

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



ANC3B Minutes
September 10, 2015 Public Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02). Ann Mladinov (3B01), Abigail Zenner (3B03) and Mary Young (3B04) were also present which constituted a quorum. Brian Turmail (3B05) was on a delayed flight and was not able to attend.

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed agenda which was approved 4-0.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal of the Second District MPD summarized crimes reported from July 22 to August 21, 2015. There were two violent crimes, neither of them in ANC3B, compared to six violent crimes reported in PSA204 in 2014, for a 67% drop year-to-year. For property crimes there were 10% more in 2015, including 19 thefts from autos (6 last year), 17 other thefts (26 last year), 3 burglaries and 4 stolen autos (both the same as last year). Most of those property crimes were not in ANC3B. Lt. Neal said the police are putting more patrols in areas where there's been an increase in crime, to slow or stop it. He distributed MPD's pamphlet on burglary prevention, noting particularly the importance of keeping doors locked and not leaving keys and money by the door. He added that many people have found alarm systems useful, as well as motion-activated cameras that can give the police photographic evidence to use in prosecuting thieves.

DC Water Presentation on Green Infrastructure Program

DC Water engineers Bethany Bezak, Green Infrastructure Manager, and Caitlin Feehan, Green Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, gave a presentation and distributed detailed handouts about the plans for developing Green Infrastructure projects in the Glover Park and Georgetown areas to accomplish some of the required reductions in Combined Sewer Outflow under the Consent Decree issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. They were accompanied by Meghan Hazer, also Green Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, and Lilia Ledezma, Green Infrastructure Public Outreach Coordinator. They explained that Glover Park and Cathedral Heights are served by a Combined Sewer system (stormwater and sewage both drain through the same pipes). DC Water has been working on a series of large tunnels along the riverfront to hold excess Combined Sewer Outflow. Since 2011, DC Water has developed modifications to incorporate green infrastructure projects that will reduce the outflow and reduce the need for a storage tunnel along the shore in Georgetown.

DC Water has been surveying the Glover Park area to identify public property that could be used for green infrastructure such as green roofs, porous pavers, rain gardens and LID (Low Impact Development) drains like the ones at 37th and Tunlaw. The plan is to select a number of sites in the Glover Park project area, issue requests for proposals, and continue to ask for public comments as the projects are developed. After the initial project are completed in Glover Park,

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3B01
N. GLOVER PARK
ANN MLADINOV

3B02
E. GLOVER PARK
JACKIE BLUMENTHAL

3B03
W. GLOVER PARK
ABIGAIL ZENNER

3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
MARY C. YOUNG

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
BRIAN TURMAIL

DC Water expects to look for additional sites for similar projects in surrounding neighborhoods. (These plans for projects on public property are separate from green infrastructure projects that private property owners may install on their own homes or buildings at their own cost.)

Chairman Blumenthal asked two questions submitted by former ANC3B Chair Brian Cohen, including why the program couldn't be completed by 2025 and whether the plans are taking into account the chance to greater rainfall because of climate change. Lilia Ledezma responded that DC Water generally sizes projects about 20% beyond the capacity they appear to need, so that should accommodate any additional precipitation in coming years.

DC Water's current plan is to complete the program by 2030, five years beyond the target date of 2025 in the original Consent Decree. Lilia Ledezma explained that DC Water will need 15 years to complete all the projects required to achieve the mandated reduction in outflow, but the green infrastructure projects will go into service beginning in 2017 so the new plan will achieve some of the reduced sewage outflow earlier than would otherwise be possible. DC Water is holding a community meeting on the plan on October 7 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Ms. Ledezma said any questions can go to her at Lilia.Ledezma@dcwater.com

Bethany Bezak also gave a brief update on the progress of DC Water's plan to replace or rehabilitate the pipes in Glover-Archbold Park. DC Water is completing its internal review of a range of alternatives which it will share with the National Park Service later this fall. After that, DC Water will schedule a public scoping meeting to present details on the primary alternatives, including costs, timetable, and projected environmental effects.

