

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



**ANC3B Minutes**  
**January 14, 2016 Public Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02). Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Abigail Zenner (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04) were also present, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five members make a quorum.) Commissioner Brian Turmail (3B05) was traveling for work and was not able to attend.

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed agenda. She moved to accept the agenda, the motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved 4-0.

**Election of Officers**

As the first order of business, Chairman Blumenthal noted that the ANC is required to elect officers each year. She moved that the ANC3B officers from 2015 be presented for reelection for 2016: Chairman Jackie Blumenthal, Vice Chairman Brian Turmail, Treasurer Mary Young, and Secretary Ann Mladinov. The other officers expressed their willingness to continue, and Abigail Zenner agreed to continue working on communications and technology and a wide range of additional needs for the ANC. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the election of the ANC officers as proposed.

**Police Report**

Sgt. Ben Firehock of the MPD Second District presented the crime report for December 13, 2015, through January 12, 2016, compared to the same time period in the previous year. The data cover Police Service Area (PSA) 204 which includes Woodley Park and McLean Gardens as well as ANC3B. In those 30 days, there was one robbery (excluding gun) this year v. none last year, and one Assault with a Deadly Weapon (excluding gun) this year v. one last year. For property crime, burglaries were 4 this year v. 3 last year, thefts 19 v. 14, stolen autos 1 v. 4, and thefts from autos 15 v. 22, a significant improvement, for total property crimes of 41 this year v. 44 a year ago.

Sgt. Firehock provided additional details on the violent crimes. The assault with deadly weapon occurred in the 2054-2118 block of 37th Street and the robbery occurred in the 2100 block of Wisconsin Avenue. Three of the burglaries were in ANC3B, in the 2000 block of 37<sup>th</sup> Street and also 2200-2399 Observatory Place, mostly when residents were not at home.

Commissioner Young inquired about two burglaries in apartment buildings in her district, which someone had gotten in and gone down to the laundry room, cut through the vending machines, and taken the coin boxes. This is the second time this year that has happened at 3040 Idaho Avenue, even with locked doors and security cameras in the laundry room and at the entrance and exit. Some residents were concerned that the burglar(s) might have obtained records of credit card purchases from the vending machines. Sgt. Firehock noted that the official report said the perpetrator(s) only got coins. He reported that there had been 10 similar incidents along

Wisconsin Avenue from the Russian Embassy north through Cleveland Park, which appeared to be the work of professionals who had a power tool to grind out the metal and knew what they were doing. Sgt. Firehock committed to checking whether MPD had security camera footage.

### **Zoning Request for Special Exception for Rear Deck Addition at 3836 Beecher Street NW**

Pamela Hall, owner of the home at 3836 Beecher Street, presented her architect's plans for a deck addition at the back of the house, which requires a special exception from the zoning code because of the shape of the lot. She also shared letters from the owners of the four properties adjoining the property, who all support the request for an exception for a deck. One neighbor was at the meeting and affirmed that the deck would not be a problem. Chairman Blumenthal thanked Ms. Hall for coming to the ANC and for asking for a permit, following the legal procedures required, and moved that the ANC vote to approve the special exception. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 in favor of posting a formal submission with the Board of Zoning Adjustment supporting the special exception for the deck addition.

As part of the discussion of permits and zoning requirements, Ariadne Henry suggested that the ANC put together information for residents on what is allowed in Glover Park-Cathedral Heights under zoning and other restrictions covering building height, setbacks, additions, fences, etc. Chairman Blumenthal responded that the ANC would do some research and invite city representatives to a future meeting to present that information and answer questions.

### **Request for a Grant for Friendship Place**

Mariam Nek, Program Supervisor for the AimHire program at Friendship Place, presented a request for a \$2,500 grant from ANC3B to assist with the program. Started in 2011, AimHire focuses on employment services and housing for homeless individuals, bringing together those two essential elements of helping people get back on their feet: mentoring, coaching, job preparation, and connections to employers and housing. The grant would be used specifically to help individuals over critical cost barriers such as transportation, identification and certification, including SmarTrip cards (which Friendship Place is able to purchase at a discount), TracFones, government IDs, security licenses (\$55), certification for food handlers (often over \$100), and similar certification and training. Commissioner Young noted that ANC3B had given a grant to AimHire two years ago, which helped dozens of individuals find work and get out of homelessness. Ms. Nek committed to reporting on the use and results of the grant after the funds had been used (60 days). Sophia Henry commented that Friendship Place is one of the best things that has ever happened in the area, and Commissioner Young affirmed the wonderful work they do. Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve a grant of \$2,500 to the AimHire program at Friendship Place, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 in favor of making the grant.

### **Proposed Ban on Leaf Blowers**

Chairman Blumenthal explained that there have been complaints in the community about excessively noisy leaf blowers, and the current regulations against noise from leaf blowers have not been effective because it is so difficult to get anyone with enforcement authority to come out to get an official decibel reading while the leaf blowers are still in use in the neighborhood. Council-member Cheh has introduced legislation in the DC Council that beginning in 2022 would forbid sale or use in the District of all gasoline-powered leaf blowers, which tend to be the noisiest. That would mean individuals, apartment buildings, and contractors who want to use leaf blowers in the District would have to use plug-in or battery-powered or solar-powered leaf blowers. ANC3D in Foxhall/Palisades has adopted a resolution in support of a ban. In Commissioner Young's district, where there are large apartment buildings with lawns, residents are disturbed by the noise of leaf blowers in all seasons, sometimes throughout the day. After some discussion and comments about the issue and options, Chairman Blumenthal stated that the Commission has not come to an agreement and would watch to see where the legislation goes and where ANC action might be needed.

