

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1E

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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#1E-2024-0203: RESOLUTION CALLING ON DC GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A BUDGET AND PLAN FOR REIMAGINING AND ENHANCING KC LEWIS FIELDS

WHEREAS, The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) maintains a Neighborhood Park known as "KC Lewis Fields" on the 300 block between Bryant and W Streets NW that consists of 1) an outdoor basketball court, 2) a 60 inch baseball field, 3) a children's playground, and 4) an old, unusable small basketball court (see Appendix A below for a visual map); and

WHEREAS, DC Water owns a dilapidated warehouse facility and a small parking lot at the location; and

WHEREAS, KC Lewis Fields are under utilized with the only known programing by Banneker City Little League who has used the baseball field since 2018 for team practice during the little league season (Spring Season is March-June, Fall Season is September-November); and

WHEREAS, The immediate surrounding neighborhood is home to a projected 1,175 individuals under the age of 18 years old, according to 2020 Census data for Census Tracts 33.01, 33.02, and 34, demonstrating potential demand; and

WHEREAS, Since at least 2022, neighbors in the surrounding neighborhood have reported issues with cleanliness and grounds maintenance at KC Lewis Fields to 311, the Ward 1 and Ward 5 Councilmembers, and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC); and

WHEREAS, ANC Commissioners from 1B, 1E, and 5E ("ANC Team") began meeting on a monthly basis in May 2023 to coordinate a comprehensive approach for articulating issues at and advocating enhancements for KC Lewis Fields; and

WHEREAS, The ANC Team has engaged the community in documenting issues around KC Lewis Fields and identifying solutions and opportunities to increase utilization by:

- Conducting a community walk through KC Lewis Field with representatives from LeDroit Park Civic
 Association, Councilmember Nadeau's Office, DPR, and the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and
 Services (MOCRS),
- Meeting with Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO) at Seaton Elementary and Langley Elementary,
- Meeting with the LeDroit Park Civic Association,

¹ https://maps.geo.census.gov/ddmv/map.html

- Aggregating various correspondence with constituents requesting assistance and/or reporting issues with the fields, and
- Releasing a 6-question survey between October 12 and 27, 2023, which was completed by 71
 individuals in the surrounding area (see Appendix B for full survey results); and

WHEREAS, Common themes from the 71 respondents and other community engagements around "What is the biggest hurdle for you using this site right now?" include:

- It's unclear that this is public/accessible play space,
- Litter and poor maintenance overall,
- Safety concerns,
- It's in terrible shape and is quite boring,
- There's nothing I'd use there, and
- Don't understand/can't find the programming schedule; and

WHEREAS, The ANC Team has engaged DPR, DC Water, and the Ward 1 and Ward 5 Councilmembers' Offices to research issues, possible solutions, and future plans for KC Lewis Park, which include:

- DC Water plans to demolish and rebuild the warehouse facility at that location within the next 2-3 years,
- KC Lewis Elementary is scheduled to be used as a swing space for Seaton Elementary starting in FY26;
 therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 1E requests that DPR, DC Water, Department of General Services (DGS), District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and other applicable agencies work together to develop a budget and plan for reimagining and enhancing KC Lewis Fields to be included in the FY25 budget; further

BE IT RESOLVED, Based on community feedback, ANC 1E recommends the budget and plan include, but not limited to, the following enhancements:

- Redevelop the children's playground to make it inviting to families in the community and as an early investment to Seaton Elementary entering the space;
- Redevelop the old basketball court into a dual purpose Tennis and Pickleball Court, which received the largest number of votes (31% and 20% respectively) in the October community survey;
- Repair equipment at the new basketball court;
- Repair and update equipment at the baseball field, including fixing the stadium lighting;
- Improve signage and branding at and around the fields, including directional signs on Georgia Avenue NW, North Capital Street, and other key roads directing people to the park;
- Improve cleanliness at and around the fields, including more trash bins and routine pick ups;
- Increase transportation safety, including a raised cross walk on Bryant Street and sidewalk accessibility;
- Increase bike safety, including a bike rack/corral and dedicated bike lane on Bryant Street as ANC 1E
 previously supported through the February 2023 Resolution Requesting DDOT to Study Bike Lanes
 Along Bryant Street;
- Increase canopy shading with trees and seating around the park; and
- Improve public safety, including installing security cameras (2nd and Bryant); further

BE IT RESOLVED, That ANC 1E designates Commissioner Brian Footer to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution. In the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out

their representative duties for any reason, ANC 1E authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution.

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Certification:

At a regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meeting held on February 28, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1E considered the above resolution. With a quorum of <u>7</u> Commissioners present, the Commission voted with <u>7</u> Yeas, <u>0</u> Nays, and <u>0</u> Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution

Brian Footer

Chairperson, ANC 1E

Josh Jacobson

Secretary, ANC 1E

APPENDIX A

KC Lewis Field — Map of the site 1. Playground – in use, needs maintenance 2. Basketball Courts – in use, no programming 3. K.C. Lewis Field – little league 4. Basketball Courts – not usable, cars parked on surface Right Falls (Courts – In use) Right Falls (Courts – In us

APPENDIX B

