

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2016

Chairman Blumenthal called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners Mladinov (3B01) , Lane (3B03), Young (3B04), and Turmail (3B05) were also present, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five members make a quorum.)

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the proposed agenda, the motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously, 5-0.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal presented the crime statistics for the previous 30 days for ANC3B. He reported that from August 8-September 7 this year, there were no reported homicides, no sex abuse cases, and no robberies or assaults with a gun. On August 17 there was an assault with a deadly weapon (a knife) in the 2800 block of New Mexico Avenue, which meant that the number of violent crimes was 1 this year compared to none last year. There were no burglaries this year, thefts from autos were down from 4 last year to 1, other thefts were up slightly from 7 last year to 9 this year, and stolen autos remained the same at 1 this year and 1 last year, bringing total reported property crimes to 11 versus 12 last year, an 8% drop.

Lt. Neal reported that he had heard concerns about traffic safety especially around Stoddert School when parents are dropping off or picking up students. He has put a traffic officer at that location to keep things in order.

Commissioner Mary Young said she has received a lot of questions from residents on Cathedral Avenue who are having a hard time getting out of their apartment driveways safely or crossing the street to get to and from their bus stops because of speeding vehicles on Cathedral. Several participants at the meeting reiterated that concern.

Lt. Neal said he could ask the traffic officer at the school to shift to Cathedral Avenue after the school drop-off time, though residents commented that the problem on Cathedral Avenue affects traffic during rush hour and all through the day. Second District Commander Gresham offered that he could ask the MPD to conduct a feasibility study of placing speed cameras on Cathedral Avenue. Commissioner Young and other residents agreed a feasibility study for speed cameras would be helpful.

Several residents also mentioned traffic and speeding problems on their streets, including W Street NW near Glover-Archbold Park, where Commander Gresham said he could request an additional "25 mph" speed limit sign in that area. Another neighbor noted that traffic heading north on 41st Street toward Edmunds Street is also speeding, and she is interested in finding out what has been shown to be most effective in such situations. Commander Gresham reminded everyone that speed humps and other traffic control requests go through DDOT, not MPD.

Discussion on Senior Wellness Center Options for Services in Ward 3

Commissioner Mladinov introduced the subject of a senior wellness center in Ward 3, which came up in the panel discussion on senior programs and needs at the Commission's July meeting. ANC3/4G had sent a copy of its resolution supporting creation of a designated city-owned and operated senior center for residents of Wards 2 and 3, as other wards in the city have. Matt Frumin, former ANC member in ANC3E and advisor to Iona Senior Services, noted that having a single senior center may not be the most efficient or effective way to serve senior needs in a ward as large as Ward 3, and could also be difficult to fund when the District is already constrained in what it can undertake as new capital expenditures. He cited a number of advantages for residents in Wards 2 and 3 of trying a virtual senior center with services coordinated by the city but offered at a variety of sites around the District (schools, libraries, recreation and community centers) which could cost less and be more convenient to more residents. He recommended that the DC Council appropriate funds to conduct a pilot program to offer senior services at scattered sites around Wards 2 and 3 and evaluate the experience.

Dorothy Biondi who volunteers her time to coordinate activities at Guy Mason Recreation Center reinforced Mr. Frumin's points. A question was raised about what happened to the \$100,000 that Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh got the DC Council to set aside for FY2016 to fund a feasibility study of a virtual senior center for Wards 2 and 3. Those funds instead were used to do a study of senior needs around the city. The target date to complete that research was September 30.

Presentation on DC Statehood Referendum

David Bardin, a local lawyer and a volunteer with the campaign for DC Statehood discussed the ballot measure in the November General Election urging the DC Council to petition Congress to adopt a law making the District a state called New Columbia, with a governor and legislature, responsibility for its own budget, and representation in Congress. The Council is also considering a draft statehood Constitution that would be sent to Congress along with the petition to make the District a state. Mr. Bardin said that he and others are seeking changes to the draft Constitution and that the ANC might also weigh in on amendments during the review and hearing process in the Council. He also advised that if Congress adopts an Admission Act for the District to become a state, the voters in the District should be asked to vote on a binding referendum about whether they support the Constitution in its final form.

Updates

DC Water Green Infrastructure Program: Chairman Blumenthal reported that DC Water is boring small holes, called "utility potholing," to determine the exact location of utility lines in areas of Glover Park where the Green Infrastructure team is proposing to install permeable pavement and other measures to reduce storm water run-off into combined storm and sanitary sewers. The next phase will be the installation of the projects.

DC Water Project to Replace Aging Sewer Pipes in Glover-Archbold Park: Commissioner Mladinov reported that DC Water expects to send a draft Environmental Assessment to the National Park Service (NPS) some time in October 2016, evaluating the alternatives being considered including relining the current pipes, replacing the pipes, or installing new pipes in a parallel location outside the park. Once the document has been shared with NPS, DC Water expects to schedule public meetings to present the material in the document and seek public comments.

Washington Gas Rate Increase Request: Commissioner Mladinov reported that in August Washington Gas raised its requested rate increase to a total of \$19.9 million. which would mean that the average monthly bill could go up about 25 percent beginning in March 2017. OPC is closely reviewing WGL's request and the PSC is holding hearings to take testimony on the subject.

Developments Related to Pepco: On August 12, the OPC and the DC Attorney General both filed legal appeals of the PSC's March 23 decision to approve Exelon's purchase of Pepco. The Maryland OPC has also appealed the Maryland PSC's decision to approve the Exelon purchase of Pepco, and initial briefs were filed with the Maryland court in mid-August. In addition, the DC PSC will be reviewing Pepco's request for an \$85.47 million rate increase, a 23.7% hike from current electric distribution rates.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments.

Administrative Business

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's July public meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as drafted.

Commissioner Young, ANC3B Treasurer, presented the Monthly Financial Report for July and August together, since ANC3B did not have a meeting in August:

ANC3B July-August 2016 Financial Report

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$14,058.66

Outgoing: Check #1258 for \$750 grant to MPD Second District Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) to honor police officers who serve the area

Check #1259 for \$1,392 grant to Iona Senior Services for transportation stipends for two individuals with disabilities who could not otherwise have access to Iona's senior wellness programs

Closing Balance: \$11,916.66

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the financial report, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Commissioner Young also presented the ANC3B draft budget for FY2017, with the same amounts of proposed spending as in FY2016. There were no questions. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the proposed budget, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve. Commissioner Young explained that the budget would not be posted on the ANC3B website until the DC Auditor provided the official figures needed to complete all the required entries in the budget, after the end of FY2016 on September 30, 2016. When those figures are available through the online financial accounting system, the ANC's official budget can be finalized and shared.

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the next ANC3B meeting would be on Thursday, October 13.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.