

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

November 2011 Minutes

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. at Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center. In attendance were: Commissioners Cohen (05), Blumenthal (02), Thielen (01), and Kreitzman (04).

OLD BUSINESS

Wisconsin Avenue Streetscape: Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Cohen, Blumenthal, and Thielen met with the District Department of Transportation and the Office of Planning to learn more about the previous streetscape improvements for Glover Park and current plans for Wisconsin Avenue. Money was allocated and a contract was bid, and soon to be awarded. The current plans aren't as broad as originally planned in the 2009 Glover Park Transportation Study by the Toole Design Group.

The current plan calls for more than 120 new Washington Globe streetlights, new traffic signals, and for sidewalks to be widened on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue just south of Calvert St. and next to Holy Rood cemetery. Wisconsin Avenue will be modified so it has two lanes on each side, plus a median strip that will also serve as a left-turn lane running through the Glover Park commercial district. There will also be improvements at a number of important intersections between Garfield and 35th Street. Commissioner Cohen noted that it will take drivers some time to get used to this change, and that while it may cause more traffic for a short time until people get used to the changes, there will be significant improvements in pedestrian safety and in the commercial strip after its implemented. Commissioner Cohen also noted that DDOT models indicate that overall road capacity will not be affected at most times during the week. The ANC commissioners discussed other issues with DDOT and the Office of Planning, including the need for crosswalks at the intersection of Tunlaw and Benton and wider sidewalks on Tunlaw Road.

WMATA Bus Service: Commissioner Cohen reported mixed news for the D1/D2 buses. There will be no D1 service reductions but the two latest weekend D2 buses will be eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidates for vacancy in ANC 3B-03: Glover Park residents Charles Fuller and Abigail Zenner spoke about their platforms and why they would like to be elected to the open seat on ANC 3B.

Commissioner Cohen noted there were three administrative issues for the upcoming election to fill the vacancy. Due to possible winter weather at the December 2011 ANC meeting, ANC 3B decided to allow campaigning inside the foyer of Stoddert, between the two entry doors at both

the Calvert and Davis St. entrances. There will be no campaigning within the building itself. The ballot box will open at 7:15 PM on December 8 and will remain open until 8:30 PM. It was also decided via a coin toss that Abigail Zenner will appear first on the ballot, with Charles Fuller appearing second.

OPEN FORUM

DC Fire & EMS: Chief Kenneth Ellerbe appeared to speak with Glover Park residents and answer questions about the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Chief Ellerbe spoke about the need for greater transparency with his organization. Chief Ellerbe noted that 85 percent of the workload for fire and EMS staff is pre-hospital medical care and there is a need to make sure that money is spent wisely. According to the Chief Ellerbe, there are too many fire trucks and not enough ambulances.

Chief Ellerbe discussed his proposals for staffing and scheduling of crews, noting that the DC Fire & EMS Department has to change the way it does business. Currently, employees are on shift for 24 hours and then have 72 hours off. This is the equivalent of 8 days per month, or 96 days per year. The Department has 2088 members and proposes to cut back to 1,800 employees. This is estimated to save \$35M per year. Chief Ellerbe also explained that this will provide Department employees with the opportunity for greater commitment to the community they serve.

Chief Ellerbe took questions and answers from neighbors and ANC 3B commissioners.

Q) A Glover Park resident observed two fire hydrants that weren't functioning.

Q) How have the Rosenbaum recommendations been implemented?

A) 9 out of the 50 recommendations haven't been satisfied. Some of the recommendations are outdated.

Q) How often do schools practice fire drills?

A) Schools in the District should be practicing fire drills at least six times per year.

Q) What is the protocol for transporting sick or injured patients to the hospital?

A) It depends on the severity of the sickness or injury. If the EMS responder determines the patient is at extreme risk, the patient will be transferred to the nearest hospital.

Q) How far away does the average Department employee live?

A) 25% of DC Fire & EMS employees live within the District.

Q) Is there some sort of way that the Fire Department can give its employees a stipend to live near the District?

A) The Greater Washington Urban League has a housing finance program. DC has a 10-point hiring preference for District employees.

Q) Is there a Citizens Advisory Council for the Fire Department?

A) Yes, I've asked the Mayor to recommend 6-8 names to be recommended to me for this council.

Q) What is the response time to incidents and can better transit help reduce congestion and improve response times?

A) Our goal is to be at incidents within eight minutes or less. We've responded to 93% of incidents within eight minutes.

Q) Dee Smith (Councilmember Cheh's Director of Constituent Services): "I commend your staff for offering excellent CPR and first-aid training.

A) CPR is very important. I've had the opportunity to assist someone. Proper training and practice is important. Take CPR, it can make a difference.

Grant Request for the Friends of Glover Park: Sue Lohsen from the Friends of Glover Park sought a grant for \$1,208 for new cheerleading uniforms. There will be a city-wide competition in December 2011. The neighborhood cheerleading team is growing and needs new uniforms. The uniforms remain the property of the Stoddert Recreation Center. The grant request was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Green Energy Challenge: Kelly Richmond appeared at the ANC 3B meeting to discuss the Green Energy Challenge. DC residents have the opportunity to select their power source and residents can get clean, renewable, wind energy. DC is the nation's leading city to get energy from renewable sources, with 8.5% of energy coming from renewable energy sources. With each new registration during the month of December, the Rock Creek Conservancy will get a \$50 donation. The Green Energy Challenge runs through April 22, 2012 (Earth Day).

Rent Control and Tenants' Rights: Tom Gregory and Mary Young appeared before the ANC to discuss rent control and tenants' rights. According to Mr. Gregory and Ms. Young, Ward 3 has the second highest number of renters in the District. Landlords are allowed to make a 12% return under a hardship petition. Rent control only applies to buildings built before 1976. Mr. Gregory and Ms. Young noted that with the Schedule H tax credit in DC, renters can get back a certain percentage of percentage of the property taxes they paid in rent but they noted it is difficult to qualify for this credit.

Tom Smith from Mayor Vince Gray's office asked if Mr. Gregory and Ms. Young have been in contact with the Office of the Tenant Advocate. Abigail Zenner noted that she wouldn't be able to have been involved in Glover Park if it wasn't for rent control. She noted that it has definitely helped her stay and be a part of the Glover Park community.

Guy Mason Park: Dan Melman from the Friends of Guy Mason indicated that he had sent an email to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation about poor design features for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant designs, especially the elevators.

A neighbor also reported that she slipped outside of Guy Mason Park because the marble steps become very slick in the rain. Dan Melman indicated he would address this concern with DPR.

Capital Bikeshare: One neighbor had concerns about the siting of the new Capital Bikeshare station at 39th Street and Calvert because of the busy intersection with the crosswalk and bus stop at this location.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Treasurer's Report: The opening balance for October 2011 was \$3,170.90. There were two quarterly allotments made for the amount of \$2,880.09 on October 11 and October 31. The closing balance was \$8,947.11. There were three checks to be written in November 2011 (DLM Web Development payment for web services; petty cash fund; Friends of Glover Park grant).

October minutes: The October minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously at 9 PM.