

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

November 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), and Fulwood (03).

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Sargent Tolliver gave the Metropolitan Second District police report for October 2012. During October, there was a robbery at gunpoint on Benton Street at a bus stop at 8:30 p.m. with two suspects seen in a black Honda Civic or CRS. Commission Cohen asked if this recent robbery matched the details of similar robberies in Ward 3.

Sargent Tolliver encouraged neighbors to be aware of their surroundings and expressed confidence that the Metropolitan Police Department will apprehend the suspects in the recent robbery. Commissioner Cohen asked Sargent Tolliver to keep the ANC informed with updates on the October 2012 robbery.

NEW BUSINESS

Wisconsin Avenue streetscape: Frank Frost, the Glover Park project manager from Washington Gas appeared at the October 2012 meeting to answer questions about Washington Gas's work on Wisconsin Avenue. There were recent complaints from merchants along Wisconsin Avenue about the disruption of service at inconvenient times. Mr. Frost noted that the Washington Gas project is on schedule and will be completed by early November.

Commissioner Blumenthal noted that some businesses owners said that although Washington Gas alerted affected businesses about upcoming work, Washington Gas failed to inform the businesses of the specific days and times when gas service would be interrupted. Commissioner Blumenthal also noted that a Washington Gas contractor, Fort Meyer, failed to fill in holes on W Place where they did construction work. Mr. Frost responded that Washington Gas has a supervisor on the project site daily and they will look into this issue.

Commissioner Cohen inquired about whether Washington Gas will restore the sidewalks on Wisconsin Avenue to their prior condition by patching the asphalt and removing the spray paint used for construction. Frank Frost noted that although the paint is water soluble, it helps people identify the locations of utility lines after Washington Gas finishes their work. Commissioner Cohen said he appreciates this but encouraged Washington Gas to work with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to remove the paint markings when the construction work is finished, stating that he is concerned that when Washington Gas finishes their construction, the markings will still exist.

One neighbor inquired about the useful life of the new Washington Gas pipes. According to Frank Frost, the pipes are polyurethane, so they are expected to last longer than the pipes being replaced.

Parking: Angelo Rao, from the District Department of Transportation, spoke at the November 2012 ANC meeting to answer questions about DDOT's strategies for parking. Mr. Rao noted that the District is dealing with competing needs for parking. Mr. Rao said that people want to be able to park in front of their homes for free. Mr. Rao also noted that DDOT is trying to implement a District-wide visitor parking permit and is considering new charges for the permit to help limit its use, as well as increasing fees for RPP permits, which allow on-street parking in posted areas, particularly for households with more than one car.

Angelo Rao spoke about DDOT's efforts at performance parking, which includes modifying the price of parking based on demand at specific times to ensure there is an available amount of curbside parking in commercial areas. Commissioner Thielen inquired about whether the revenue from performance parking will be returned to the neighborhoods where it is generated. Mr. Rao answered that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority gets a certain percentage of the revenue for surface transportation but some of the remaining revenue will be returned to the local neighborhoods for investments like Capital Bikeshare stations, solar trash compactors, and other amenities.

Angelo Rao told the ANC and neighbors that DDOT has held six parking think-tanks with the public recently and noted there will be a parking symposium at 444 4th Street on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, to help develop a city-wide parking strategy.

Commissioner Cohen noted that in Glover Park, there is plenty of parking available during the day but that parking is scarce at night when neighbors return, which presents a different set of parking issues than in other areas of the city. Commissioner Cohen noted that there are a high number of out-of-state vehicles in Glover Park. Commissioner Fulwood also noted that he sees a lot of out-of-state license plates on 42nd Street but little parking enforcement in this area.

Commissioner Cohen also spoke about the 2011 parking survey for Glover Park and Cathedral Heights that resulted in over three hundred responses. The survey results showed that the Glover Park and Cathedral Heights neighborhood is divided about what should be done for parking, mostly over the issue of guest parking, although many support a plan to extend Residential Parking Permit (RPP) hours.

Commissioner Blumenthal noted that part of her ANC district is seriously affected by people who go to the Wisconsin Avenue restaurants in the evening and park in the neighborhood. She noted that Hall Place has petitioned for one-side Resident Only but that will put pressure on two other nearby streets. Mr. Rao explained that an ANC can request one-side Resident Only for specific areas. Commissioner Blumenthal said she would present a resolution in December seeking that for Hall Place, W Place and the two blocks of Tunlaw leading up to the dead end. One resident said that Washington DC does not have a public transportation system comparable to those of New York or Chicago to make performance parking viable. Another Glover Park resident agreed with this, saying that the Circulator bus route should be extended north on

Wisconsin Avenue to Glover Park. The resident also noted that DDOT's streetcar plans ignore Glover Park and Wisconsin Avenue. There was a lot of concern about lack of parking enforcement and the Commission agreed to ask DPW to come to a meeting to talk about what can be done about that.

Commissioner Cohen inquired about various proposals to limit the size of the RPP zones next to the metro stations in Ward 3 and noted that ANC 3B is strongly opposed to any proposal that would do this.

ANC 3B elections: Commissioner Cohen noted on November 6, Mary Young was elected to a two-year term for Advisory Neighborhood Commission ANC 3B-04 and Joe Fiorillo was elected for ANC 3B-01.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wisconsin Avenue streetscape improvements: Commissioner Blumenthal noted that paving is completed on Wisconsin Avenue from 34th Street to Hall Place. Paving work will continue for the remainder of November, with the exception of Thanksgiving day. Mike Harrison from DDOT said that a change-order to replace streetlight bulbs with dimmer lights north of Calvert is still pending.

A Glover Park resident inquired about when the change-order for the intersection at 37th and Tunlaw is expected. Commissioner Blumenthal answered that Paul Hoffman, DDOT's Wisconsin Avenue project manager, said it will be submitted in mid-November and DDOT expects that it will be a few weeks before the agency receives responses.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Cohen noted that the Capital Bikeshare station at the Guy Mason park's parking lot had been temporarily moved to the grass next to Observatory Circle and that some residents support making this change permanent. A Glover Park resident noted that this property might actually be within the boundaries of ANC 3C.

Another Glover Park resident noted that construction of the Guy Mason dog park is nearly finished..

ADMINISTRATIVE

October minutes: The October 2012 minutes were approved, pending any additional changes, by a vote of 4-0.

October 2012 Financial Statement: There was an opening balance of \$7,230.64 in October. A check for \$101.68 (check #1200) was written to Commissioner Cohen for copying expenses; a check (check #1201) for \$130.00 was written to Commissioner Cohen for the ANC phone bill, and a check (check #1203) for \$2,269.71 was written for a grant to the Friends of Glover Park Recreation Center.

There was a refund of \$37.64 from a previous grant issued to Healthy Living, Inc. The closing balance was \$4,666.89.

The November 2012 meeting was adjourned by a vote of 4-0 at 9:00 PM.