Resolution on Restoring Morning Rush Hour Parking on Northbound Wisconsin Avenue

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed resolution, noting that there is no morning rush hour parking allowed on northbound Wisconsin Avenue where customers could park for the Monarch Paint store and the bagel shops. The curb parking was removed during the restructuring of Wisconsin Avenue in 2012 and was never restored after the rest of the street was returned to its original configuration, so the merchants asked if parking could be put back. Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on the resolution to allow morning rush hour parking there again. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adopt the resolution.

Discussion of ANC3B Issues with DC Department of Transportation (DDOT)

Greer Gillis, Deputy Director of DDOT, discussed the list of transportation issues the ANC raised in recent months:

- 1 - Resolution to restore rush hour parking on northbound Wisconsin Avenue: DDOT will review the request regarding rush hour parking on Wisconsin Avenue and issue a Notice of Intent in about 30 days, followed by a 30-day comment period. Director Gillis expected that rush hour parking will be restored, except in those areas where the narrowed road surface prevents it.
- 2 - Pedestrian safety at the intersection of 37th Street and Calvert Street (site of recent fatality): DDOT had a team look at the intersection and identified 8 crashes there in recent years. The ANC and several residents suggested expanding the review to include the intersection of Wisconsin and Calvert Street. Ms. Gillis agreed and suggested a walk-through with the community to evaluate the way the intersection works, challenges, and options for improvement.
- 3 - Removing No Left Turn in Rush Hour at Observatory Circle and Massachusetts Avenue: ANC3B and ANC3C both adopted resolutions a year ago supporting removal of the No Left Turn signs, but DDOT had not responded. Ms. Gillis apologized, noting that the request had been approved but for some reason the correspondence got lost, and DDOT can now go ahead with a plan to manage traffic to allow the left turn at rush hours. Commissioner Zenner noted that bicycles on Massachusetts Avenue trying to cross Observatory Circle run into challenges

with traffic coming in and out of Observatory Circle and 34th Street so DDOT should give particular attention to those conflicts. Ms. Gillis said when DDOT has a plan, it will issue a Notice of Intent to ANC3B and ANC3C and open a 30-day comment period.

4 - Removing Unused Curb Cut at 3500 W Place: ANC3B adopted a resolution on this in October 2014. Ms. Gillis said DDOT had approved removal of the curb cut in July 2015 and apologized that the ANC had not received a letter about it. The work is on the schedule for FY2016 (which begins October 1, 2015). By mid-October DDOT should be able to provide an actual date for the work.

5 - Request for DDOT to Review the Intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Garfield Street: ANC3B adopted a resolution on this in July 2015, in the interest of reducing confusion and improving safety for pedestrians and vehicles. The ANC also asked DDOT about restoring parking spaces in front of Garfield House (2844 Wisconsin Avenue NW). Ms. Gillis said DDOT had done a preliminary look, noted some contradictory parking signs, and suggested a walk-through to review the situation. Chairman Blumenthal suggested DDOT should go ahead with its review, develop a plan and a Notice of Intent.

6 - Request for DDOT to Review the Intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Fulton Street: ANC3B sent a request to DDOT in June after constituents noted that parking added in the former bus stop area obscured vision for vehicles entering the intersection. DDOT will assess the request to remove one or two parking spaces and get back to the ANC.

Ms. Gillis invited residents to send questions or comments on these and other transportation issues to Greer.Gillis@dc.gov Commissioner Zenner suggested residents can go to www.visionzero.ddot.dc.gov/VisionZero/ to flag a location where they have had a close call walking, bicycling, or driving, or notice any hazardous conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists or drivers.

Request for Curb Cut at 3814 Fulton Street NW

Chairman Blumenthal introduced Sunil Sharma, owner of 3814 Fulton Street NW, and his builder/developer, Naresh Malkani. In August they applied to DDOT for a curb cut on Fulton Street to allow access to a driveway in the front of the new house they are planning on that property. The ANC was prepared to adopt a resolution opposing that application but Mr. Sharma explained they are no longer asking for the curb cut on Fulton Street because the Office of Planning and DDOT told them it was not appropriate in that location. Therefore, the Commission did not take a vote on the resolution.