### **Rite Aid Request for Liquor License**

Chairman Blumenthal explained that Rite Aid will be opening soon at the former site of Glover Park Hardware on Wisconsin Avenue. The company was hoping to sell beer and wine but it discovered the store would be too close to the Whole Foods Market (which has a Class B license to sell beer and wine). Regulations prohibit retail liquor licensees from being within 400 feet of each other. The only option available to Rite Aid, therefore, would be a Class A license (beer, wine and distilled spirits). The current Glover Park Moratorium, which was set to expire on February 21, prohibits issuing new Class A licenses in the area. The ANC voted in November to extend the ban on new Class A licenses in the proposed five-year extension of the moratorium and has submitted that proposal to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for approval. In early January, Chairman Blumenthal asked the Board to extend its schedule for considering the moratorium extension so the ANC could review the Rite Aid request. She announced that the ANC was opening a 30-day period for residents to submit comments on the issue.

Matthew Minora and Michael Fonseca of the law firm Mallios and O'Brien made a presentation for Rite Aid, in support of the request to amend the moratorium proposal to allow new Class A liquor licenses. They stated that Rite Aid does not intend to run a liquor store at that site, but would focus on selling beer and wine and a few spirits, at a different price point than the other two Class A license holders in the neighborhood, Pearson's and Wide World of Wine. The Rite Aid representatives indicated that being able to get alcohol products at the Rite Aid would be a convenience for shoppers getting other items in the store. They also stated that if the Rite Aid were granted a Class A liquor license, there should not be a concern about a proliferation of liquor stores on that part of Wisconsin Avenue because under the proximity rules, there would be no other place in the neighborhood that could get a Class A license.

Ariadne Henry pointed out that if Rite Aid did get a Class A liquor license, the license could be sold to another company who could use it to operate a full liquor store, which would mean three liquor stores within a stretch of about 550 feet on Wisconsin Avenue. Other meeting participants posed questions or offered comments, including several who opposed granting a liquor license to Rite Aid and two who said they would not have a problem with it. Commissioner Young noted that the CVS, across Wisconsin Avenue from the new Rite Aid, has a policy that its business is health and therefore it does not sell tobacco products and also does not sell alcohol.

Chairman Blumenthal encouraged everyone to submit comments to the ANC by the time of its next public meeting on February 11, when the ANC will take a vote on whether or not to amend the proposal it has already submitted to the ABC Board.

### **Updates**

Chairman Blumenthal reported that the sale of the Holiday Inn on Wisconsin Avenue is expected to close by the summer, at which time the developer will come to the ANC to share the plans for the site. Plans call for a rental apartment complex with ground-floor retail stores. She also said she met with DDOT and had gotten some positive news about several changes the ANC has requested:

- DDOT has agreed to assess the ANC's request to lift the no left turn for drivers from outbound Massachusetts Avenue onto Observatory Circle at rush hour, which ANC3B and ANC3C have been requesting since 2014.
- DDOT also agreed to reconsider restoring parking on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue during morning rush hours where it used to be allowed, to provide parking for customers at Monarch Paint, the consulates, bagel shops, and other businesses.

Chairman Blumenthal said she has been working with the mayor's community liaison, Mike Matthews, to get DDOT's Public Space Office and the DPW to look into the CVS's use of public sidewalks for stacking pallets and cases of goods, often double parking the delivery vehicles on

adjoining streets, rather than using the loading dock on the parking deck. This not only blocks the sidewalk but also creates a hazard for pedestrians.

Mad Fox Brewing has received approval from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to have live entertainment at 6 events per year, which the ANC supported. Mad Fox previously got special approval for live entertainment on New Year's Eve and there were no complaints.

Commissioner Mladinov mentioned that DDOT has a few elements of the bike route on Tunlaw Road and 37<sup>th</sup> Street to complete, including painting the crosswalks at Tunlaw and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street as well as at Tunlaw and Davis Place, and installing vertical signs at the crosswalks outside 4000 Tunlaw Road saying "Stop when pedestrians are in the crosswalks." The work will be scheduled after the spring construction season starts.

Chairman Blumenthal reported that she has also been working with Councilmember Cheh's office to expedite the processing of the final permits needed for Glover Park Hardware to open in its new location next to BreadSoda below Theodore's, now that the hardware store has installed the required sprinkler system.

### **Open Forum**

Ariadne Henry asked if the wall separating the newly located hardware store from Wisconsin Avenue could be taken down so the Ace could be seen and reached more easily from the street, and people wouldn't have to go through BreadSoda to get to the hardware store. Chairman Blumenthal noted that the elevator inside the building will be available for people shopping at Glover Park Hardware, and will be accessible on Saturday and Sunday as well as on weekdays.

### **Administrative Matters**

At the start of each new year, the ANC is obliged to allocate funds to the ANC Security Fund, to insure the Advisory Neighborhood Commission against unauthorized expenditures or loss of funds. Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve spending \$25 for ANC3B to participate in the ANC Security Fund. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Chairman Blumenthal presented the minutes of the ANC's December meeting, and moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the December Financial Report.

### **December Financial Report (Approved at January 2016 Meeting)**

#### Checking Account

Opening Balance:	\$8,889.25	
Income:	\$2,930.71	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016 District Allotment
Checks:	#1251	in the amount of \$190.79 to replenish petty cash
Closing Balance:	\$11,629.17	

Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the December Financial Report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

The ANC will meet next on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 7 pm.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.