

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016

Chairman Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7:00 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) had been called away on business and could not attend.

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

No police representatives were present so there was no Police Report.

DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Guy Mason Community Center Hours

DPR Director Keith Anderson and Themba Masimini, Deputy Director of Recreation Services, answered questions about the recently announced cutback in hours at Guy Mason and elimination of hours on Sundays. Under the change, the center will close at 9 pm instead of 10 pm on weekdays. Mr. Anderson explained that the changes are necessary to meet the requirements of the city's collective bargaining agreement, and the hours at Guy Mason Rec have been forcing employees to go beyond what the agreement allows. He said that opening the center on Sunday had been a pilot project when it began and no other DPR center in the District is open on Sundays. He also said that only 8 people had been using the center on Sundays, for the pottery studio, so closing on Sunday would not affect many people.

Several meeting participants countered that center staff had actively discouraged people from using the center on Sundays, other than for the pottery studio though that was not the original arrangement DPR had made with the community. Teachers, volunteers, and students from the pottery studio commented that working people would not have time to complete a pottery project in the hours available after work if the center closes at 9 pm, and underlined that it is essential for the pottery studio, like community meetings, to have the 7-10 pm time block as well as weekend hours in order for adults to be able to participate. Chairman Blumenthal outlined the agreements DPR had made with the community when Guy Mason was renovated, to encourage broad use of the center and develop programs to serve adults in the community because the indoor facilities are not well suited to accommodate children. Representatives of Friends of Guy Mason (FOGM) and the Glover Park Village also spoke about their concerns with the proposed reduction in hours and the lack of consultation with the community. Chairman Jackie Blumenthal agreed to organize a meeting at Guy Mason in the following two weeks among the ANC, DPR, GPCA, FOGM, Glover Park Village, and representatives from the pottery studio to discuss the issues and work on finding solutions.

Presentation on Development of the Former Holiday Inn Site

John Clarkson and Whit Huffman of JBG and architect, Eric Colbert of Eric Colbert & Associates made a presentation about their proposed mixed use retail-residential project at the former Holiday Inn site at 2101 Wisconsin Avenue, which JBG purchased in June. The plans include a new two-story building along Wisconsin Avenue where the parking lot has been, to house 20,000 square feet of retail space (15,000 square foot specialty grocery store on the ground floor plus small additional retail) and 8 apartments above; 100 studio and one-bedroom apartments in the southern wing of the current hotel building, accessed from a new entrance on Whitehaven Street; a series of lower rise 3- to 4-bedroom townhomes or "duplex" units farther back on the property, overlooking a courtyard and the Naval Observatory property; and a 3-level underground parking garage for 170 vehicles entered from Wisconsin Avenue and exited from Whitehaven. The development team responded to questions from residents of the adjoining condominiums and others about the provisions for parking on the site and deliveries to the retail businesses, construction noise, construction worker parking, delivery of construction materials, obstruction of current views from the neighboring condominiums, potential effects on traffic on Wisconsin Avenue and on Whitehaven, Street and safety for students at the British International School immediately to the south across Whitehaven. Several participants recommended having two lanes westbound out of Whitehaven, to handle left- and right-turning vehicles onto Wisconsin. The structures will be matter-of-right project and the presentation was just informational. No issue was before the Commission for a vote at the meeting. (At the previous ANC3B Meeting on October 13, the Commission had voted 5-0 not to object to the request for a public space variance for the project that dealt chiefly with landscaping and sidewalks.)

Presentation on Bid for Glover Park Clean Team

Graham McLaughlin and Charlie Curtis of Changing Perceptions DC made a presentation on the bid they are filing an application with the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development to be chosen as the provider of "Clean Team" services in Glover Park in the new year. Changing Perceptions DC is a non-profit organization designed to assist individuals returning from incarceration to develop professional and personal skills and find employment, and contribute to their community. Mr. Curtis, supervisor of their Clean Team on 12th Street NE, spoke about the services they provide on that project. He would also be the supervisor for the new Clean Team in Glover Park, which would be responsible for picking up litter on sidewalks and surrounding areas, removing snow, and maintaining tree boxes in the commercial area of Glover Park along Wisconsin between Calvert Street and Holy Rood Cemetery and on the first block of 37th Street south of Calvert Street. Mr. McLaughlin answered questions and asked for comments on what services and hours would be most helpful for Glover Park. Hearing no objections, the Chairman said she would write a letter expressing the Commission's positive impression of Changing Perceptions DC.

Grant Request from Friends of Glover Park

Dean Hill, Treasurer of the Friends of Glover Park Recreation Center, presented a request for a grant of \$1,103.79 to purchase additional basketballs, scorebooks, and whistles for the youth basketball programs at the recreation center. Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on the grant request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

Resolution on Renewal of Mason Inn Liquor License

Chairman Blumenthal reported that the Mason Inn liquor license is up for renewal, with a deadline of November 28 for protests to be filed with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA). The Chairman explained that the Mason Inn had recently been sold to a new owner. The Commission proposed to revise the existing settlement agreement to require that the front windows of Mason Inn

be closed during live entertainment events, to prevent loud music from escaping the premises and affecting nearby residences. Because there had not yet been enough time to negotiate a settlement agreement with the new owner, Chairman Blumenthal presented a resolution to protest the renewal, with the hope that the issues would be settled amicably without having to go through the full formal process. The Chairman moved to vote on the resolution, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve filing the protest. A resident raised the concern that the design of the front windows creates a safety hazard because when they are open they block the sidewalk. Chairman Blumenthal said she would talk to the new owner and to DDOT about that matter.

Updates

JP's Liquor License: Chairman Blumenthal announced that ABRA had canceled the liquor license for JP's nightclub at 2412 Wisconsin Avenue. She also announced that the new tenant, Saigon Kitchen, will be opening soon and is seeking a liquor license with an entertainment endorsement to allow live music, but the music will be contained in the upstairs room that will be available for private groups to use for special occasions.

Tenant and Rent Control Legislation: Commissioner Mladinov reported that earlier in the day the DC Council had taken up a number of bills related to tenant protection and rent control, which the Commissioners had urged the Council to adopt on second reading. Several were approved and several other bills related to rent control have yet to be scheduled for a vote.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments.

Administrative Business

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's October public meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as drafted. Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for October:

ANC3B October 2016 Financial Report

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$14,802.37

Outgoing: Check # 1261 for \$2,500.00 payable to Hardy Middle School PTO for Updating Library Books/Supplies

Income: \$0.00

Closing Balance: \$12,302.37

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 ANC3B meeting would be on Thursday, December 8.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.