



MINUTES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Meeting Tuesday, March 15, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D took place on Tuesday, March 15, 2015. **Chair Lisa Colbert called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.**

COMMISSIONERS ROLL CALL: Present: 4D01 Nancy Roth; 4D02 Renee Bowser; 4D03 Lisa Colbert; 4D05 Krystal Branton. 4D04 David Sheon arrived late. 4D06 Bill Quirk was absent. Quorum was present for all votes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Bowser added to the agenda an announcement on DC Water Town Hall on April 6. Comm. Roth moved to accept agenda as amended. Comm. Bowser seconded. The amended agenda was approved unanimously by acclamation.**

MINUTES: **Correction made to February minutes on amount in Treasury. Comm. Roth moved to accept the January 2016 minutes as corrected and was seconded by Comm. Bowser. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: **Comm. Branton read the monthly report aloud. Expenditures in through February 29 totaled \$1,257.73. DC government deposited \$150.00. Total spent \$46.22. Comm. Branton moved to accept the report. Comm. Bowser seconded. Motion unanimously passed by acclamation.**

Comm. Brant moved to approve an allocation of \$600 for payment of rent at Colony House May through December 2016. Comm. Bowser seconded. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Comm. Colbert announced meeting would be held every month without any break through 2016. Health fair with Howard U. is scheduled for May 21 at Emery Recreation Center. Howard U also has a project to plant a garden for patients in the Howard University Hospital, and is partnering with ANC 4D on a Wellness Expo at Emery Rec Center, May 21.

Motion for \$1500.00 for Wellness Expo was made by Comm. Colbert and seconded by Comm. Branton. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

Comm. Bowser described an Inclusionary Zoning hearing that didn't include witnesses representing the public. She introduced a modified resolution on Inclusionary Zoning indicating that only 278 affordable units had been produced under existing rules. Current inclusionary zoning allows developers who are rehabbing or building new housing to build higher and wider if they include a number of affordable units. It also provides affordable housing to residents who have 80% of the Area Median Income, which is \$109K for family of four, while DC median income (excluding wealthy suburbs) is only \$69K. The resolution proposes to amend

inclusionary law by asking the zoning commission to provide affordable housing for people who have 0-50% of area median income, and asking developers to provide that 16-20% of new units be priced affordably, and some of them be appropriate for families. Modification would include housing both for rent and for purchase, for residents with incomes at 30% of AMI and below to accommodate families. **Comm. Bowser moved that the ANC pass the modified resolution and was seconded by Comm. Roth. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.**

Comm. Roth noted that the Deputy Director Brenda Donald would be at a special community meeting on March 16 to answer residents' questions about the planned residential facility for homeless families.

Comm. Bowser described the ANC grant program. Grants cover many projects but may not duplicate services already delivered by DC government. Application was available in room. Guidelines for grant can be emailed and will also be brought to next meeting. Maximum is \$1500. Deadline is April 30.

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Sheon said the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) decided not to allow the Castello Lounge to stay open past midnight all nights of the week, a victory for neighborhood residents who did not want it open until 3 am, as had been planned.

Comm. Sheon said a midday shooting on 800 block of Jefferson St. in the past week has frightened residents. He has planned a meeting for April 5 to bring together authorities and community to strategize on fighting violent crime on that block, at Brightwood Park U.M. Church. Security camera rebates will be discussed in detail.

A neighbor said her car was damaged in the shooting, and bullet holes are in her porch. "We know people are not from the neighborhood," she said. "What do we do? They come and smoke cigarettes and dump trash while we are at work. There were 25 rounds of bullets. Ten of those rounds were in my car." These are grown adults, not young people, she added. Cherokee Jerome asked if the taxes the city raised through sale of marijuana could be allocated to solve these problems, for example through work training.

Comm. Roth explained that 5509 9th St. had been closed due to uninhabitable conditions in the building, resulting in the removal of 6 families that were still living there without heat or hot water. Building is in probate as owner had died as had all members of his immediate family, but the distant relatives with an interest in the building are willing to sell it. Ben and Nicole Michels wanted to know if community would have any say in what happened to building.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Comm. Bowser said that DCRA was revealed to be very dysfunctional during oversight hearings where story after story was told of how DCRA had failed to stop serious violations. Comm. Bowser said there had been so much testimony that she had been unable to deliver hers. CM Orange said there would be another hearing.

Comm. Sheon noted that legislation coauthored by CMs Silverman and Grosso would force owners of vacant/blighted properties to prove properties were no longer vacant in order to be lift the higher tax rate, instead of requiring DCRA's 4 inspectors to certify every six months that

buildings are vacant. He added that the CM Vincent Orange, who chairs the Council Housing Committee, refuses to schedule a hearing and vote. **CM Orange Special Assistant Stacey Lincoln** noted that the government needs to do due diligence to identify owner before imposing high tax rates, and DCRA has to respect rights of owners. He added that the CM Orange was still examining the bill and would schedule a hearing.

Jasmin Benab announced that Metro would close the next day for safety checks due to recent fire. Street cleaning to stop, meters not to be enforced.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Megan Aniton, attorney at the Office of the Attorney General, spoke about how the city government addresses the problem of human trafficking through multiple agencies, including through the children's court to deal with runaway and abused minors. At present children under 18 are no longer charged with prostitution. If younger people suddenly are in possession of food, clothing, cell phones or other goods they could be obtaining them through traffickers, who recruit at bus stops, metro stations, parties, etc. Hotline to report suspected trafficking is 202-267-7233.

Karanja Slaughter, Division Manager of Dept. of Housing and Community Development Property Acquisition and Disposition Division, described how the department acquires and disposes of chronically underutilized and vacant properties. They acquire by buying a property on the market, in tax lien and tax foreclosure sales, and through eminent domain. They dispose of properties by solicitation for an offer on properties made available with the objective of returning it to productive use. They also have authority to dispose by way of auctions and lotteries.

He noted that the city was trying to close on the two vacant lots at 809-813 Kennedy St. NW and thought it would officially own it the following day. The city plans to make it available for sale in May, for development as multifamily or mixed-use building with roughly 30 units and at least 51% affordability component. A key objective of DHCD is to create and preserve affordable housing. In response to questions from attendees Mr. Slaughter said they didn't know yet if site would be rental or ownership. To a question about whether the community has input into the final use of the property he answered that DHCD notifies ANCs when there is a solicitation, and when it is awarded there is a public hearing in which the public can participate. There are multiple phases of the process in which public input is taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Bowser noted that the tenants rights organization Neighborhood Solidarity Network would be canvassing in the area in the coming weeks.

Comm. Sheon announced that the ANC 4D April meeting would include a presentation by DC Scores, a student achievement-boosting program.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.