



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E

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## Minutes for 19 September 2017

### ANC 5E Meeting

Friendship-Armstrong Charter School Cafeteria, 1400 P Street NW

**Present:** Commissioner Bradley Thomas (CT), Commissioner Horacio Sierra (CS) Commissioner Dianne Barnes (CB), Commissioner Eddie Garnett (CG), Commissioner Patricia Williams (CW), Commissioner Katherine McClelland (CM), and Commissioner Nancy Jones

**Tardy:** Commissioner Bertha Holliday (CH) [7:20] Commissioner Hannah Powell (CPW) [7:45]

**Absent:** Sylvia Pinkney (CP)

### Meeting Commenced at 7:01 pm

1. CB took roll call.
2. CG made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion passed.
3. Sergeant Fawzi of PSA 501 provided an updated on public safety.
4. CT opened the floor to Community Comments.
5. CS submitted the June Minutes. CM made a motion to accept them as printed. The motion passed.
6. CT provided an update on the Virtual Assistant search. We received seven applications and narrowed the list to three finalists whom we will interview within the next month.
7. CG presented a letter of support on behalf of the Housing Production Trust Fun for the Brookland Place Apartments at 617 Hamlin St NE. A representative from the Wesley Housing Development Corporation explained details about the company's efforts to offer affordable housing at this 80-unit apartment building, which it acquired last year. CP asked about displacement and the representative assured the ANC that no residents will be displaced. CG made a motion to approve the letter. The motion passed.
8. ABRA #107578 – Republic Cantina – 57 N Street NW #114. CT discussed how the proprietors of the establishment have not done any community engagement work. Neither the Hanover Area Civic Association (HACA) nor the ANC were contacted by the proprietors. CT proposed that ANC file a protest of this ABRA application so the proprietors are forced to engage with the community. Leon Braddell, Vice President of HACA, expressed support for the letter of protest. He explained that the developers, with whom HACA have been speaking with for a couple years, never included an alcohol-serving restaurant in their development plans. CT made a motion to support the letter of protest. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 8-0.
9. CPW gave the Treasurer's Report. Our current balance is \$46,281.16. CM made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.
10. A representative from the DC Preservation League discussed the application to designate the Sylvan Theater building, which is located on 1<sup>st</sup> and Rhode Island Avenue NW, as a historic building. CS and CM asked about



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the impetus for the application, the owner's opinion on the designation, and the impact the designation would have on the businesses occupying the building. CH informed us that the Bloomingdale Civic Association supported the application. CH made a motion to support the letter. The motion passed.

11. Lionel Gaines from Mayor Bowser's office provided updates.

12. CH presented the second reading of the Bloomingdale Village Square Project grant application. CPW informed us that we have paid other grants as reimbursements instead of making direct payments to the vendors. CT made a motion to approve the grant. The motion passed on a roll call vote of CG No, CW No, CP Abstain, CT Yes, CM Yes, CH Abstain, CS Abstain, CB Yes, and CJ Yes.

13. CPW delivered the Treasurer's Report. The ANC's current balance is \$57,478.38. The final FY '17 disbursement should go through soon. CH made a motion to approve the report. The motion passed.

14. CPW presented the Q3 FY '17 Report. CPW made a motion to approve the report. The motion passed.

15. The following requests were made to pay bills:

CB \$8.00 for bus travel to attend two hearings

CT \$122.66 for printing flyers advertising his SMD meeting

CH \$25.61 for office supplies

CPW made a motion to accept the requested reimbursements. The motion passed.

16. CPW presented the proposed FY '18 Budget. CPW explained the differences between the FY '17 and FY '18 budgets as discussed at the ANC COW meeting such as Personnel (expected salary for Virtual Assistant) and Grants. The projected ending balance for FY '18 is \$44,477. CH suggested we move \$6,000 from Personnel to Purchase of Services to ensure we are hiring a contracted service and not hiring an employee until ANC tells us we need to do so. CB made a motion to accept the proposed budget with CH's amendment. The motion passed.

17. CPW presented the first reading of a grant application on behalf of the Eckington Civic Association for the Fall Festival to be held on October 28, 2017. The request is for \$1,500 out of a proposed budget of \$4,300. The \$1,500 will not go to food but to activities. CB suggested CPW check with Gottlieb Simon about using grant money on entertainment.

18. BZA Case #19607 – Great American Bistro – 1545 New Jersey Ave NW. The owners of the establishment discussed plans for their restaurant. They are asking for an exception to add in-door seating in addition to food and retail permits. CT reported that attendees of his last SMD meeting as well as the Bates Area Civic Association (BACA) supported the application at their last meeting. CT made a motion to approve the letter of support. The motion passed on a roll call vote of CG Yes, CW Yes, CPW Yes, CT Yes, CM Yes, CH Yes, CS Yes, CB Yes, and CJ Yes.

19. BZA Case #19439 – 311 P Street, LLC. This is a new presentation from the developer, whose request was rejected last time due to density issues. The new development reduces the number of units from four to three and tries to alleviate parking issues in the area (working to get neighboring streets zoned as Ward 5 for parking).



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BACA expressed approval of the development according to CT. CM expressed disappointment that the developer did not return to BACA with an update on the changes to their plan. CT read a letter expressing that the ANC is dropping its opposition to the developer's BZA request. CT made a motion to support the letter. The motion passed on a roll call vote of CG Yes, CW Yes, CPW No, CT Yes, CM Yes, CH Yes, CS Yes, CB Yes, and CJ Yes.

20. BZA Case #19623 – Creative Grounds – 1822 North Capitol Street NW. A special exception was requested to open a corner store/art gallery with an accessory food prep (coffee) station. The proprietor said they have support from their immediate neighbors and around two hundred signatures in support of the establishment. CH made a motion to support the application. The motion passed on a roll call vote of CG Yes, CW Yes, CPW Yes, CT Yes, CM Yes, CH Yes, CS Yes, CB Yes, and CJ Yes.

21. BZA Case #10579 – 22 Bryant St NW, LLC. They are seeking a special exception to expand the building from a two-unit to a three-unit building, which will include a four-space parking lot on site (two tandem spots). CB said the Bloomingdale Civic Association approved the request. The owner said there will not be any changes to the building's facade. The motion passed on a roll call vote of CG Yes, CW Yes, CPW Yes, CT Yes, CM Yes, CH Yes, CS Yes, CB Yes, and CJ Yes.

22. Kelly Cislo provided an update from Councilmember McDuffie's office.

23. A representative from the Deputy Mayor's Office reported that the special hearing on the McMillan Project ended with re-approval of the previous plans for the area. An update was given about what can be expected to occur on the project site in the next few months.

24. Janay Austin from AARP made a presentation.

25. There was a presentation from the Dance Place Community Art Project about the 8<sup>th</sup> Street art space in Brookland.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:22 pm

Minutes Recorded by Commissioner Horacio Sierra