CSOs into the Rivers by 98% (ie. 82 overflows per average year reduced to 2 overflows per average year).

The three projects that are closest to the ANC 6D areas are the M Street Diversion Sewer Project, Main Pumping Station and Tingey Street Diversion Project and Blue Plains Tunnel Project. Other projects that are ongoing, but not located close to the ANC 6D area are the Anacostia River Tunnel Project and CSO-019 Overflow and Diversion Structures Project. M Street Diversion Sewer Project, Main Pumping Station and Tingey Street Diversion Project and Blue Plains Tunnel Project were described as follows:

Main Pumping Station and Tingey Street Diversion Project

SCOPE OF WORK

- Installation of 1,200 linear feet of new combined sewers along Tingey Street SW between 2nd Street SW and 5th Street SW
- Installation of four diversion chambers along the Tingey Street sewer to carry CSOs into the Blue Plains Tunnel

SCHEDULE

- Estimated construction start: September 2013
- Estimated construction completion: August 2017
- Normal work hours: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Contractor may need to work at night or on weekends, dependent upon needed tie-in work

M Street Diversion Sewer Project

SCOPE OF WORK

- Installation of 1,020 linear feet of 48-inch diameter combined sewers within the project area
- Installation of 1,330 linear feet of 108-inch diameter combined sewers
- Inclusion of three diversion chambers along the M Street sewer to assist in discharging CSOs into the tunnel

SCHEDULE

- Estimated construction start: April 2012
- Estimated construction completion: December 2013
- Normal work hours: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Contractor may need to work at night or on weekends, dependent upon needed tie-in work

Blue Plains Tunnel Project

SCOPE OF WORK

- Construction of a 55-foot diameter concrete shaft to serve as both an access and terminus point for the Blue Plains Tunnel within the project area located adjacent to Tingey Street, on the DC Water Main Pumping Station yard.

SCHEDULE

- Shaft construction to occur between end of 2011 and September 2013.

Fact Sheets are available for all projects and contain this and other valuable information (handouts were provided at the meeting). Other cities have been constructing similar systems throughout the US such as Atlanta, Portland, and Columbus, OH to name a few. Additional information can be found at the following DC Water websites with regard to overflow volumes and the treatment capacity of the system.

1. Overflow volume comparison?
<http://www.dewater.com/workzones/projects/longtermcontrolplan.cfm>
Long-Term Control Plan (PDF 17.6 mb) hyperlink at the bottom of the page
 >>>page 13-17
 >>>*Table 13-5 – CSO Overflow Reduction of Recommended CSO Plan (Average Year)*
2. Blue Plains Treatment Capacity?
<http://www.dewater.com/workzones/projects/longtermcontrolplan.cfm>
Long-Term Control Plan (PDF 17.6 mb) hyperlink at the bottom of the page
 >>>page 3-12
 >>>*Section 3.2.2 Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant*

A Town Hall Meeting will be held with DC Water on March 17, 2011 at Watkins Elementary School (multipurpose room), 420 12th Street, SE. Additional information regarding rates and funding will be provided.

For more information contact Amanda Morgan, P.E, at office: 202.787.2218, cell 513.258.3418 or e-mail: Amanda.Morgan@dewater.com

10. Yards Park - Lumber Shed Building

The Commission expressed concern with Forest City's zoning request change to allow the second floor of the Lumber Shed Building to be used for offices rather than the approved retail use. Forest City's planners will address some issues raised and address the Commission at the April or May meeting.

11. Southwest Duck Pond

Commissioner Craycraft made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Shockley to approve the request of the Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond for the naming of the park at Sixth and I Streets SW to "Southwest Duck Pond." The Neighbors presented a petition of 108 signatures representing seven of the District's eight wards. The vote was unanimous 7 to 0. The Commission will now pass the request to Councilman Wells' office for Council consideration.

The Neighbors are pursuing an agreement with the DC Preservation League to operate as a financial subsidiary in order to raise funds for the park's restoration and ongoing maintenance.

12. PS # 59732, 200 I (Eye) Street, SE - Former Evening Star/Post Printing Plant

Commissioner Garber made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McBee to approve the Public Space Permit application for landscaping/hardscaping for the redevelopment of the former printing facilities just north of Canal Park and south of Virginia Avenue/I-295 in Southeast. The vote was unanimous 7 to 0. This huge, 420,000 square foot hulk is being redesigned into one of the more attractive office complexes in our area, and will house three District agencies: Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Arts & Humanities, and Child & Family Services. The new entrances will be on the south side of the building facing Canal Park, and will include a public-access art gallery.

13. Cherry Blossom Festival - Water Street Beer and Sake Garden

The Commission voted unanimously 6 to 0 to support an alcoholic beverage temporary licensing request for a Japanese beer and sake garden to be operated at the 7th Street Landing. There will be a positive ID check for all customers, security and sanitary provisions have been made in conjunction with the Washington Waterfront Association.

14. Marine Corps Marathon

Commissioner Moffatt made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Craycraft to approve the renewal of this annual October marathon's race plan, which is identical to previous years', and while snarling traffic for much of the day does not run in front of our residential areas. The vote was unanimous 6 to 0. Commissioner Shockley was absent at the time.

15. Chairman's Report

Chairman McBee presented his brief report on Commission activities.

16. Community Concerns

Gene Solon commented on his continued request for information regarding Community Benefits Agreements. Mr. Solon submitted his written comments for the record.