



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

Government of the District of Columbia

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General Commission Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024 6:30 p.m.

1. Moment of Silence

Chairperson Holcomb asked all participants to observe a moment of silence

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Holcomb at 6:34 PM.

A quorum was established with 7 Commissioners present: Thompson-Wright, Edwards, Hughes, Ruff, Nelson, Orendoff, and Holcomb. Commissioner Hayes joined the meeting later.

3. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Ruff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

4. Secretary's Report

- a. Commissioner Thompson-Wright moved to table the approval of May meeting minutes. Commissioner Ruff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

5. Commission Business

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. Resolution 24-008 Calling on OCFO to Provide Fund of Original TIF \$56 Million Amount Committed for the NE Heights (Downtown Ward 7) Redevelopment
- b. Commissioner Ruff moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous
- c. Old/New Business
 - i. Administrative Contractor Appointment

The Commission considered the appointment of Ms. Yolanda Glue as an administrative contractor. Chairperson Holcomb provided a detailed overview of the selection process, highlighting the following:

Candidate Background: Ms. Glue resides in Ward 7 and has actively followed ANC meetings across the ward, demonstrating a strong commitment to community engagement.

Selection Process: The Chairperson and Commissioner Thompson-Wright led the search, reviewing over 20 applicants. Ms. Glue stood out due to her writing skills, submission of a cover letter, and overall alignment with the Commission's needs.

Supporting Documentation: Ms. Glue's resume and a writing sample were shared with all commissioners prior to the meeting.

The motion to appoint Ms. Glue as the administrative contractor was moved by Commissioner Ruff and seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A roll call vote was conducted to ensure unanimity:

The vote passed unanimously, with Commissioner Orendoff emphasizing the need for future hiring decisions to be made through a committee process.

Communications Intern Appointment:

The Commission also considered the appointment of Ms. Dakota Fantroy, a rising junior at Friendship Collegiate Academy, as the Communications Intern.

Chairperson Thompson-Wright noted that the intern would report to the administrative contractor, with oversight from the Commission.

The motion to appoint Ms. Fantroy was moved by Commissioner Hayes and seconded by Commissioner Ruff.

The motion passed unanimously without the need for a roll call vote.

The Commission expressed strong support for both candidates and emphasized the importance of onboarding the new staff promptly to ensure operational efficiency.

6. Public Safety Update - 6th District MPD

No update provided this month.

7. Presentations/Special Guests

Jose Lopez, Project Manager - Capital Construction, DGS

Key Updates

Entrance Relocation:

- The entrance is being moved farther down Eli Place to comply with updated regulations from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), which require entrances to be at least 50 feet away from intersections.
- The new location aims to improve pedestrian safety and separate vehicle and pedestrian traffic flows.

Community Concerns:

- Commissioners and community members expressed significant concerns about the new entrance location, citing potential risks for neighborhood children who use nearby facilities like the baseball academy and local schools.
- Concerns were raised about DDOT's decision-making process and the lack of community input, with many stating that the relocation increases traffic risks in a high-foot-traffic area.

Traffic and Neighborhood Impact:

- Commissioners noted that most visitors to the ice arena come from outside the neighborhood, often arriving in buses and cars. They emphasized the need to prioritize the safety of local residents and children over the convenience of non-resident visitors.
- DDOT was criticized for a perceived pattern of approving projects in Ward 7 without adequately considering community concerns or conducting comprehensive studies.

Developer's Response:

- The project team stated that they followed DDOT's recommendations and guidelines but committed to relaying community feedback to DDOT.
- They highlighted the temporary nature of current construction entrances and reassured attendees that adjustments would be explored in coordination with relevant agencies.

Next Steps:



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- The project team will engage further with DDOT to revisit the entrance decision and explore solutions to community concerns.

- Commissioners emphasized the need for continued advocacy to ensure neighborhood safety remains a priority throughout the project.

- The project team committed to keeping the community informed about future developments and invited further input from residents.

Michelle Wilson, Meridith Moldenhauer and Regina Pyles, Department of Corrections

During the ANC 7F General Commission Meeting on June 18, 2024, representatives from the DC Department of Corrections (DOC) and project partners provided updates on the redevelopment of the DC Jail. The presentation covered the project's goals, design considerations, timeline, and ongoing community engagement.

