

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



ANC3B Minutes
December 10, 2015 Public Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02). Ann Mladinov (3B01), Abigail Zenner (3B03), Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05) were also present which constituted a quorum.

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed agenda. She moved to accept the agenda, the motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved 5-0.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal of MPD Second District presented the monthly crime report for the past 30 days and for the year to date, January 1 through December 10, for 2015 compared to 2014. The data cover Police Service Area (PSA) 204 which includes Woodley Park and McLean Gardens as well as ANC3B. From November 10 to December 10, there were no violent crimes in either 2015 or 2014 in PSA204. Burglaries were 7 this year v. 2 last year, thefts 12 v. 20, thefts from autos 17 v. 18, and stolen autos 1 v. 7.

The year to date data are attached.

Lt. Neal reported that the category that increased in the past month – burglaries -- included house break-ins around 2100 37th Street, three between 2100-2300 Tunlaw, and one at 3000 Wisconsin. He said the police are patrolling the streets and alleys, but advised people to lock their doors and follow other police tips for avoiding burglaries.

Sgt. Ben Firehock joined the meeting. Commissioner Young asked about thefts of deliveries in the area. He said they were way down from last year, and speculated that after delivery thefts had gotten to be such a big problem in the neighborhood, the perpetrators may have moved on. He also mentioned that the delivery services have been keeping packages at a central point rather than leaving them on porches in Glover Park, to avoid thefts.

Commissioner Mladinov asked about reports that groups of young people had been breaking car windows in upper Northwest. Sgt. Firehock explained said that was in the Tenleytown area and not in his jurisdiction but the police were looking into it.

Lt. Neal mentioned that many areas in ANC3B are quite dark at night and he would like to see more lighting in areas such as Tunlaw and along the park. Several Commissioners expressed support for that idea.

Resolution Opposing Pepco-Exelon Settlement Agreement

Commissioner Mladinov explained that the DC Public Service Commission would be reviewing the “Non-unanimous Settlement Agreement” in the proposed purchase of Pepco by Exelon Corporation of Chicago and asked for public comments by December 23. ANC3B submitted a resolution in February 2015 and a follow-up letter in April 2015 opposing the application to the PSC. After multiple additional filings, community hearings, formal evidentiary hearings, and an ANC forum with Councilmember Mary Cheh, who continues to oppose the Pepco-Exelon transaction, ANC3B prepared a new letter to the PSC expressing its continuing concerns about the minimal benefits and significant risks represented by the sale, and opposing approval of the application as not being in the public interest. Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the letter, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 in favor of sending the letter.

Application for Live Entertainment Endorsement at Arcuri

Arcuri Restaurant, 2400 Wisconsin Avenue has applied to the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) for permission to offer live entertainment. The deadline for community comment was set as January 11. Adam Hillebeitel from Arcuri presented the restaurant's plans for entertainment, probably on Friday and Saturday nights from about 11 pm to 1 am. He explained that it might be a band or acoustic music, but would not be loud or large bands. There were no negative comments from constituents. Chairman Blumenthal said that based on Arcuri's location – below ground and not near any residences – as well as its reputation as a good neighbor, the ANC would not protest the application or ask for a settlement agreement.

Updates

1. DDOT issues

Chairman Blumenthal noted that of all the issues ANC3B had brought up with DDOT earlier in the year and the commitments DDOT had made at the ANC meeting in September, the only thing that DDOT has done so far is to meet Commissioner Turmail's request to put crosswalks at the intersection of Observatory Place and Huidekoper.

DDOT has not gotten back to the ANC about:

a. Intersection of Wisconsin Avenue, Calvert Street, and 37th Street NW

DDOT had committed to do a walk through, evaluate ways to make the intersection safer, and present its recommendations to the ANC, including trimming trees, installing a leading pedestrian WALK signal, etc. The ANC has heard nothing.

b. No Left Turn at Observatory Circle from Massachusetts Avenue at rush hour

ANC3B had requested eliminating the NLT restriction a year ago, joining ANC3C. They just received a letter from DDOT about the Observatory area, saying DDOT doesn't see any need for traffic calming in the neighborhood so they are going to lift the NLT in morning rush hour, but not the afternoon rush. The ANCs thought they had agreement from DDOT but Chairman Blumenthal said she will continue to work with ANC3C member Catherine May and with CM Cheh, have more meetings, and see what they can do. CM Cheh's staff person said she would take that back to the Councilmember.

c. Intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Garfield Street

DDOT said it would review the striping of the street on southbound Wisconsin Avenue to see if there was a safer approach than the slanting line to force traffic to move to the left. Chairman Blumenthal said if you stand and watch the traffic, you will see potential accidents within 5 minutes; it's a dangerous intersection.

d. Intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Fulton Street

DDOT said it would review the corner where parking spaces were added in the former bus stop on southbound Wisconsin, which makes it hard for motorists or bicyclists to see traffic.

2. Hypothermia Shelter for Ward 3

Commissioner Turmail said that the ANC had not heard of any progress on finding a location for homeless men to go for shelter on emergency cold alert nights over the winter 2015-16. ANC3B passed a resolution calling on the city to identify a site before the cold weather, since there's no shelter serving Ward 3 west of Rock Creek Park. Instead, homeless men are asked to use the city's recreation center in Columbia Heights. Many people involved in serving homeless men including Jean-Michel Giraud of Friendship Place are concerned that men won't travel all the way across the park to get to that shelter, which could leave men exposed to the freezing temperatures and potentially dying. CM Turmail said he's been working hard with several groups including Mike Matthews from the mayor's office and is hoping for a solution.

3. Savoy Suites (being converted to a Kimpton Hotel)

Chairman Blumenthal noted that ANC3B joined ANC3C in protesting the Savoy's proposal to serve alcohol on a new roof deck it has planned for the renovated hotel. The hotel is located in a residential zone and neighbors are concerned about noise from the roof deck. However, due to an error by DCRA, which issued a permit for the deck without the necessary variance being approved, the hotel returned the permit and withdrew its application to allow alcohol service on the roof. The hotel will go forward with the correct permitting process and if the roof deck is allowed, then it will seek approval to serve alcohol there. Both ANCs and the neighborhood's citizens association, MAHCA, remain in talks with the hotel seeking a resolution to these issues that is satisfactory to all parties.

4. Bike Route on Tunlaw and 37th Street NW

Commissioner Mladinov reported that DDOT had done most of the work in November to put up signs and paint the pavement indicating the location of the bike route along Tunlaw and 37th through ANC3B, but several crosswalks were not yet painted and the vertical "Stop for Pedestrian" signs were not yet in place near 4000 Tunlaw. Bike Planner Mike Goodno was planning to visit the site to see what was and was not in place and get the work completed.

Open Forum

The mayor's community outreach liaison Mike Matthews said he was texting DDOT to find out what's happening with the issues ANC3B has raised, and would get back with an update. He also said he was planning a walk-through in the next week of the Glover Park area with representatives of DDOT, DPW, and other agencies, to see what needed attention.

Chairman Blumenthal said it would be helpful if he coordinated with the ANC, because she and others have issues for DPW and DDOT. Commissioner Young also mentioned she also had concerns, including street lighting, leaf clearing, and snow shoveling. Mr. Matthews said that snow shoveling would be changing this year because the new city law requiring property owners to shovel their sidewalks after each snow is in effect. He also said that the city has a list of people who have volunteered through ServeDC to help with shoveling.

Chairman Blumenthal noted that the stretch of Massachusetts Avenue alongside Glover-Archbold Park is never shoveled, and it would be important to find out if the national Park Service is supposed to do that. Mr. Matthews said NPS is responsible. He also said he had

been in touch with universities about shoveling sidewalks used by students and the public. Commissioner Young also mentioned that 39th Street NW as well as Idaho Avenue between Cathedral and Massachusetts Avenues have potholes the size of a table, and other Commissioners had other areas of concern they had noted.

Chairman Blumenthal said she would put together a comprehensive list for DPW and DDOT of specific issues and locations in ANC3B that need their attention.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the minutes of the ANC's November meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the November Financial Report.

**November Financial Report
(Approved at December 2015 Meeting)**

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$8,889.25

Income: None

Checks: None

Closing Balance: \$8,889.25

Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the November Financial Report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

The ANC will meet next on Thursday, January 14, 2016, at 7 pm.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.