

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2017

Chairman Jackie 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.) The Commission was using its new microphones and speaker system for the first time at the meeting.

Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on adopting the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

No representatives of the MPD were at the meeting so there was no Police Report.

Presentation by Whole Foods

In response to neighborhood concerns, Whole Foods officials Todd Schrecengost, Field Marketing Manager for the 5 Metro DC stores, and Dan Shoemaker, Store Team Manager for the Glover Park Whole Foods, attended the meeting to speak about the abrupt closing of the store in mid-March and plans for renovations. (Mary Ann Sack, Whole Foods Executive Marketing Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region, had been expected but was not at the meeting.) Mr. Schrecengost made a brief opening presentation and took questions from the ANC members and other meeting participants. He also stated that the closing was not planned but would lead to improved customer service, and he asked for people's feedback on what they would like to see at the store when it is renovated. He encouraged residents to shop at other Whole Foods stores in the mean time.

Chairman Blumenthal asked how long the store would be closed and he said he was not really sure and would not want to put a number on it, even an outside limit. He said he had hoped to have plans to share but Whole Foods is still in the process of developing the plan. Chairman Blumenthal noted that most members of the community believe the store was closed because of rat infestation. Mr. Schrecengost responded that the store did have visits from the District Department of Health (DOH) but was cleared to reopen when Whole Foods made a decision to close for renovation. He said that because the store has been open for 20 years, it was a good time to remodel. In spite of concerns that Whole Foods leases rather than owns the building, he said the store is not planning to leave that location and it will reopen. Commissioner Turmail asked what might be different about the store after the remodeling. Mr. Shoemaker reported that there would still be parking, but had no other specific details.

Chairman Blumenthal mentioned that she had contacted DOH and they would be doing rat abatement at the Guy Mason Recreation Center over a period of months, so she hoped Whole Foods would contact DOH so they could coordinate on eradicating rats in that area. Rats live in the parkland and they can exist there partly because of the garbage cans at Guy Mason, but they're also attracted by food and trash at Whole Foods. If the city and the store don't work in partnership, their efforts to get rid of the rats will not succeed.

Commissioner Young asked what happened to the employees at the Whole Foods. Mr. Schrecengost said the employees who worked at the Glover Park store have temporary jobs at other Whole Foods stores at the same pay. Chairman Blumenthal asked the Whole Foods representatives to come back to an ANC meeting when they have plans they can share. She also offered to post a request for input about what residents would like to see at the remodeled store and will send the suggestions to Whole Foods.

Letter Supporting Friends of Guy Mason Springfest

Chairman Blumenthal presented a proposed letter to the District Department of Parks and Recreation in support of the “Springfest” being organized by the Friends of Guy Mason to be held Saturday, April 15, from 1:30-4:30 pm at Guy Mason Recreation Center. She made a motion to vote on approving the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Letter Endorsing Permit for Glover Park Day

Chairman Blumenthal presented a proposed letter to the District Department of Parks and Recreation in support of the 28th Annual Glover Park Day being planned for Saturday, June 3 (rain date September 2) from 11 am to 5 pm on the grounds of Guy Mason Recreation Center. The ANC is asked to provide a letter of endorsement each year for this event. The Chairman made a motion to vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Letter to DC Council Supporting Including Funds for Clean Teams in District FY2018 Budget

Chairman Blumenthal presented a proposed letter to the District Council in support of including funds for Clean Teams in the FY2018 budget for the Department of Public Works, including funds for other neighborhoods as well as Glover Park. Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh put money into the FY2017 budget for a Clean Team in Glover Park and the team that was selected for the project has been working in the Glover Park commercial district since January 2017, picking up litter and keeping the area clean. The Chairman made a motion to vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Updates

DC Water: Commissioner Mladinov reported that residents had shared several questions via email and listservs about DC Water programs and water bills. Some of the questions relate to DC Water’s Clean Rivers Project which involves major construction under a federal consent decree to reduce by 96% the sewer outflow into the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers from combined sewer systems such as those in much of Glover Park. The project is due to be completed by 2030. The costs of that work are being covered through a special charge on residential and commercial water bills. DC Water’s Green Infrastructure Program, including rain gardens and permeable pavement to be installed in Glover Park, is part of the Clean Rivers Project. DC Water has been invited to a future ANC meeting to talk about the project, schedule and costs. Other emails about DC Water relate to questions about residents’ water bills, which are generally best addressed individually rather than at a public meeting, for privacy reasons. The ANC has contacted DC Water’s Manager of Community Outreach, Emanuel Briggs, who offered to have a member of the executive office get back to any constituents to answer questions on their specific bills, if the ANC forwards the questions and contact information.

DOEE Study of Airport Noise: Commissioner Mladinov reported that the mayor has requested the Department of Energy and the Environment to contract for a special assessment of the effects on city residents and communities of noise from plane operations at DC National Airport. The study is being conducted by the Freytag Company which has experts in aviation operations and noise. She summarized the initial presentation the Freytag team made at a public meeting in Georgetown on March 8.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments.

Administrative Matters

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

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for March:

ANC3B March 2017 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$12,716.93

Incoming: \$2,658.78 – 2nd Quarter FY 2017 Allocation from the District

Outgoing: \$25.00 Check #1266 - to participate in ANC Security Fund for 2017

\$2500.00 Check #1268 - Grant to Glover Park Village for Expenses of Insurance and Postage

\$2500.00 Check #1269 - Grant to Wilson PTSO for Repair of Musical Instruments

\$25.00 Check #1270 - to Jackie Blumenthal to reimburse parking ticket when ANC3B was meeting with Mary Cheh

NOTE: Check #1267 for \$1671.70 - Grant to Stoddert PTO for Sports Equipment had not yet cleared the ANC bank account as of March 31.

CLOSING BALANCE \$10,325.71

Commissioner Young mentioned that the District Auditor had withheld a small amount of funds allocated to the ANC corresponding to the cost of fuel paid by Iona Senior Services for van services as part of the ANC's grant to Iona for transportation stipends for seniors. Commissioner Young is continuing to discuss the matter with the appropriate city officials to straighten out the issue.

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

Treasurer Mary Young presented the quarterly financial report for the Second Quarter of FY2017.

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

Chairman Blumenthal announced the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, May 11, 2017, with a visit from the District Department of Public Works to talk about local clean-up measures they're organizing in areas that are not covered by the Clean Team.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.