

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2016

Chairman 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. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as proposed.

Police Report

Sergeant Ben Firehock, evening shift supervisor in PSA 204, presented the crime statistics for the preceding 30 days and also for the year to date. He reported there had been 2 violent crimes in PSA204 in 2016, the same number as in 2015, including an assault at Rite Aid on Wisconsin Avenue when an employee tried to stop a shoplifter who had a knife. Property crimes totaled 30 compared to 44 in 2015, a decrease of 32%. Thefts were down from 21 to 19, thefts from auto dropped from 20 to 7, and stolen autos dropped from 2 to 1, but burglaries rose from 1 last year to 3 this year. For the year to date, violent crimes are down 14% from 2015, while property crimes are down 6%, but thefts are up 34%, largely because of shoplifting and stolen bikes.

Sgt. Firehock also addressed questions on traffic. Commissioner Young asked about speeding on Cathedral Avenue from Wisconsin Avenue to New Mexico Avenue, which she and several constituents raised in September. Sgt. Firehock said he could get a “This is how fast you’re going” device on Cathedral, as well as on Tunlaw from Calvert Street to Glover-Archbold Park, which the ANC also requested MPD to evaluate. Sgt. Firehock also said he would check on the study MPD is conducting of the feasibility of installing speed cameras to enforce speed limits on Cathedral Avenue.

Commissioner Turmail mentioned traffic problems on Calvert Street in front of Stoddert Elementary School, and several other residents reported illegal parking in that area during drop-off and pick-up times. Commissioner Turmail particularly noted that vehicles are making “K turns” on Calvert Street, turning the wrong way into 41st Street in order to reverse direction, creating additional congestion as well as danger to children and parents using the crosswalks. Sgt. Firehock said he would assign a traffic car to deal with the problems.

Presentation by Karima Holmes, Director of the DC Office of Unified Communications (OUC)

Ms. Holmes gave an overview of OUC’s responsibilities for the city’s 911 (emergency services) and 311 (non-emergency city services), and their plans for future improvements in the efficiency and

effectiveness of both systems. As the first director with direct operating experience in operating 911 and 311 systems, Ms. Holmes has strengthened training, public information and outreach, equipment, options for callers to use text or email rather than calls, and back-up systems to avoid the break in 911 service during a power outage in the summer.

Rent Control Issues

Commissioner Shirley Adelstein of ANC3F02 was scheduled to make a presentation on the four bills before the Council affecting tenant rights and rent control, but she had another obligation that required her to leave the meeting before the time for her presentation. She left informational materials and offered to return to a future meeting to talk about the issues.

Security Cameras Surrounding Russian Embassy Compound

Cliff Seagroves, Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of State Office of Foreign Missions made a brief presentation and took questions about the new surveillance cameras installed at the beginning of September around the perimeter of the Russian embassy compound, including Calvert Street and 39th Street, Calvert and Tunlaw, Davis Place and Tunlaw, 39th Street and Tunlaw, Fulton Street and Tunlaw, and 39th and Fulton Street. He explained that over the summer, Russian embassy staff had expressed concern to the State Department about the safety of the area for people in the compound. The embassy staff asked for 24-hour security at the front and back of the property and elimination of parking spaces along Tunlaw near the compound. The State Department determined that those steps would not be practical or warranted but instead called for a series of surveillance cameras in the neighborhood around the compound. The Russian embassy personnel do not get the images from those cameras; they are only seen by U.S. personnel. Mr. Seagroves noted that surveillance cameras are already in place throughout the District, and would be expected in areas near an embassy property.

Grant Request from Hardy Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Jane Alexander presented the PTO request for a grant of \$2,500 to purchase additional materials for the Hardy Middle School library. Commissioner Turmail moved to vote on the grant request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant.

Public Space Application for Holiday Inn Site Development

The developer who purchased the Holiday Inn on Wisconsin Avenue asked for a public space variance covering landscaping and paving around the hotel site. (The renovation of the building itself is not included in this application.) Chairman Blumenthal recommended that the ANC “not object” to the application. She moved to take a vote on the issue, the motion was seconded, the Commission voted 5-0 not to object to the request for a public space variance. Chairman Blumenthal also announced that the developers of the Holiday Inn will present details on their plans at the Commission’s November meeting.

Resolution Regarding the Draft Statehood Constitution

In the spring, the Mayor proposed a new statehood initiative, based on a new draft Constitution to be presented to the Congress as part of a request for an Admission Act to make the District of Columbia a state. After the Commission’s September meeting when David Bardin made a presentation about the statehood referendum on the ballot for the November election, he referred the Commission to a working group analysis of the draft Constitution, with recommendations for technical improvements to reflect the current status of the DC Attorney General, several other independent agencies and officials, and the ANCs. Commissioner Mladinov introduced a resolution requesting that the DC Council amend the draft constitution to make those corrections. The proposed resolution did not take a position on

statehood but urges technical changes to correct and clarify the provisions, and asks that DC voters be given the opportunity to ratify or disapprove the draft constitution in a binding referendum if DC statehood is approved by Congress. She made a motion to take a vote on the resolution, and the motion was seconded. Chairman Blumenthal then opened the floor to questions. Commissioner Young expressed the concerns shared by several of her constituents about the abbreviated process by which the draft constitution was prepared and the limited opportunities for public participation and comment on the constitution. Several other participants asked questions. The Commission voted to approve the resolution by a vote of 4 – 1, with Commissioner Young opposing.

Good Guys Settlement Agreement. Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a resolution to approve a revised settlement agreement between ANC3B and Good Guys. This agreement updates, consolidates and extends a number of past agreements, and eliminates provisions that are no longer necessary. Chairman Blumenthal moved to take a vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Resolution Regarding Preserving Funding for Fillmore Arts Center Beyond This School Year

After extending funding for the Fillmore Arts Center at Hardy Middle School for the 2016-17 school year, DC school officials are once again proposing to eliminate funding to Fillmore, which provides arts education to students in five DC public schools including Stoddert Elementary School. The arguments against maintaining funding for Fillmore are related to equity: DCPS considers that Fillmore offers special services to students at a cost that is higher per pupil than arts education at most other schools, when the costs of transporting students to and from the home school are included. Commissioner Turmail introduced a resolution urging that funding for Fillmore be continued beyond the current school year so arts education at Fillmore can be available for Stoddert and the other local schools that rely on Fillmore because they have no space for arts education in their own facilities. Commissioner Turmail moved to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments.

Administrative Business

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

ANC3B September 2016 Financial Report

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$11,916.66

Outgoing: Check #1260 for \$45.00 payable to DLM Web Development for updating the ANC website

Income: \$2,930.71 for Fourth Quarter FY 2016 District allotment

Closing Balance: \$14,802.37

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

Commissioner Young also presented the Commission's Fourth Quarter financial report. There were no questions. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the quarterly report, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Chairman Blumenthal noted that ANC3B will have \$14,000 to use for grants to non-profits for projects benefiting the community over the coming fiscal year, and encouraged anyone with that kind of project to submit a grant request to the Commission

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the next ANC3B meeting would be on Tuesday, November 15, not the usual second Thursday of the month.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.