

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2017

Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. All the Commissioners were in attendance including Ann Mladinov (3B01), Melissa Lane (3B03), Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.) Chairman Blumenthal announced that she would have to leave the meeting at 8:00 pm so Vice Chairman Turmail would preside over the meeting after that point, still with a quorum.

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed agenda for the meeting, and made a motion to vote on agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal attended the meeting to report on crime statistics in Police Service Area (PSA) 204, which includes ANC3B. Before he delivered the crime report, Chairman Blumenthal read a message commending Lt. Neal for his 38 years of service on the police force, one of the longest careers of any active officer in the MPD.

Lt. Neal reported that crime in PSA 204 for the last 30 days had dropped significantly compared to the same time period in 2016. Violent crimes were down 67%, from 6 to 2, and property crimes were down 36%, from 44 to 28. Thefts from autos fell from 8 to 4, and general thefts from 31 to 21. Lt. Neal noted that one factor in the reduction in crime was increase in officers on foot or on bicycles, rather than in vehicles. There are about 20 officers in PSA204 on the beat.

Commissioner Young asked about the number of police cars positioned along Wisconsin Avenue between Sidwell Friends and Tenleytown. Lt. Neal said officers were being placed near points where pedestrians cross the street, to try to reduce the number of people being hit. He mentioned that a woman had been struck the day before at Idaho Avenue and Newark Street, which is also an intersection where the police frequently issue tickets.

Presentation by DC Department of Forensic Science (DFS)

Director Dr. Jenifer Smith presented the work of the DFS, which operates state-of-the-art labs at the city's new facility at 401 4th Street SW, responsible for crime scene, forensics and public health investigations. Dr. Smith has led the effort to strengthen the quality and reliability of the lab operations, after the city's DNA lab was closed for 9 months following a series of problems in 2014. The DFS now examines evidence from crime scenes including sexual assaults; DNA, fingerprints, firearms, and digital data from electronic devices; biological and chemical threats, mosquito-transmitted diseases, rabies, Ebola, norovirus and other foodborne illnesses. Dr. Smith invited residents to the open house at DFS on September 20 and asked people to call DFS if they were interested in a speaker about DFS work.

Request for Special Exception and Zoning Variance to Allow Domino's at 2330 Wisconsin

Zachary Williams, land use lawyer, and Susan Fulton, Marketing Director of Domino's Team Washington, presented plans for a Domino's to be located in the southern half of the now-vacant space previously used by the El Salvador consulate. That building, known as Calvert Center, also houses Bruegger's Bagels, the Post Office and Chipotle. They explained that the space of about 2000 square feet is designed to have an open kitchen, two rest rooms for customers, and tables and chairs for dining, in addition to carryout and delivery service. Ms. Fulton said five parking spaces in the parking lot in the rear of the building would be designated for the store manager and employees, though no parking is required under the zoning regulations because of the small size of the space. She said that Domino's patrons would use other spaces in the parking lot, which is shared among all the tenants in the building, and Domino's deliveries would also be made through the rear entrance off the parking lot using small box trucks, not full-size semi-trucks, because of the limited space in the alley and parking lot.

Ms. Fulton said the Domino's would have 7 delivery vehicles. Chairman Blumenthal recommended that during the day, the delivery vehicles use the rear parking lot to load and unload, not the street in front, but shift to using the front of the store late at night when parking on the street is not as busy, to spare neighbors in the back from the extra noise and traffic. Chairman Blumenthal announced the ANC would open a four-week period to gather public comments about the zoning request and take a vote at the October 12 meeting, while in the interim, the Commission would work with Domino's to reach agreement on how to deal with deliveries, hours, and trash disposal.

Resolution Regarding the Installation of Public Benches in Glover Park

Jarrett Ferrier, President of the Glover Park Citizens' Association, presented GPCA's plan to install five more sets of public benches on public land in the neighborhood (two 4-foot benches in each location), like the existing benches at 37th and Whitehaven. The proposed new locations are: Calvert Street at 37th Street, by the bank; 39th and Calvert Street by the baseball field; 40th and W Street; 42nd and Davis Place; and 42nd and New Mexico in front of the Victory Gardens. He said DDOT's Public Space Permit Office had asked ANC3B to weigh in on the plan. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion that the Commission vote on endorsing GPCA's proposal. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to support the proposed public benches.

Commissioner Young asked if similar benches could be placed on public land in Cathedral Heights in ANC3B, such as at Idaho Avenue and Massachusetts, where the city owns considerable land that was intended to become Hamilton Circle. Chairman Blumenthal suggested looking into funding options for public benches there, since Cathedral Heights does not have a citizens' association.

