

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B**  
**GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS**

**April 2012 Minutes**

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center. In attendance were: Commissioners Cohen (05), Blumenthal (02), Thielen (01), Kreitzman (04), and Fulwood (03).

**SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT**

Sargent Tolliver and Lieutenant Neal from the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District provided the police report for April 2012. The boundary for the crime statistics extends to Connecticut Avenue in Woodley Park. Burglaries are up 29% this year and theft from autos is up 79% this year. Commissioner Thielen inquired about magazine vendors going to residences, attempting to observe the neighborhood. Lieutenant Neal's advice was to not even open the door for these people. Dee Smith from Councilmember Cheh's office noted that this activity has been occurring in other neighborhoods in Ward 3 as well.

Lieutenant Neal provided an update of the March 23 assault that occurred at Guy Mason Recreation Center at 12:30 PM. The suspect was charged with second-degree burglary, two charges of second-degree assault, and destruction of property. The suspect is also now barred from the Guy Mason facilities. One resident noted that the police responding to this incident made no effort to notify the parents who were at Guy Mason at the time the incident occurred. Sargent Tolliver responded that if this incident was deemed dangerous to the public, the police would have evacuated the site. Commissioner Cohen expressed concern that the notice barring the suspect from Guy Mason had not been posted in the area, and Sergeant Tolliver indicated he would address this concern.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Wisconsin Avenue Streetscape Improvements:* Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3B hosted a public meeting in April at the Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center. Following the meeting, a group of Glover Park residents sent a letter raising concerns, including the diversion of traffic to residential streets, to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). ANC 3B also sent a letter to DDOT supporting many of the recommendations made by the neighbors' letter.

Commissioner Cohen said there are two issues that DDOT and ANC 3B were concerned about: 1) pedestrian accidents and, 2) the quality of the Glover Park commercial strip. Commissioner Cohen remarked that the DC Office of Planning became involved in strategies to revitalize the commercial strip and the main project costs with the streetscape improvements are for wider sidewalks and new streetlights.

Commissioner Blumenthal said the new left turn lanes at every intersection will make a big improvement with traffic going through the commercial strip. Commissioner Blumenthal also noted there is a problem with vehicles speeding on Wisconsin Avenue.

Paul Hoffman and Colleen \_\_\_\_\_ from DDOT appeared at the April ANC meeting to answer questions about the project. Paul Hoffman said the total project cost is \$6,000,000. The contract with Fort Myer Construction is \$4,000,000 and there are also DDOT construction and overhead costs.

According to DDOT, the project was being designed from 2009 – 2011. Work times for the project are restricted to 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Pedestrian safety improvements for the intersection of Tunlaw and 37<sup>th</sup> Street were addressed in a study from 2009 and posted online by the Toole Design Group. According to DDOT, there is a possibility that the 37<sup>th</sup> and Tunlaw improvements can be funded as an impact area related to the Wisconsin Avenue project and that option is currently being explored. Paul Hoffman also noted that crosswalks and stop signs have to be warranted in a pedestrian safety study, with DDOT using traffic counters to provide this data.

Mr. Hoffman also noted that DDOT has been having discussions with the Washington Metropolitan Transportation Authority (WMATA) about moving the bus stop at Wisconsin and 35<sup>th</sup> Street slightly to the north to accommodate the crosswalk.

One Glover Park resident noted the strong local support for a crosswalk at the intersection of Tunlaw and Benton, where a bus stop is located. The resident also inquired about obtaining speed humps and stop signs on 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

Another resident noted that since the streetscape improvements have already started, DDOT's traffic counts on the residential streets will likely be invalid, noting that there needs to be a way to assess the increase in vehicle traffic on residential streets. Residents also noted an increased number of commercial vehicles on 37<sup>th</sup> Street and also on Tunlaw Road, including three Circulator buses.

