



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

Government of the District of Columbia

"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes

October 20th, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

via Zoom due to COVID-19

Call to Order

- Chair Holcomb called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. A moment of silence was held in honor of the lives lost to COVID-19

Commissioner Roll Call

- Commissioners present: Commissioner Holcomb, Commissioner Fletcher, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Hunter. Quorum was established.

Adoption of the Agenda

- On a motion by Chair Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Agenda was adopted unanimously with Commissioners Carson-Carr and Exum absent.

Presentations/Special Guest

- **SPIN Organizations- Alexander Davis**
 - Scooter organization with over 2,000 scooters in the DC area. The mission is to bring people closer together in their urban communities. There is a new Spin access program that allows for free 30 minute rides for DC residents enrolled in a local or state federal program, making it easier and cheaper for them to travel. There are safety videos on how to start your ride, how to be safe during your ride, and how to end your ride.
- **George Washington University Sugar Study- Allison Sylvestsky**
 - Currently doing research in reducing consumption of sugary drinks in youth through two different projects. The first project requires volunteers and parental consent from children ages 8-14, and the second from children under five. Volunteers get a \$25 gift card and the only criteria is that the parent lives in the DC area. Study@GWU.EDU
- **Ward Seven Survey Results- Michael Havlin**
 - Havlin conducted a survey of Ward Seven in which he texted the cellphone of 34,000 phone numbers unique to the war. Survey was completed by 427 residents and the raw data was analyzed.
 - The data showed that 64% of the participants approved the extension of the DC streetcar. However, those who opposed the streetcars strongly opposed them.
- **EHT Tracerics Inc- Alyssa Stein (Historian)**
 - Stein discussed the history of the A. Loffler Provision Company which has recently been determined ineligible due to lack of integrity. However, historians like Stein believe there is significant integrity to preserve the building's historical significance.
 - 75% of meat packaging in DC originated in the slaughterhouses at this site and should be recognized historically.



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- **Deputy Director at the Department at Behavioral Health Services: Jean Moise**
 - Moise discusses his community response team that has been participating in community engagement through working with community coordinators and peer leaders. CRT provides in person counseling to those in need, screening and linkages to key behavioral health services, outreach for people experiencing homelessness, and transportation to mental health and drug treatment appointments. As it pertains to Minnesota Avenue, they provide early morning outreach in the Minnesota Avenue area which they have found to be the best time. This partnership with the community can help address some of the issues of people living in this community including. This includes trauma support, building community partnership and engaging community leaders.

- **DHS- Laura Zelinnger**
 - Through DHS residents can apply for SNAP, medical assistance and other forms of assistance online. Mobile services are available to make benefits accessible to residents during the pandemic. They are currently working with the department of behavioral health to deploy services and coordinate with service providers with the goal of helping people access homes and shelter. All shelters that may have been overnight are open 24/7 and are providing three meals a day. There are also additional programs for single rooms in hotels for people who fit the demographic factors that contribute to fatalities in COVID. This includes resources to call on behalf of someone who needs shelter. The organization is currently working on bringing meals into the community.

- **DCRA- Jason Philips (Ward 7 Account Manager)**
 - DCRA receives reports on illegal vending and housing and business inspections in which they investigate. They have implemented the count management team/program which allows for a single individual to be dedicated to the needs of a particular ward. They interact with community leaders and members to stay proactive instead of reactive to the issues present in Ward 7 and ensure the customer and residents' concerns are addressed immediately.

- **United Planning Organization- Nina Shabazz**
 - UPO has provided resources, services and programs to assist residents in DC to help them become self-sufficient. The resources from this agency outweigh the need so they target certain communities such as the Benning Terrace Community. They check on residents weekly and help them enroll in an eight week grocery program. Nina Shabazz drives to the community several times a week to provide brochures and information on the program. Every three years there is a community needs assessment for residents in all 8 wards.

Updates

- **MPD- Captain Connors**
 - In response to loitering and congregation on Minnesota Avenue Captain Connors certifies that MPD is out there 24/7. If someone is homeless on a cold night, officers can call a homeless shelter on their half. These officers have specific training to get people into custody safely so that they may undergo a mental health evaluation. Officers are made aware of different resources to help civilians and their primary function is to be visible and connect people to available social services.