Chairman Blumenthal had to leave at 8:00 pm, so she asked Vice Chairman Turmail to preside over the rest of the meeting. With the other three commissioners, a quorum was still present. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

Grant Request from Iona Senior Services for Whiteboards

Diane Greenspun of Iona Senior Services presented a request for a grant of \$366.23 to purchase two dry-erase whiteboards for use at Iona's center in Tenleytown. She described Iona's project to reconfigure the first floor space to provide more room for the Monday-to-Friday day center and more effective meeting areas for classes and other groups. She said the whiteboards will be especially useful for the day center programs for seniors and people with disabilities. She also announced that Iona would soon be holding a grand opening for the new facilities and invited residents to come to Iona to tour the space once it is open.

Vice Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on approving the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

Grant Request from Community Foodworks for the Glover Park-Burleith Farmers' Market

Nick Stavely and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ferrante of Community Foodworks, presented a request for a grant of \$2,465 for materials to improve the operations and awareness of the Glover Park-Burleith Farmers' Market held in the Hardy Middle School parking lot on Saturday mornings. As the organization with the current contract to manage the farmers' market, Community Foodworks proposed to use the grant funds to improve public information about the market, including sandwich boards, posters, and flyers, and to purchase three new canopy tents to use for the information table at the market and kids' activities, and provide shade in the summer. Mr. Stavely suggested that the tents and other materials could be co-branded for Community Foodworks and ANC3B. Commissioner Mladinov noted that the ANC gives grants for the benefit of the community, not the benefit of the ANC itself, and the tents are intended to serve the market for residents in Glover Park, Burleith, Cathedral Heights and other nearby neighborhoods. Grant recipients are welcome to give credit to the sponsor of a grant but it is not necessary to show "ANC3B" such as on the canopy of the tents. Commissioner Young agreed. Vice Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the application. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

Updates

Commissioner Mladinov provided updates on several issues discussed at previous meetings:

- DDOT announced that it will not be eliminating the Wisconsin Avenue portion of the Union Station-Georgetown Circulator route at this time. Commissioner Turmail noted that DDOT credited the large number of comments from the local community for preserving that service.
- The Office of Public-Private Partnership (OP3) is reviewing companies that responded to the Request for Qualifications in August, and is developing a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the citywide project to replace the city's streetlights and alley lights with LEDs. DDOT has received public comments requesting lower intensity LED streetlights rather than the 4000 Kelvin LEDs that are now being installed in the city. DDOT is launching a pilot project to test 3000 Kelvin streetlights in Columbia Heights, and is also doing preliminary safety testing on 2700 Kelvin LEDs. The DC Council has to approve the RFP and the choice of contractor. Both will involve public hearings and opportunities for public comments.
- DDOT's contractor for the Airplane Noise Assessment was scheduled to submit its findings and recommendations on September 30 for changes at DC National Airport to reduce the effects of airplane noise on neighborhoods in northwest Washington.
- DC Water's meter replacement project is continuing in the Glover Park neighborhood and will soon be starting in Cathedral Heights.

Open Forum

One constituent asked for clarification on how residents can work with the ANC when they want to propose home improvements such as rear decks. Vice Chairman Turmail explained that when a property owner wants to add a deck that requires zoning approval, the ANC has the authority to take a position before the city's Board of Zoning Adjustment. To gain support from the ANC, the property owner is asked to send a letter to surrounding neighbors to get their views about the proposal and then present the plan and a record of neighbors' views at an ANC meeting.

Matt Wexler, principal and managing partner of Foxhall Partners which owns the Kimpton Glover Park Hotel at 2505 Wisconsin Avenue, announced that the hotel would be hosting two open houses on September 19 and 26 at the hotel's Casolare Restaurant to meet neighbors, see the view from the top, and talk about plans for the roof level of the hotel. Commissioner Young asked if the hotel was still thinking of the plan Mr. Wexler presented to the ANC when he first attended a meeting two years ago, which showed a bar and seating for people to have food and drink. He said that is still their hope and the hotel would like to get consensus among the neighbors to support the plan. They are working with an advisory group from the neighborhood, including Jarrett Ferrier from GPCA, and hope to find a solution that will be amenable to the community.

Administrative Matters

Vice Chairman Turmail introduced the minutes of the Commission's July public meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes. 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 July and also August when the ANC did not meet.

ANC3B July-August 2017 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$9,829.04

Income: \$271.93 – DC Government reimbursement for part of a grant to Iona Senior Services that was previously withheld

\$ 25.00 – Reimbursement by the Chairman for a parking ticket received while meeting with Mary Cheh at her office

Total Income: \$296.93

Outgoing: There were no expenditures during July and August.

Total Outgoing: \$0.00

CLOSING BALANCE \$10,125.97

Vice Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the report as presented.

Commissioner Young also presented the proposed ANC3B budget for FY2018, which includes \$2,000 for communications to allow for updating the ANC website, and \$9,000 for grants (a reduction of \$1,000 from FY2017). She announced that the Commission will vote on the budget at its October meeting.

Vice Chairman Turmail announced the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, October 12, 2017.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.