Commissioner Blumenthal said that the ANC always knew the construction period would cause some disruptions and problems but what the neighborhood does not want is to be left with the problems when the work ends. One resident wanted to know what has been done to ensure Wisconsin Avenue would function in an emergency. Mr. Hoffman responded that the responsible city agencies have a comprehensive emergency response plan that includes Wisconsin Avenue. Commissioner Cohen also said that in the event that everyone had to evacuate Washington, DC, the bottlenecks wouldn't be in Glover Park but further north on Wisconsin Avenue.

Paul Hoffman from DDOT said the most disruptive work will be with the conduit work associated with installing the new Washington Globe lights. A resident responded that the temporary placement of signal lights prior to switching them out has left the pedestrian signal-change buttons located too high for many people to use.

One neighbor said there are many other traffic-calming measures to improve pedestrian safety that could be used like speed cameras and HAWK pedestrian signals at crosswalks instead of a

possible reduction in capacity on Wisconsin Avenue. Commissioner Blumenthal responded that ANC 3B will be discussing traffic cameras at the May 2012 meeting.

Commissioner Thielen asked Paul Hoffman if DDOT could study installing stop signs at the intersection of Tunlaw Road and Davis Place.

Mr. Hoffman indicated that DDOT was carefully assessing the requests of neighborhood residents regarding traffic and pedestrian improvements in the neighborhood and not just on Wisconsin Avenue.

*DC Greens Grant Request:* Lauren Biel from the *DC Greens* appeared before the ANC to request a grant of \$2,500. The money would go primarily to rent space at Hardy Middle School. Rent for the period from May 12 to November 17 is expected to be \$2,600. Ms. Biel noted that she has asked for a reduction in the rent but the request was denied. According to Ms. Biel, every other farmers' market in the District pays \$150 for rent per season, with the amount depending on the type of property rented. Commissioner Cohen asked Ms. Biel if she could get the ANC an amended request that showed the money will go to pay for seasonal rent.

The request was approved by a vote of 5-0.

*Public Mural at 37<sup>th</sup> and W Place Stairs:* Jarrett Ferrier appeared before the ANC to discuss his application for a grant from the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities for a public mural next to the stairs at 37<sup>th</sup> Street and W Place. The proposal has been mentioned in the *Georgetown Current* and the *Glover Park Gazette*. The proposed mural would have scenes to commemorate Charles Glover, including images of Rock Creek, the Cathedral, and the National Zoo. Mr. Ferrier noted the poor condition by the stairs currently. The project would also include the installation of an iron gate at the top of the stairs.

Mr. Ferrier also addressed the concern at the previous ANC meeting about making the mural resistant to graffiti, noting there is a top-coating that can be applied.

One resident said she is concerned that Georgetown University students tend to park in the area by the stairs and walk to campus and noted there has been a lot of graffiti in this area. The resident also noted that trash cans will obscure the mural most of the time. Commissioner Cohen responded that the trash cans are not allowed in this public space and shouldn't be there. Commissioner Cohen noted that he's worked with the Mayor's office about residents placing their trash cans in this public area.

Commissioner Blumenthal said that she thinks the mural will help based on the "broken windows theory," whereby if an area is improved and is more appealing, there will likely be less vandalism there.

Another resident said that she hopes the iron archway is high enough that it doesn't impede with the delivery of large goods and objects by people using the stairs, and Mr. Ferrier assured her it would not..

Commissioner Cohen said that, to the extent possible, he expects that Mr. Ferrier will take community concerns into consideration. The ANC approved a letter of support by a vote of 5-0.

*Extended Hours for Liquor Service:* Commissioner Blumenthal discussed Mayor Gray's proposal to extend the hours that alcohol is served to 3 a.m. and 4 AM. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that what might be good for the central business district is not necessary good for residential neighborhoods. A resolution opposing the extended hours in Glover Park's commercial center was approved by a vote of 5-0. Commissioner Blumenthal will testify on this issue at a hearing before Councilmember Jim Graham's committee.

*Extended Hours for Breadsoda:* Commissioner Blumenthal noted that at the May ANC meeting, there will be a vote on an amended voluntary agreement to allow full hours of service downstairs. The limited hours for the upstairs deck will remain. Anyone with concerns about this is asked to contact ANC3B.

