

GOVERNMENT  
OF  
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

+ + + + +

ZONING COMMISSION

+ + + + +

PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

----- :  
 IN THE MATTER OF: :  
 :  
 OFFICE OF PLANNING : Case No.  
 TEXT AMENDMENT : 18-04  
 :  
 ----- :

Thursday,  
June 28, 2018

Hearing Room 220 South  
441 4th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

The Public Hearing of Case No. 18-04 by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Jerrily R. Kress Memorial Hearing Room at 441 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001, Anthony J. Hood, Chairman, presiding.

ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- ANTHONY J. HOOD, Chairperson
- ROBERT MILLER, Vice Chair
- MICHAEL TURNBULL, Commissioner (NPS)

OFFICE OF ZONING STAFF PRESENT:

- DONNA HANOUSEK, Secretary

OFFICE OF PLANNING STAFF PRESENT:

JENNIFER STEINGASSER, Deputy Director  
ELISA VITALE

The transcript constitutes the minutes from  
the Public Hearing held on June 28, 2018.

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

	<u>Page</u>
Opening Remarks . . . . .	4
Preliminary Matters . . . . .	5
Report of the Office of Planning Elisa Vitale . . . . .	5
Adjourned . . . . .	10

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:35 p.m.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CHAIRMAN HOOD: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is a public hearing of the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia. Today's date is June 28, 2018. My name is Anthony Hood. We're located in Jerrily R. Kress Memorial Hearing Room.

Joining me this evening are Vice Chair Miller and Commissioner Turnbull. We're also joined by Office of Zoning staff, Ms. Donna Hanousek, as well as the Office of Planning, Ms. Steingasser and Ms. Vitale.

This proceeding is being recorded by a court reporter and is also webcast live. Notice of today's hearing was published in the DC Register. If you need copies, they are on the table near the door.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of 11 DCMR Chapter 5 as follows: Preliminary Matters, Presentation by the Office of Planning, in this case, Reports of Other Government Agencies, Reports of the ANC, Organizations and Persons in Support, Organizations and Persons in Opposition.

The following time constraints will be maintained in this meeting. You have up to 60 minutes, but we don't need 60 minutes. Organizations, five minutes. Individuals, three minutes.

1           The staff will be available throughout the hearing  
2 to discuss procedural questions.

3           At this time, the Commission will consider any  
4 preliminary matters. Does the staff have any preliminary  
5 matters?

6           MS. HANOUSEK: No, sir.

7           CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. At this time, Ms. Vitale?

8           MS. VITALE: Good evening, Mr. Chair, members of  
9 the Commission. Elisa Vitale with the Office of Planning.  
10 We're happy to rest on the record in support of the proposed  
11 text amendment to permit the construction of three playing  
12 fields and accessory buildings on unzoned land currently used  
13 as a parking lot at RFK.

14           And then, to require design review for  
15 construction of an open-sided pavilion, also on land  
16 currently being used for parking at RFK.

17           OP would ask that the Commission take proposed  
18 action on this item this evening. This concludes my report  
19 and I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

20           CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Vitale.  
21 Let's see, Commissioners, any questions on this? Okay.  
22 Well, we can ask one. Vice Chair Miller?

23           VICE CHAIR MILLER: Just to make it worth our  
24 while, earn our big stipend. So, this is for the interim  
25 playing fields and accessory structures and the pavilion.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Eventually, there will be a longer term use which we'll see  
2 a different type of text amendment, I guess.

3 MS. VITALE: That's correct. These are for short-  
4 term improvements. There is a long-term planning process  
5 underway. We anticipate that zoning would ultimately be  
6 placed on the property and that would come back to the  
7 Commission for action in the future.

8 VICE CHAIR MILLER: All right. And how many  
9 playing fields will there be at RFK?

10 MS. VITALE: There are -- right now, they're  
11 proposing three playing fields. And I think some of those  
12 will be multipurpose, so they'll be able to function for  
13 soccer, baseball, other sports.

14 VICE CHAIR MILLER: And the open-air pavilion, what  
15 is that? Is that just -- what is that purpose?

16 MS. VITALE: The purpose of the pavilion, as I  
17 understand it, is to provide a shade structure, a place for  
18 gathering. If there are awards ceremonies, those types of  
19 things, associated with games being held on the fields, they  
20 would use the space for that.

