

7E01 – Dawn Cook
7E02 – Aaron Harris
7E03 – Gail Perkins
7E04 – Natasha Dupee, Chair
7E05 – Vacant
7E06 – Ravi Perry
7E07 – Celeste Kato



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E
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**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – Virtual & In-Person
6:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: In compliance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition, Section 48, page 468, the minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E are a record of the actions taken by the Commission, not a record of what people said during the meeting. Accordingly, comments made by commissioners or members of the public are not recorded in detail for the purposes of these minutes.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Chair Dupee

ROLL CALL: 7E01 – Dawn Cook: Absent; 7E02 – Aaron Harris: Present; 7E03 – Gail Perkins: Present (virtual); 7E04 – Natasha Dupee: Present (in-person); 7E05 – VACANT; 7E06 – Ravi Perry: (Virtual – partial meeting); 7E07 – Celeste Kato: Present (in-person)

4 Commissioners were present – 7E02, 7E03, 7E04, 7E07

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA: Motion to approve April 2026 meeting agenda with amendment to add 3 resolutions. Motion carried: 3 Y – 1 N

ADOPTION OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES: Motion to approve March 2026 meeting minutes. Approved: 4 Y – 0 N

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chair Dupee acknowledged April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and noted resources available through the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants. Emancipation Day (Thursday, April 17) was highlighted; District government will be closed and events will run Thursday through Sunday, culminating in a parade on Sunday, April 19th at 1:30 PM with performers including Ty Trippett, EU and Sugar Bear, Black Alley, Mya, and T.I.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORE DC / The Horizon (Kimberly Roseborough, Program Director): The Horizon is a short-term family housing shelter run by CORE DC under DHS, housing 35 families (31 currently in residence). 43 families exited this fiscal year, 10 in the prior month. Focus is on long-term stability: in-house career fairs are being hosted, and the agency is partnering with community organizations. Goal: every exiting resident has employment or is enrolled in an education program completable within 12 months.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Woodlawn Cemetery Perpetual Care Association

Presenters: Tony White Richardson (President) and Nia Lartey

Background: Woodlawn Cemetery, founded in 1895, is a 131-year-old historic site located along Benning Road. The Woodlawn Cemetery Perpetual Care Association received a \$2,500 grant from the National Historic Trust Preservation and a \$125,000 grant (championed by Councilmember McDuffie, named after genealogist Paul Sluthby) to support ongoing maintenance. The cemetery is privately owned by the Association and operated entirely by volunteers.

Historical Significance: Notable burials include Blanche Bruce, the first Black person to serve a full Senate term during Reconstruction and Treasurer of the United States. The site was historically connected to the former Graceland Cemetery.

Current Work: Funds have been directed toward removing hazardous trees, redoing fencing, and general restoration. Volunteer partners include the Masons, Boy Scouts, AKA, and Delta sororities (via the Woodlawn Collaborative). The Association periodically opens the cemetery for community visits.

Wish List: President Richardson expressed hope that the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) might become the steward of the site to give it greater institutional attention and resources.

Community Cleanup: A cleanup is planned for this weekend. Flyer to be circulated on the 7E listserv.

2. DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) – RiverSmart Homes Program

Presenter: Skye Webster, Watershed Protection Division

Overview: DOEE is conducting community outreach across DC neighborhoods to highlight green infrastructure programs. Key presentation topics: green infrastructure maintenance, stormwater runoff management, and the RiverSmart Homes program. A 600 sq. ft. row home generates approximately 1,000 lbs. of stormwater runoff in a 1-inch rainstorm; green infrastructure can help filter pollutants before they reach DC's waterways.

RiverSmart Homes Benefits: Rain gardens or bayscapes, rain barrels, shade trees, and up to \$6,000 back for converting paved driveways/patios into permeable surfaces.

Upcoming Event: April 25th, community green infrastructure maintenance event at Woody Ward Community Center. Program flyers distributed in person and to be circulated digitally.

3. Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) – Ward 7 Liaison

Presenter: Chase Briscoe, Ward 7 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)

FY27 Budget Highlights (Mayor's Proposed Budget, transmitted to Council April 14):

Education: Per-student funding increased ~2.5% (~\$15,000/student); \$3M invested in tutoring. Public

Safety: ~\$500M to modernize facilities, expand rehabilitation services, proposed new fire station at RFK Campus (proposed, not confirmed). Core City Services: Libraries, DPW, DDOT, DOEE funding maintained. Healthcare: Nearly 40% of residents rely on DC programs; dental, vision, and SNAP improvements included. Economic Development: Reducing costs for businesses, easier government contracting.

DC 311 Updates: Encourages residents to use 311. For rodent issues, search "Rodent Inspection and Treatment (RAT)" in the 311 app.

DPR Spring Programming: Encourage registration for spring/summer programs at all ages at dpr.dc.gov.

DPW Spring Services: Street sweeping began the first weekend of April. Residents are urged to observe posted signs to avoid tickets. DPW Helping Hands program: \$15–20 donation for equipment assistance with community cleanups. Special Waste Event: April 30th at RFK Stadium, Parking Lot 8 (no bulk trash; accepts electronics, paper shredding, clothing, oil/gas).

Ward 7 Spring Cleanup: April 25th at 3001 Alabama Avenue. Roll-off dumpster provided. Vendors: Jersey Mike's, Starbucks, Becky's Seafood. Next Mayor's Community Roll-Off: June 27th at Joy Evans Recreation Center, 10 AM–2 PM.

Emancipation Day Events: Parade April 19 at 1:30 PM from 14th St & New York Ave to Franklin Park; concert until 8:15 PM. Thursday April 17: Day of Play at RFK (Oklahoma Avenue, 12–4 PM).

Metro Bus Town Hall: April 28th, 5:30–7 PM at Metro Headquarters, 300 7th Street SW, 1st Floor Boardroom.

Ward 7 Youth Entrepreneurship Program (EAST Program): Ages 16–24; 2-year commitment; \$500/month stipend; legal, financial, mentorship support. QR code shared for more information.

4. Office of Councilmember Wendell Felder (Ward 7)

Presenter: Mary Tanouye

Staffing: A new Constituent Services Coordinator starts Monday. Will be introduced at the May ANC meeting.

RFK Redevelopment: Ongoing community meetings; walking tours of campus on April 18th (10 AM) and April 23rd (6 PM). Details at rfk.dc.gov.

Office Hours: First Friday of each month; May will shift to Saturday, May 2nd at the Pretzel Bakery on 15th Street, 10 AM–12 PM. Ward Wednesdays continue at DGS, 10 AM–5 PM (no Ward Wednesday April 15 or 22 due to recess and cleanup).

Community Cleanup: April 22nd (Earth Day), 11 AM–2 PM, meeting at McDonald's on Minnesota Avenue. Cleaning Minnesota Avenue corridor and side streets. Reception at MHCDO on Benning Road at ~2:30 PM with food, drinks, and "Keep Ward 7 Clean" yard signs.

Education Town Hall: Wednesday, May 13th, 6–8 PM at Maya Angelou Public Charter School. Representatives from Ward 7 Education Council, SBOE, and student delegates.

Juneteenth Parade: Office will march in the parade; community members can register to join.

Budget Season: Mayor transmitted budget to Council April 14. Budget hearings begin next week; residents can register to testify at dccouncil.gov. Councilmember Felder has oversight of DSLBD; hearing April 30th.

East Capitol Street Construction: DDOT press release noted upcoming construction from the bridge to B Street SE. Chair Dupee sought clarification from DDOT on the specific block range and Mary Tanouye agreed to follow up.

5. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) – 6th District

No MPD representative was present. Chair Dupee reported that Officer Medina provided advance notice of an upcoming community walkthrough with 6th District Commander Hickman on Wednesday, April 15th at 12:00 PM, starting at 5300 E Street SE. Multiple government agencies will participate. Flyer to be distributed; Commissioner Perkins arranged for copies to be made available at the library.

