

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2016

Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Melissa Lane (3B03), Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05) were also in attendance, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on adopting the proposed agenda, including the addition of a vote on three Commission letters to the DC Council. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal of the MPD Second District presented the Police Report for PSA 204 for the 30 days ending December 6 in 2016, comparing the figures to the same period in 2015. He noted there were only 2 violent crimes in that time period in 2016 (one robbery with a gun and one robbery without a gun), compared to 5 in the previous year. For property crimes, there were 2 burglaries, 3 thefts from autos, one stolen motor vehicle, and 22 general thefts for a total of 28 compared to 25 in the previous year. Most of the increase came in the theft category, which was up 38%. Lt. Neal warned that thefts may go up close to the holidays, when there are many packages delivered to front porches where they are easily visible to potential thieves.

Lt. Neal gave several other updates: The Mayor has not yet selected a new chief for MPD, but is reviewing applicants; as of January 1, Captain Gerry Scott is transferring from the Second District to the Seventh District, and Captain Kelvin Cusick is transferring from the Seventh District to the Second District; and Sgt. Ben Firehock was part of the arrest of the suspect at Comet Ping Pong.

Commissioner Turmail asked about the so-called art gallery “Joint Ventures” which opened in October above the tennis shop at 2319 Wisconsin Avenue in Glover Park. Lt. Neal said that after the arrest of several individuals associated with the business and the seizure of large quantities of marijuana at that location on November 22, the business is closed.

Commissioner Mladinov asked if there were any updates on the ANC’s request for MPD to conduct a feasibility study for speed cameras on Cathedral Avenue and on Tunlaw Road. Lt. Neal reported that MPD had installed a speed monitor on Cathedral temporarily, and DDOT would have to come out to do an evaluation of the merits of a permanent speed camera, issue a formal proposal, and formally request comments from the community. He said it was not likely any action would be taken until spring. One resident commented that the people in her condominium building on Cathedral were very happy with the speed monitor and had observed slower traffic speeds in that area. She asked how long the device could remain at that location. Lt. Neal said he would ask to leave it in place for a couple of months.

Another resident asked about the prospect for speed humps on Cathedral Avenue. Chairman Blumenthal responded that DDOT has strict standards for installing speed humps; neighbors have to submit a petition signed by 75% of the residents along the block in question and then DDOT has to evaluate the options. She questioned whether that street would qualify, but suggested a request could be made.

Commissioner Mladinov asked about the status of the ANC's request for a study of the prospects for speed cameras on Tunlaw Road between Calvert Street and New Mexico Avenue (Glover-Archbold Park). Commissioner Turmail had submitted that request to MPD just after the request for the study on Cathedral Avenue in September. Lt. Neal said MPD only has one of those devices in the Second District. Commissioner Mladinov suggested the device might be moved to Tunlaw Road when it is removed from Cathedral Avenue.

Letter on FY2018 Budget for Senior Services

Commissioner Mladinov presented a proposed letter to the Mayor and DC Office on Aging to recommend increased funding for senior services in the coming fiscal year to make up for cuts this year in funds for case management and transportation, and also to boost nutritional services and devote a portion of the Mayor's proposed \$100 million for affordable housing to construct housing for seniors in need. The letter builds on points made at the ANC's panel discussion on senior services in July 2016, and on recommendations by the DC Senior Advisory Council. Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the letter as presented. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve and send the letter.

Grant Request from Iona Senior Services

Diane Greenspun of Iona Senior Services presented a request for a grant of \$1,189 to purchase an AED defibrillator to be available at Iona's Active Wellness program in Satterlee Hall at St. Alban's Church, 3001 Wisconsin Avenue. The Active Wellness Program offers area seniors a healthy lunch and health-related activities and counseling, Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm. In recent years, the clinicians have noted a more frail population participating in the activities at St. Alban's. Iona has an AED defibrillator at its center in Tenleytown but not at the off-site program in Satterlee Hall. Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on approving the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant as proposed.

Settlement Agreement to End Protest of Mason Inn's License Renewal

Chairman Blumenthal reported that in November, ANC3B voted to protest the renewal of Mason Inn's license pending agreement on keeping the windows closed during live entertainment. New management has agreed to keep the windows shut as of 9 pm on weeknights and 10 pm on Friday and Saturday nights, and those terms have been incorporated in a settlement agreement between the ANC and the management of Mason Inn. Chairman Blumenthal moved to take a vote to approve the settlement agreement as an official action of the ANC on the matter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the terms of the agreement, which will be attached to the liquor license for Mason Inn upon approval by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Approval of ANC3B Advisory Letters Prepared Between Monthly Meetings

Chairman Blumenthal presented two time-sensitive advisory letters that all five Commissioners had signed and sent to the Council about pending legislation for which Council votes were scheduled between the Commission's formal public meetings. One letter contained comments and recommendations on the ANC Omnibus bill before a scheduled final Council vote on December 6. (The Council removed the bill from the agenda for that day in order to consider additional questions.) The second letter supported a series of tenant protection bills before the Council's

scheduled vote in November. These matters were on the agenda and discussed at previous ANC public meetings in the fall. Chairman Blumenthal moved to take formal votes to approve the comments and recommendations in the letters, as official statements of the Commission. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the November 30 letter on the ANC bill and voted 5-0 to approve the November 10 letter on the tenant protection bills.

Letter RE Newly Amended ANC Omnibus Amendment Act (B21-0697)

Commissioner Mladinov explained that in recent weeks some members of the DC Council were supporting new amendments to the ANC bill that appeared to increase the burdens on ANCs but did not serve the original goals of the legislation to strengthen requirements to notify ANCs of the city's proposed actions or to accord "great weight" to ANC recommendations. She presented a short letter for the ANC to send to the Council expressing the Commission's continuing concerns about the Council proposal and urging that it be amended or pulled before the Council's scheduled final vote on the bill December 20. Chairman Blumenthal moved to take a vote to approve the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve and send the letter. .

Updates

Meeting to Resolve Issues at Guy Mason: Chairman Blumenthal reported on the November 29 meeting between the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and representatives of the Friends of Guy Mason (FOGM), ANC3B, GPCA, the Pottery Studio at Guy Mason, and Glover Park Village about DPR's proposed reduction in the hours and days that Guy Mason Recreation Center is open. The community offered a number of possible compromises, explaining that Guy Mason is an adult recreation center and most adults work during weekdays, but DPR did not accept any of the suggestions offered, claiming that union rules require that employees be given two consecutive days off per week and it would be impossible to schedule that with 7-day a week operation. As a result, DPR's proposed changes were put into effect: the center will be closing at 9 pm instead of 10 pm on weeknights and also will be closed on Sundays, after three years of being open Sundays from 10 am-4 pm, which creates particular problems for the Pottery Studio at Guy Mason and for other members of the community. The meeting did lead to a few agreements: DPR staff will meet with FOGM, which is a certified partner, on communication and programming issues, and will try to work on maintenance issues at Guy Mason. The community groups intend to fight to restore Sunday hours and longer weeknight hours at the center.

One resident asked if DPR could locate a portable toilet at Guy Mason, since the center is going to be closed on Sundays when many people are using the park. Chairman Blumenthal said she would send that request to DPR via FOGM.

Universal Paid Leave Act: Commissioner Mladinov reported that the Council approved a bill to create a paid leave program covering people working for private employers in the District (not federal or city government employees, who have their own programs). The maximum period that can be covered by paid leave was reduced to 8 weeks for parental leave and 8 weeks for family leave, including up to 2 weeks for personal sick leave. The maximum benefit per week will be \$1,000 per employee, depending on recent earnings. The tax on employer payrolls will be 0.62%.

Tenant protection legislation: Commissioner Young reported that the Council passed four tenant protection bills, including the Elderly Tenant and Tenant With Disability Protection Amendment Act. Supporters of tenant protection had to drop the provision prohibiting inequitable voluntary/settlement agreements between landlords and tenants. Councilmember Anita Bonds is committed to reintroducing that provision in 2017.

Fillmore Arts program: Commissioner Turmail reported that after several years in which DCPS has been trying to cut funds for the Fillmore Arts program that serves elementary students at Stoddert and four other schools, the Mayor has again agreed to extend funding for the Fillmore program for one more year. Because Hyde-Addison and Marie Reed Elementary Schools will be getting their own arts instruction spaces, the number of schools served at Fillmore will drop to three next year, and Fillmore will consequently be open to more students from other schools. Many details are yet to be resolved, including the nature and cost of transportation.

Open Forum

Linda Lawson asked several questions related to the city's transportation policies and programs, including suggesting a moratorium on proposed cuts to Metrobus and Metrorail service until SafeTrack can be completed and the city can figure out how to provide a reasonable transportation system; opposing the proposed streetcar extension from Union Station to Georgetown as too costly and too disruptive for too little benefit; and repaving New Mexico Avenue and other area streets that continue to have large pits and potholes.

Administrative Business

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

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for November:

ANC3B – November 2016 Financial Report (Approved at December 2016 Meeting)

Checking Account

Opening Balance:	\$12,302.37
Outgoing:	Check # 1262 for \$1,103.79 – Grant payable to Friends of Glover Park Recreation Center for recreational supplies
	Check #1263 for \$38.45 for office supplies
Income:	\$.00
Closing Balance:	\$11,160.17 Per Bank Statement

Treasurer Young explained that the bank used by Friends of Glover Park Recreation Center had deposited the check for only \$1,103.75, a \$.04 error. She spoke with the bank that holds ANC3B's account, which agreed to correct the error and reflect the correction on the December bank statement.

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

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, January 12, 2017.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.