21 VICE CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Well, sounds good and  
22 worthwhile. And look forward to seeing the use of those  
23 parking lots as pervious surfaces. And eventually, Mr.  
24 Chairman, maybe we'll get our football team back there.  
25 You'll still be here when that happens.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Oh, I won't be. Are you bringing  
2 the Giants to town, is that what --

3 (Laughter.)

4 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Ms. Vitale, let me ask you a  
5 question. I don't know how much you know about the -- I  
6 really appreciate the submission from DGS that was in the  
7 back of your report. I'd actually heard about some of the  
8 issues with those fields some years ago. I actually didn't  
9 believe them until I read this.

10 But when it says -- and I know, you may not know.  
11 If not, maybe before the -- I think this is a two vote case,  
12 maybe before final. I'm just curious, it says, does the  
13 District currently have a moratorium on crumb tire rubber  
14 field materials? Are those the fields that supposedly, and  
15 I don't know if this has been proven or not, that cause  
16 cancer?

17 MS. VITALE: I do not know the answer to that.

18 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Well, that was something,  
19 they were having a press conference some years ago about  
20 those fields, and I was just curious. And I notice, this  
21 says, what the submission says, about they stopped using it,  
22 and I don't think they've put in any recently.

23 But anyway, this was a good submission. If I  
24 don't get the answers, it's not a show-stopper, I just was  
25 curious. Okay. Anything else? Commissioner Turnbull?

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1           COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I just had one. There's  
2 a lot of information about what they're not going to use, but  
3 I'm assuming the fields are still going to be a synthetic  
4 athletic turf?

5           MS. VITALE: That is correct.

6           COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay.

7           CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Did we have any other  
8 reports that I may have missed? Other -- well, I just talked  
9 about one, so I know I didn't miss it. Okay. So, we did  
10 have a submission from DGS, which I thought was great.

11           I don't believe we had any reports from any of the  
12 ANCs.

13           Do we have any organizations or persons who are  
14 here who would like to testify in support?

15           Any organizations or persons who are here who  
16 would like to testify in opposition?

17           Any organizations or person who are here who are  
18 undeclared?

19           Okay. So, I will close this portion. I think we  
20 have a request, even from the Office of Planning -- I think  
21 that's the first time you all requested that we do proposed.  
22 Have I ever heard that before? I don't remember the Office  
23 of Planning -- okay. I just don't remember it.

24           MS. STEINGASSER: We seldom have cases that we  
25 petition that lack this level of adversity.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701



1 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Oh, yes, now that is definitely a  
2 true statement. Okay. So, colleagues, you've heard the  
3 request. I don't think we need to wait for anything else.  
4 We might as well go ahead and do that, and let's go ahead and  
5 adjourn. So, would somebody like to make a motion.

6 VICE CHAIR MILLER: Sure. Mr. Chairman, I would  
7 move that the Zoning Commission take the proposed action on  
8 Zoning Commission Case Number 18-04, proposed text amendment  
9 for RFK playing fields and give OP the flexibility to work  
10 with OAG to clarify the language to be included in the notice  
11 of proposed rulemaking and ask for a second.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. It's been moved and properly  
14 second. Any further discussion? All in favor?

15 (Chorus of aye.)

16 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Any opposition? Not hearing any,  
17 Ms. Hanousek, could you record the vote, please?

18 MS. HANOUSEK: Yes. Upon the motion of Vice  
19 Chairman Miller, as seconded by Commissioner Turnbull, the  
20 Zoning Commission took proposed action to approve Case Number  
21 18-04, at the conclusion of its public hearing, by a vote of  
22 3-0-2. Hood, Miller, and Turnbull to approve. May and  
23 Shapiro not present, not voting.

24 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. So, with that, Office of  
25 Planning, you have anything else?

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MS. STEINGASSER: No.

2 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Ms. Hanousek, do we have  
3 anything else?

4 MS. HANOUSEK: No, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. So, with that, I want to  
6 thank everyone for coming out and for their participation in  
7 this hearing and this hearing is adjourned.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the  
9 record at 6:52 p.m.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Public Hearing

Before: DCZC

Date: 06-28-18

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701