



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F
Government of the District of Columbia
"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022, 6:30p.m.
Streamed via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Holcomb calls the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. A moment of silence is held for those who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and violence in the community. Also present were Commissioners Hughes, Diggs, Codling, and Caston. Quorum was established.

2. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Holcomb motions to approve the agenda. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0-0)

3. Special Guest

a. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. Congress

On the status of DC taking over the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Stadium site, the bill to sell the stadium site was introduced by Congresswoman Norton which would allow DC to determine the use of the site. However, with primary jurisdiction over the bill, the Chair of the House Committee refused to move the bill. Congresswoman Norton is working to address the Committee's concerns, in hopes they'll accept the bill this year. Regarding further concerns, an additional parking lot being built at Benning Stoddert Recreation center using park land will be dependent on land ownership. If the land is owned by DC or another private entity, it would be outside Congresswoman Norton's federal jurisdiction. If the land is a National Park Service land, there are two options. One, the title of the land would have to be transferred, which would require an act of Congress. The second option would require DC and the National Park Service to enter a cooperative management agreement for DC to operate the land. Furthermore, Norton strongly supports bringing DC Code offenders housed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons back to DC. However, this is only feasible if DC builds, operates, and funds a new prison. Until then, the goal is to get DC Code offenders housed in facilities closer to home. As for matters concerning parole, Congresswoman Norton has introduced a bill to return parole and supervised release determinations to DC. However, the bill cannot move until DC passes a bill establishing a local parole board and supervised release determination system. In addition, the pending House and Senate FY2022 DC Appropriation bills are set to increase the DC tuition access grant program awards from \$10,000 annually to \$15,000 annually. The House has also passed the DC statehood bill for the second year in a row. For more information, Congresswoman Norton can be reached via email at Norton.Casework@mail.house.gov and via phone at **202-408-9041**.



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4. Updates (5 minutes per speaker)

c. MPD- Captain Fitzgerald

In the last month, there has been a reduction in several crimes, including motor vehicle theft, homicide, and sex-abuse crimes. However, there has been a significant and concerning increase in robberies. There has been a total of 18 robberies in a 30-day period. In response, MPD has instituted changes in deployment. MPD has pivoted to address the robberies, times they occur, and the location of their occurrence. In addition, MPD has been working with detectives to further investigate the robberies. Regarding repeat offenders, MPD and detectives are working to bring justice to victims of crimes.

d. Ward 7 State Board of Education Rep - Eboni Rose Thompson

The State Board public meeting will be held tomorrow, February 16th. Residents will be able to gain information about the upcoming school budget. The State Board will use the feedback from this meeting to formulate a budget priority letter for the Council. In addition, the Board will also be assigning Committee works to Committee members. Voting will include student Committee members. For more information, contact Eboni Rose-Thompson at Eboni-rose.thompson@dc.gov.

5. Presentations/Special Guests

a. Rachel Pierre, Administrator for the Family Services Administration & **Melvyn Smith**, Supervisory Homeless Services Program Coordinator - D.C. Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services has several shelters across the city, this includes their shelter in Ward 8. With the closing of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, there was an inability to provide shuttle service for unhoused individuals seeking services downtown from the 801 East Men's Shelter. As a temporary solution, a route service from the 801 East Shelter to the Dorothy Heights Library in Ward 7 was established. However, route services to the Dorothy Heights Library concluded in March of 2019. While there are no longer route services to the Dorothy Heights Library, shuttles will be seen in Ward 7 because DHS continues to service unhoused individuals in Ward 7. These vans are labeled to be easily identified as a shelter hotline van. In response to potentially establishing a new shelter in every given Ward, establishing a shelter begins with first identifying a building. Once a building in any given location has been identified, the relevant ANC and community members would have to be engaged. Shelter and drop-off locations are chosen based on their accessibility to stabilizing services to assist with the needs of unhoused individuals.



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The Department of Human Services is divided into two administrations - the Economic Security Administration and the Family Service Administration. All services pertaining to housing insecurity are overseen by the Family Service Administration. This includes outreach services, individual housing, family housing, rapid rehousing, and voucher programs. Voucher programs are given in collaboration with the DC Housing Authority. Outreach services are also utilized to reach out to individuals living in encampments throughout the city. Individuals who are experiencing substance abuse or other mental or emotional adversities are first provided with housing. This is then followed by behavioral and substance abuse assistive services.