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- **Mayor's Office- Wesley Leary**
 - Beginning Tuesday October 20th residents with iPhone will be able to get push notifications. Android users will be prompted to download the DC CAN app. Anybody traveling from high risk states must be quarantined for fourteen days. Starting November 3rd some elementary school students will open for in person class. Twenty-nine recreation services have opened for usage after making an appointment, Ward 7 centers won't open until December. Beginning October 30th twenty bags will be given to DC residents to clean up leaves. Guidance for Halloween has been released, gatherings of over fifty people are prohibited and Halloween masks cannot substitute for a regular mask. Traditional door to door Trick-or-Treating is discouraged. wesley.leary@dc.gov 202-274-9282

Community Concerns/Announcements

- In response to a community member's concerns about the MPD's reaction to violence and drugs on 35th and Ames, Captain Connor says there is always a unit assigned to the area but they do get over a thousand 911 calls a day that require their assistance. He also notes that officers have to be careful about how they encounter the community.

Reports

- **Chair's Report**
 - Chair Holcomb participated in the council member action summit to decide on some of the areas that the council member wants to focus on over the four years. During this meeting the issues of community engagement, economic development, public safety and access to urgent care facilities. Holcomb looks forward to some of these becoming legislations. We also addressed loopholes in transitional homes, essentially no transitional homes should be able to open in the area without the approval or conversation with the ANC. We will be working on revamping committees. Moving forward we want to make sure we're doing all we can in terms of community engagement and including community members. We are going to be working on improving our communications and the emailing system. We are looking to improve alerts we send about community meetings, and will be working with Michael Havlin to start up a text messaging program to send alerts to community members via text message.
- **Secretary's Report**
 - Commissioner Hunter moved to approve the minutes for the September 15, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by commissioner Fletcher.
 - All minutes were unanimously accepted with four in favor in favor and zero against.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Checkings: \$50,304.68
 - Savings: \$22,213.35
 - Expenses:
 - Service Charge 9/22/2020: \$210
 - Credit to Account: \$15.17
 - Savings Account Interest 9/30/2020: \$5.60
 - Personnel Payment: \$1,625
 - Total Funds: \$72,518.03



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Commission Business Old/New

- **Motion for Resolution of Renaming Bern Street**
 - Renaming Bern Street in honor of the late Dr. Margaret Labat who was a pillar of the community and an educator in our DC public school system.
 - Motion was unanimously accepted with four in favor and zero against.
- **Letter Requisition for Traffic Safety Assessment**
 - Chair Holcomb motioned for a letter requisition for a traffic safety assessment for the 4200 block of Benning Road NE.
 - Motion properly moved and seconded by Commissioner Hunter.
 - Motion was unanimously accepted with four in favor and zero against.
- **Approving Grant for Minnesota Avenue Improvement**
 - Chair Holcomb motioned to accept Grant for the Minnesota Avenue improvement task force consultant contract. Positions include conducting surveys, focus groups and gathering information to services that are provided.
 - The Information will be accessible to the mayor and the community.
 - Motion was properly moved and seconded by Commissioner Hunter.
 - Motion was unanimously accepted with four in favor and zero against.

Meeting Adjourned

- Chair Holcomb moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

Contact Information for Current Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F Elected Officials:

ANC SMD 7F01- Commissioner Tyrell M. Holcomb: 7F01@anc.dc.gov | **Chairperson**

ANC SMD 7F02- Commissioner Terrance Hunter: 7F02@anc.dc.gov | **Secretary**

ANC SMD 7F03- Commissioner Sheila Carson-Carr: 7F03@anc.dc.gov

ANC SMD 7F04- Commissioner Charlene Exum: 7F04@anc.dc.gov

ANC SMD 7F05- Commissioner Brittany N. Hughes: 7F05@anc.dc.gov | **Vice Chair**

ANC SMD 7F06- Commissioner Carol E. Fletcher: 7F06@anc.dc.gov | **Treasurer**

ANC SMD 7F07- Vacant

Next 7F Commission General Meeting

November 17, 2020

via Zoom due to COVID-19