Key Project Goals

Modernization: Replace the aging Central Detention Facility (CDF) and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) with updated infrastructure.

Rehabilitation and Reentry: Focus on treatment, rehabilitation, and reentry services to support individuals in custody.

Community Integration: Design a facility that blends into the community while meeting modern correctional standards.

Proposed Design Features

1. Facility Layout:

- Two new buildings (Building 1 and Building 2) will be constructed on Parcels N, O, and L of the Hill East campus, replacing the current CDF.
- A unified underground parking structure will serve staff and visitors.
- The new buildings aim to provide a welcoming streetscape along Massachusetts Avenue.

2. Key Components:

- Behavioral health housing and services.
- Medical and infirmary facilities.
- Improved public and visitor areas.
- Programming and treatment spaces for rehabilitation.

3. Design Principles:

- Create a functional yet anonymous exterior that integrates into the community.
- Enhance lighting, landscaping, and public-facing aesthetics.
- Incorporate features that focus on healing and safety.

Community Concerns

Notification and Outreach:

- Residents requested broader notification beyond the required 200-foot radius, as the project will impact nearby blocks.
- The DOC committed to increased outreach, including public meetings and updates through a project website.

Construction Impact:

- Commissioners and residents raised concerns about potential traffic congestion and disruptions from construction, especially given the proximity to ongoing Hill East development projects.
- DOC emphasized plans to work with the Department of General Services (DGS) and DDOT to minimize disruptions.

Timeline

Design Phase: Ongoing in 2024, with preliminary designs being finalized.

Community Engagement: Regular updates and public meetings planned through 2025.

Construction Start: Expected in FY 2027.

Completion: Anticipated within six years following groundbreaking.

Next Steps

- Public engagement sessions are scheduled for June 27 (Ward 8) and July 25 (Ward 7).
- Continued collaboration with ANC 7F, neighboring residents, and District agencies to address design and construction concerns.

The DOC reiterated its commitment to transparency and partnership, aiming to ensure the new facility serves as a modern and rehabilitative space while minimizing community impact.

In both presentations, Commissioners emphasized the importance of robust community engagement and transparency. They underscored the need for developers and agencies to prioritize community safety, address resident concerns, and collaborate effectively to ensure neighborhood impacts are minimized.

Fort Dupont Ice Arena Presentation

Commissioners expressed frustration over the decision to relocate the entrance without sufficient community input. There was criticism of DDOT for approving projects in Ward 7 without thorough traffic studies or proper consideration of community safety, particularly for children using nearby facilities like the baseball academy and local schools.

The relocation of the entrance was highlighted as a safety risk, with concerns that increased traffic from buses and cars would endanger children in the area. Commissioners noted that most visitors to the ice arena come from outside the neighborhood, leaving local residents, especially children, more vulnerable.

Commissioner Nelson and others emphasized the need for the developer to work collaboratively with the community to address these concerns. They also insisted that the community's opposition to the new entrance location be communicated clearly to DDOT, requesting meaningful engagement to revisit the decision.

DC Jail Redevelopment Presentation

Commissioners raised concerns about the limited notification radius of 200 feet for residents impacted by the DC Jail redevelopment project. Many felt this was insufficient given the project's scale and its potential effects on nearby neighborhoods. It was noted that more residents beyond the immediate area need to be informed and involved in the planning process.

Traffic and construction impact was a key concern, particularly given the already congested Hill East area and other simultaneous development projects nearby. Commissioner Wright stressed the importance of collaborating with DDOT to address these potential issues and avoid significant disruptions during construction.

Commissioners sought clarification on whether the facility would primarily focus on mental health treatment or function as a traditional jail. DOC representatives explained that while the facility would emphasize rehabilitation and behavioral health services, it would still serve as a correctional institution.

Concerns were also expressed about the long timeline for construction, with work not expected to begin until FY 2027. Commissioners questioned whether delays would exacerbate existing issues at the current facility and stressed the need for interim improvements.



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8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business, acting-Chair Thompson-Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.