CHAIR'S REPORT (Commissioner Natasha Dupee – 7E04)

PEPCO Bills: A significant concern for Ward 7 residents. High utility bills reported across the community. Resources available through the Councilmember’s constituent relief fund, DOEE utility discount programs, and Urban League. PEPCO virtual community meeting: April 29th, 6:30–8 PM.

Amber Overlook Water Bill Issue: Ongoing multi-year issue with DC Water. 9 homes in 7E02 were flooded in February; DC Water accepted liability (see Commissioner Harris update). Amber Overlook HOA has a collective water meter with bills running into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Office of the People’s Counsel has flagged that the development firm was previously found liable for a similar issue elsewhere. Councilmember Felder’s office, Mayor’s office, and OAG are engaged. Mary Tanouye (Felder’s office) is meeting with OAG the following day to explore options.

Summer Programs: Residents encouraged to subscribe to the 7E listserv for summer youth employment, service opportunities, and free produce distributions.

Free Vegetables: Available through Letterer Gardens on Nanny Helen Burroughs Avenue.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner Cook (7E01) was not present. No treasurer’s report given.

OFFICIAL ACTIONS

Motion 1 – Resolution Supporting Equitable and Finance-Aware Housing Policy:
Motion made by Commissioner Harris. Seconded. Discussion held; resolution reviewed by commissioners. Motion carried: 4 Y – 0 N

Motion 2 – Resolution for Symbolic Street Designation of Willie J. Hardy Way:
Motion made by Commissioner Harris. Seconded by Commissioner Perkins. Motion carried: 4 Y – 0 N

Note: A third resolution (Opposition to the Poker and Blackjack Gaming Authorization Act of 2025) was not voted on. Commissioners indicated need for further review before voting.

Motion 3 – Designate OANC as Agent for DIFs in PASS Accounting System:
Motion made by Chair Dupee. Seconded by Commissioner Perkins. This authorization, required every 3 years, allows direct deposit of ANC allotments. Motion carried: 4 Y – 0 N

DCRA, ABRA, DDOT – None. Zoning – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

7E01 – Commissioner Cook: Not present.

7E02 – Commissioner Harris: 9 houses in 7E02 were flooded in February. After coordination with multiple organizations and community members, DC Water accepted liability. Commissioner Harris encouraged residents to contact commissioners and city agencies regarding any unresolved service issues.

7E03 – Commissioner Perkins: No updates.

7E04 – Commissioner Dupee: See Chair’s Report. Provided additional detail on Amber Overlook water billing situation (see Chair’s Report for full summary).

7E05 – Vacant.

7E06 – Commissioner Perry: Not present for Commissioner Updates (disconnected).

7E07 – Commissioner Kato: Highlighted the DC2050 Future City Visioning Map survey. Only 1% of responses are from Ward 7; urged residents to participate and have their voices represented in the city’s 2050 planning process. Link shared in chat.

COMMUNITY FORUM

East River Dog Park Group / Travis Mania Foundation (Darren Thompson): Approaching the second anniversary of the first public dog park along the Anacostia River. DPR will no longer provide additional mulch, creating gaps in the park surface. Upcoming events: Community Day on May 2nd or 9th (TBD); Anniversary Party on May 16th at the dog park and Plummer Elementary School (workout classes, pet photos, Acadia Farms farmer’s market pop-up, community cookout). Fund request for rain barrel, irrigation system, and benches at Plummer Elementary (~\$500 needed). Chair Dupee advised on pathways: commissioner discretionary funds or ANC grant (up to \$5,000 for eligible non-profits). Mary Tanouye (Felder’s office) offered to explore additional support.

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM by Chair Dupee.

NEXT MEETING: May 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM ET

Prepared by Commissioner Celete Kato

Approved on:

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natasha Dupel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left area of the page.