*Rent Control:* Commissioner Krietzman introduced a resolution supporting a request that the DC City Council support an update to the District's rent control to eliminate loopholes. Tom Gregory, representing a group of neighbors in favor of rent control, spoke in favor this resolution. According to Mr. Gregory, people who wrote the rent control legislation were apartment lobbyists. The current rent control legislation guarantees up to a 12% return for apartment owners. Currently, every year rents are allowed to increase by the Consumer Price Index plus two percent. Mr. Gregory is seeking to limit that to just a two percent increase.

Commissioner Cohen noted that he is sensitive to the issue of affordable housing and the concerns of seniors but noted that rent control is an inappropriate and problematic solution and that there are approaches available to addressing these concerns without the market distortion caused by rent control. Mr. Cohen noted that this is why he opposed the resolution.

Commissioner Fulwood said he favors this resolution because it has to do with fairness. According to Commissioner Fulwood, working people and young people have been pushed out of cities because of high housing costs. Commissioner Krietzman noted that he wants people who work in the District to be able to remain in the District and pay taxes in the District.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Kreitzman, Blumenthal, and Fulwood voting aye and Commissioners Cohen and Thielen voting nay.

Commissioner Blumenthal noted that the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration approved ANC 3B's recommendation to extend the liquor license moratorium three years. Two new CR licenses were created and the limited on Class B licenses was removed.

*Expanded Outside Patio for Bourbon:* Bill Thomas, the owner of Bourbon sought to expand into the building next to Bourbon on Wisconsin Avenue but a nail salon and a massage business are locating in that building. Mr. Thomas would like to expand into the neighboring patio space in front of the building and asked ANC3B for its support and to communicate that support to ABRA A letter of support was approved by a vote of 5-0.

*37<sup>th</sup> Street Parking:* Commissioner Cohen noted that DDOT seeks community input on installing new signs on the section of 37<sup>th</sup> Street that borders Wards 2 and 3 to allow residents who live within one block of the ward boundary to park in either ward. The issue had been raised on the Glover Park listserv, on the ANC website, and at the meeting, and only positive comments had been received from neighbors. The ANC voted 5-0 to send DDOT a letter supporting the new signs.

#### OPEN FORUM

*Guy Mason Dog Park:* Glover Park resident Amanda MacKaye noted that at the request of Friends of Guy Mason, she is heading up a committee to support an application to formally register the dog park at Guy Mason. The required petition to get DPR approval for the dog park had 62 signatures at the time of the April ANC meeting. The application requires the committee to maintain the park. Commissioner Cohen said that if this request isn't time-sensitive, we'll review the letter and take a vote on a letter of support at the May meeting. Ms. MacKaye said she intends to proceed to file the application and will note that the ANC3B support letter will follow

*Tree Canopy:* One resident said that the District is replacing large, mature, trees with little decorative trees. Commissioner Cohen indicated he would seek to have Urban Forestry appear at an upcoming ANC meeting.

*Guy Mason Clean-up Day:* The Glover Park community will be helping with clean-up and repairs at Guy Mason on April 21.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

*January minutes:* The March 2012 minutes were approved, pending any additional changes, by a vote of 5-0.

*February 2012 Financial Statement:* The opening balance in February was \$4,580.59. There were withdrawals of \$25 for the ANC security fund (#1186), \$129.10 for ANC business cards (#1187), and \$400 for website hosting to DLM Web Development (#1118). There were no deposits for February. The closing balance was \$4,026.49.

*March 2012 Financial Statement:* The opening balance for March was \$4,026.49. There were withdrawals of \$197.00 for petty cash reimbursement (#1190) and \$20 to DLM Web Development (#1191). There were no deposits in March. The closing balance was \$3,809.49.

*ANC 3B Grant Guidelines:* Because of extensive demand for grants, ANC 3B is establishing a \$2500 limit for grant requests and will approve requests on a quarterly basis, to better determine demand for the grants.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:30 PM.

