

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

October 2011 Minutes

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

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

There were five robberies for the month, compared to one last year and two assaults with a deadly weapon, compared to zero last year. Total violent crime was up 17% for the month, compared to the same period last year. Three were 51 property crimes for the month, compared with 61 last year. For the year to date, there have been 46 violent crimes this year, compared with 40 last year. Total crime, however, is down three percent for the year to date.

Commissioner Cohen noted traffic enforcement issues at Stoddert Elementary School. The traffic issues are concentrated in a 15 minute period in the morning. The Metropolitan Police Department suggested that there is a need to work with the school on this. Dee Smith from Councilmember Cheh's office inquired if there are issues regarding WMATA buses, and, if so, it might be necessary to discuss this with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Commissioner Thielen inquired about establishing a Safe Routes to School program for Stoddert.

Lieutenant Neil discussed the pedestrian struck by a police vehicle while in the crosswalk on Wisconsin Avenue. Lieutenant Neil said the Metropolitan Police Department was in the process of an ongoing accident investigation. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that three pedestrians have been struck by police vehicles within five years within or near the boundaries of ANC 3B, including the intersection at Wisconsin and Fulton and Newark and Wisconsin. Additionally, Commissioner Blumenthal noted that the Georgetown Patch article about the collision stated this vehicle has received three speeding violations. Lieutenant Neil responded that this is a dangerous intersection that should be better marked.

OLD BUSINESS

Office of Planning 2006 Commercial District Analysis: Andrea Limauro from the Office of Planning attended the October ANC 3B meeting to discuss the *After Small Area Plan* (ASAP) report. This document helps to revisit the original plan. Mr. Limauro noted that a lot has changed in Glover Park in the previous five years. Mr. Limauro also noted the DDOT bid for the streetscape improvements is open until the end of October. Work

should begin by the middle of November – early December, but Mr. Limauro noted this is a difficult time of year for construction.

The intersection at Wisconsin and 35th Street is a priority, with DDOT planning on building bulb-outs from the sidewalk. DDOT will also paint a median strip with reflective signs here.

Mr. Limauro discussed creating a Business Improvement District (BID) among businesses in the Glover Park commercial district but noted some of the challenges to the commercial district are a result of high rents and poor architectural design, issues that the Office of Planning has little or no influence over.

Commissioner Blumenthal inquired about the intersection at Wisconsin and 37th Street, noting that this is a dangerous intersection. Commissioner Blumenthal also noted that the intersection at Davis and Tunlaw is dangerous but these two intersections were left out of DDOT's plans.

Andrea Limauro said DDOT will be removing redundant newspaper boxes on Wisconsin Avenue, which should improve pedestrian safety because of the narrow width of the sidewalks. Mr. Limauro said that these will be removed when DDOT makes its streetscape improvements.

In response to a question from Tom Smith from Mayor Gray's office, Mr. Limauro said that Christopher Delfs is the main DDOT point of contact for the streetscape improvements.

Commissioner Thielen inquired about WMATA bus stop consolidation for the 30s routes. Mr. Limauro said that WMATA prefers to have an ANC resolution supporting consolidation of bus stops before it acts. In response, Commissioner Cohen said that the ANC needs continued communication from the Office of Planning to be informed about what it can do to help implement the planned improvements.

Commissioner Cohen inquired about the recommendation in the Office of Planning report to improve pedestrian access to Wisconsin Avenue from the west. Mr. Limauro noted that some of these informal passageways are on private property, making it difficult for the Office of Planning or DDOT to act.

Commissioners and members of the audience in attendance expressed concern that there had been very little visible progress on the 2006 OP commercial district report recommendations. In response, Mr. Limauro noted areas where there was progress; noted that OP is a planning agency, while DDOT, DCRA, and other agencies implement recommendations. In order to facilitate more rapid implementation, ANC 3B, DDOT, OP, and the Mayor's Office scheduled a followup meeting for November 10, at 5 PM.

Update on the D1/D2 bus service: Commissioner Cohen reminded attendees that ANC 3B approved a resolution opposing the proposed schedule reductions at the September 2011 ANC 3B meeting. Councilmember Cheh has also addressed her concerns about the reductions with WMATA and DDOT. Commissioner Cohen noted there is a public hearing about the planned bus reductions on October 13 but agreed that public notice has been inadequate and confusing, with some Glover Park residents being misled because of the poor communication.

Parking: Commissioner Cohen noted that ANC 3B went through a long process looking at options to improve parking. The primary option under consideration included extending the hours of Residential Parking Permit (RPP) enforcement in conjunction with an online visitor parking permit program. However, DDOT informed the ANC that they wouldn't have the online visitor parking permits soon enough for this to be an acceptable approach for the community. As a result, this option will not be implemented. ANC 3B continues to work with DDOT to increase the supply of parking, including potentially adding parking at the previous N8 bus stop and on Benton Street.

Commissioner Cohen noted that ANC 3B is still considering extending the RPP hours one hour later in the evening until 9:30 PM. DDOT has also agreed to increased Resident Out of State (ROSA) enforcement for Glover Park. Dee Smith from Councilmember Cheh's office noted that the Department of Public Works, the agency responsible for parking enforcement, considers Glover Park as one of its 'hot spots.'

ANC Ward 3 Redistricting: The Ward 3 redistricting panel consisted of 43 people. The panel made a few small changes to the boundaries of ANC 3B, gaining three new census tracks on Fulton Street. ANC 3B-01 also gained a portion of Wisconsin Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Notice of ANC 3B vacancy: There is a vacancy for ANC 3B-03 (West Glover Park) due to the resignation of Commissioner Mark Stevens. Anyone interested in running has three weeks to obtain signatures and file for the election; if more than one candidate files, a special election will be held at the December ANC meeting.

OPEN FORUM

There were no items discussed in the Open Forum at the June meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE

Interim Treasurer: A motion was made for Commissioner Cohen to serve as the interim treasurer. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: The opening balance for September 2011 was \$3170.93. There were no withdrawals or deposits for the month. The closing balance was \$3170.93. Commissioner Cohen noted that ANC 3B has not received the latest quarterly allotment.

There is a pending check to be written for \$3,000 for the Community Council for the Homeless, pending receipt of the quarterly allotment.

July/September Minutes: The July and September meeting minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:30 PM.