For more information Melvyn Smith can be reached via phone at **202-545-3191 (desk)** & **202-744-8851 (cell)** or via email at Melvyn.smith2@dc.gov.

b. Kevin Harrison, Tanya Powell & Sonela Ardekani, Transit Delivery Division - District Department of Transportation

The DDOT project is focused on traffic safety and operations in Ward 7. Proposed concepts include protected bike lanes, curb extensions, bus boarding islands, and bus bulb-outs. In addition, the project plans to make all parking full-time between B St SE and Nelson St SE and northbound between 27th St and Nelson St SE. The project aims to achieve several things by converting to full time parking. This includes, but is not limited to increasing visibility for pedestrians, reducing the cross distance for pedestrians, and eliminating “multi-threat” crossings for pedestrians. In addition, the project includes the closure of 34th St SE and the one-way reversal of 36th St SE. The notice of intent comment period for the project closes on March 14, 2022, and construction begins in the spring or summer of 2022. For more information, visit <https://ddotwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NOI0129/pages/2039579601/NOI+22-008-TDD> or <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/minnesota-avenue-se-bus-priority>. Kevin Harrison can be reached via phone at **202-671-2376** or via email at Kevin.Harrison@dc.gov.

6. Community Concerns/Announcements

Eboni-Rose Thompson: “If you would like to submit a nomination for a young person who is doing great things in the Ward 7 community, please take a moment to do so here: <https://forms.gle/1itH7xf2ULbcR9679>. Nominees will be featured through Black History Month on Fridays.”



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Pearly Brown: "Is the drop-off at the Dorothy Heights Library sort of a landmark for this pickup or drop off of individuals?"

Ms. Natalie: "CAC is Citizens Advisory Council. Each police district has one and we are particularly involved and engaged over here at the 6D."

Melvyn Smith: "The Department of Human Services works very closely with the federal Veterans Administration on servicing and housing our veterans. We additionally provide services to Veterans who were dishonorably discharged as well. Often, a Veteran's discharge status affects the types of services they are afforded. In short, we have a great deal of experience in working with Veterans and connecting them to sought after services."

Louise V. Gray: "We have been championing for the therapeutic Recreational Center. We have been making an effort to get a replacement or alternative site for the exercise in the pool, which requires 90 degrees according to the Arthritis Foundation. We have been told in writing by Delano Hunter, director of DPR, that there are no other sites in DC that can accommodate DC. There are hundreds of people who have been using this facility for wonderful mental and physical well-being. We just want to continue to get your support and any ideas that you have that will be helpful to us."

Lauren: As a parent, concerned about extreme Covid protocols continuing for kids while lifted for adults who are statistically more at risk for severe outcomes. Can kids be unmasked outdoors while at school recess to start the off ramp? Is the ANC in contact with the Mayor's Office on this type of issue?

7. Administrative/Reports

a. Chair's Report

The Redistricting Task Force held tomorrow, February 17, will focus on ANC 7B and 7F. The meeting will be held via Zoom at 6pm. The Commission will be sending an email with the information to sign up, along with a survey created to capture community feedback. In addition, the Commission will be sending out a budget priority survey to gauge community needs. Updates on the Reservation 13 Redevelopment and the Minnesota Avenue Redevelopment will be provided in the coming weeks. Furthermore, the Commission encourages community members to join committees as committees will begin operation this spring. The Commission continues to work on finding the ideal streaming services for the general Commission meetings.



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b. Secretary's Report

i. Approval of the Previous Minutes

1. January 2021 General Commission Meeting

Chairman Holcomb moves to table the Secretary's report. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

c. SMD & Committee Reports

Commissioner Codling: There have been efforts to repair the parking lot on 36th Street which has large holes. However, because the property is private there are limited options in terms of addressing the issue.

9. Commission Business

a. Sala Thai @ Park Kennedy Letter of Position for ABRA Hearing

Commissioner Caston moves forward with the Park Kennedy letter of position for the ABRA Hearing. The motion is Seconded by Commissioner Diggs. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

b. Increase Hourly Wages for Chief of Staff from \$25 to \$27.50

Chairman Holcomb moves to increase the hourly wage of the ANC 7F Chief of Staff from \$25 to \$27.50, effective the month of February. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Codling. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

c. Letter of Position for Minnesota Avenue Bus Improvement Project

Commissioner Codling moves forward with a letter of position for the Minnesota Avenue Bus Improvement Project. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Holcomb. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

10. Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Holcomb moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm.