

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2017

Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04) were also in attendance, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.) Commissioner Brian Turmail (3B05) was on his way back from a trip and still en route.

Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on adopting the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda.

There was no police representative in attendance so Chairman Blumenthal moved to the next item on the agenda.

Presentation by Dr. Lawrence D. Singer on proposed use of 2462 Wisconsin Avenue

Dr. Singer, a specialist in dental/facial trauma and reconstruction with an office in Alexandria, spoke about his concept of buying the “union building” owned by the International Union of Operating Engineers on the southeast corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert Street, to convert the building to clinics and outpatient dental surgical center. He described his practice as holistic “orthomolecular medicine.” He said he was anticipating four exam rooms, two on the first floor and two on the second floor, that would be used by Dr. Singer and several colleagues, each seeing patients there a few days a week. He said that he would redo the interior but keep the exterior shape and footprint of the building, probably only updating the windows facing the intersection. Dr. Singer indicated that parking needs would be minimal and the existing parking area should be sufficient, particularly if staff members use transit. He said his office in Alexandria has 5 staff people, who use transit to get to and from work, so the on-site parking spaces are for patients and usually there are only 3 vehicles parking at that office at any one time.

Dr. Singer also expressed an interest in using the ground floor for other purposes that would meet community interests. Commissioner Lane suggested an office share, making workspace available for short-term lease. Other participants asked about community meeting space for senior services to supplement the space at Guy Mason. Dr. Singer indicated it would be important for the finances to work to support the purchase and operation of the building.

Dr. Singer noted that using the building for a surgical center would probably require a zoning variance, because the property is zoned residential, even though it has always been used for commercial and office purposes. He asked if the ANC would have any objection to the variance. Chairman Blumenthal said that if a variance were required, the ANC would receive notice from the Office of Zoning and could weigh in at that time, but the ANC would have to see the specific plans before it could develop an official position. She said that parking would be the major issue and it did not sound like parking would be a problem. She also suggested that if Dr. Singer

thought he would need more parking spaces, he should check with St. Luke's across the street to see if they have extra parking spaces that might be used for overflow. He said he would be talking further to the union about the price and other terms they would accept for the property.

Vote to approve letter to WMATA opposing proposed elimination of 37 the bus route

Chairman Blumenthal explained that WMATA's FY2018 budget proposes to cut out the 37 limited stop Metrobus service between Friendship Heights and Archives, which operates on weekdays in morning and evening rush hours on upper Wisconsin Avenue, turning at Massachusetts Avenue. To make the February 6 deadline for comments, the 5 members of the ANC had agreed to send a letter on February 2, as individual Commissioners, to the WMATA board and its chairman, CM Jack Evans, opposing elimination of the 37 bus. Commissioner Mladinov noted that the 37 is Ward 3's only "MetroExtra" bus (regular fare but expedited service), has high ridership, and helps alleviate the crowding on the N and 30 series of buses serving the neighborhood. Eliminating the 37 would lead to additional crowding on those buses and another loss of transit service to the area, on the heels of several other cuts in the N and D buses in recent years. Since the neighborhood is not served by Metrorail, buses provide the only public transit option. Chairman Blumenthal moved to adopt the letter to WMATA as an official statement of the ANC. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Report on Meeting with CM Cheh

Chairman Blumenthal reported on the meeting the five Commissioners had with CM Cheh and her staff on January 24.

Transportation issues were a major focus. The Commissioners had presented the ANC's list of issues that DDOT had not yet addressed, and Dee Smith, CM Cheh's Deputy Chief of Staff, presented the written responses DDOT submitted by email that afternoon:

- On the ANC's resolution requesting parking on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue be restored during morning rush hour to serve the local businesses, DDOT said it will not consider that change until Metro's SafeTrack project is completed.
- On the resolution from ANC3B and ANC3C on lifting the no left turn restriction on northbound Massachusetts Avenue at Observatory Circle, DDOT said it has developed a plan for a new traffic signal which should be installed later this year.
- DDOT also said it has entered a service request for an investigation of the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Fulton Street, where parking spaces have been added in the former bus stop on the southbound side of Wisconsin. Parked vehicles block sight lines for eastbound vehicles coming from Fulton, and the neighbors have asked for two of the parking spaces to be eliminated.

The Commissioners also discussed with CM Cheh the poor condition of many of the streets in the neighborhood. CM Cheh said she had put extra funding in the DDOT budget for road repairs to meet all the needs DDOT had identified, but those funds have not all been spent. CM Cheh said she would follow up with DDOT and bring up the issue at DDOT's oversight hearing.

At the meeting, the Commissioners also thanked CM Cheh for designating Glover Park for a "Clean Team" and asked her to continue the program in FY2018.

Commissioner Young mentioned that DDOT is developing plans for installing a triangle park on the southwest corner of the city-owned property surrounding the "phantom" Hamilton Circle that was never built at the intersection of 39th Street, Idaho Avenue, and Massachusetts Avenue. The apartment building at 4000 Massachusetts Avenue currently maintains that property as lawn.

Updates

Commissioner Mladinov reported that Pepco has asked for an \$82 million increase in electric rates. The District's Office of People's Counsel (OPC) has recommended that the Public Service Commission (PSC) reduce the rate increase by \$60+ million, cutting the elements that would pay for supporting the acquisition by Exelon, increased executive compensation which should be borne by shareholders, and costs of improvements that have not yet been made and are not currently benefiting customers.

Washington Gas is also requesting a significant rate increase, which the OPC has recommended should be reduced. The PSC is currently reviewing that case.

Open Forum

Patricia Clark, president of the Glover Park Village, reported that after the ANC and others from the community met with the city Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) about hours and services at the Guy Mason Rec Center, DPR agreed to allow the Glover Park Village to hold programs at Guy Mason, and is giving them dates and times for the programming to be scheduled. She thanked all the participants in that discussion for their support.

Dee Smith from CM Cheh's office noted that DPR was having its oversight hearing before the Council the next day. She said that CM Cheh had met with the Friends of Guy Mason and gathered a lot of questions that she intended to take up with DPR at the hearing. CM Cheh has also asked DPR to assess having one recreation center in each ward open on Sundays.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's January public meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as prepared.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for January:

ANC3B January 2017 Financial Report (Approved at February 2017 Meeting)

OPENING BALANCE: \$12,716.93

Income: \$0.00

Outgoing: \$0.00

**Check #1266 \$25.00 for ANC Security Fund has not cleared
the account yet.**

CLOSING BALANCE \$12,716.93

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, March 9, 2017.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.