Grant Request from Iona Senior Services

Sally White, Executive Director of Iona Senior Services, made a presentation about its request for a grant of \$2,500 from ANC3B to help with the costs of its new Comprehensive Guide for seniors in Washington, DC, which is provided free to seniors and their caregivers. The guide includes practical information on finding home care, personal care, transportation, housing, employment, health, and services available from the city. Chairman Blumenthal moved to take a vote on supporting the proposed grant. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to support giving the grant.

Resolution on WMATA's Proposed Cuts to Local Bus Service

Chairman Blumenthal presented a resolution opposing WMATA's proposal to eliminate the N3 bus route from Cathedral Heights to Foggy Bottom, and Federal Triangle during rush hours; eliminate the D1 bus that currently leaves Federal Triangle at 7:05 pm; and eliminate the segment of the D1 route between Franklin Square and Federal Triangle. Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adopt the resolution.

Resolution and Letter Supporting Local Organizations' Efforts to Reduce Airplane Noise

Chairman Blumenthal reported that residents have noticed more planes overhead and more noise. A number of community organizations from Palisades to Foggy Bottom have joined to ask the courts to order the FAA to open a comment period for neighbors to weigh in on recent changes in flight operations over the area. Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adopt the resolution and send a letter of support for the community organizations' efforts.

Open Forum

Mike Matthews, Ward 3 Community Liaison for the Mayor, distributed copies of the Mayor's 6-month Progress Report and as well as copies of the pledge to support the city's initiatives to end homelessness. He also announced a Fit DC Walk on September 26.

Linda Lawson noted the Public Service Commission's decision to reject Exelon's application to purchase Pepco and thanked the ANC and others who have worked to oppose that sale.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Blumenthal introduced amendments to the ANC's minutes for March and April 2015, to provide more details on the Commission's decision on a grant. She moved to take a vote on the amendments. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the amended minutes, as follows:

MARCH 12, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

Grant Request from Stoddert PTO: Stoddert parent Maria O'Donnell joined Mary Clare Claud, co-president of the Stoddert Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), to make a presentation about the PTO's request for a \$2,500 grant from the ANC to pay for a new gate and fence around the garden that is used by students and the community on the Stoddert Elementary School property. The fence is needed to keep out deer. Parents and other volunteers will do the work on the fence. The garden will have chickens that produce eggs to be used in the classroom and vegetables that can be harvested and potentially sold at the Farmers Market, so the project will have educational, recreational and health benefits.

Commissioner Turmail explained the process is that the applicant must make a presentation about the grant at an ANC meeting for Commission review and decision. Next the ANC will present the PTO application to the city auditor for pre-approval. The Chairman and Treasurer spoke about the recent change in the process for ANCs to make grants, in compliance with the city auditor's requirements as presented at the recent ANC Financial Management Training. The Chairman moved to get a sense of the members on the grant, with multiple seconds, and the Commission agreed unanimously (5-0) to give the requested grant to the Stoddert PTO as soon as the auditor's pre-approval is received, so the ANC can go forward with making the grant and getting the fence built before the growing season.

APRIL 12, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

Grant to Stoddert PTO for Deer Fence around Garden: Commissioner Young reported that the DC auditor had granted pre-approval for the requested grant to the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) of the Stoddert Elementary School for the deer fence. Chairman Blumenthal explained that the Commission had heard a presentation on the grant at the previous ANC public meeting in March and the Commission had voted to support the grant, pending review by the auditor, which is why the grant could be issued between meetings. After pre-approval was received, the ANC issued a check to the PTO on March 25 for the total amount of \$2,500, and they are required to spend the funds within 60 days. Commissioner Turmail noted that after the PTO received the check, they ordered the gate which is a key part of the fence, and it was expected to be delivered by late April when work on the fence was planned. The PTO also indicated it would be calling for volunteers to assist with completing the project.

Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the July minutes, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted to approve the minutes as prepared.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the financial report for July and August (combined since the ANC did not meet in August).

**July-August Financial Report
(Approved at September 2015 Meeting)**

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$8,866.04

There was no activity during July and August.

Chairman Blumenthal moved to approve the financial report, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted to approve the report as prepared.

Commissioner Young noted there is one expense of \$47.50 the Commission needs to pay, which covers an item in the annual budget so a Commission vote is not needed.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.