

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



Tamela Gordon 3B01, Chair
Melissa J. Lane 3B03, Vice-Chair
Amy Bowman 3B05, Treasurer
Charles L. Howe, 3B02, Secretary
Horace Kreitzman, 3B04

ANC-3B Minutes
February 9th, 2006

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:08 pm. Commissioner Gordon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted.

Commissioners present

3B01 – Tamela Gordon
3B02 – Charles L. Howe
3B03 – Melissa J. Lane
3B04 – Horace Kreitzman
3B05 – Amy Bowman

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. A motion was introduced to keep the current slate of ANC 3B officers until June. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0. The slate is

Tamela Gordon, Chair
Melissa Lane, Vice-Chair
Amy Bowman, Treasurer
Charles Howe, Secretary

2nd DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Visitor Parking Pass Briefing. Sgt. John Mitchell gave briefing on the visitor parking pass procedures for the District of Columbia. Since the program began around 30 years ago, the limit on the numbers per year that a D.C. resident can request a pass is for 30 days. This limit can be broken up into two increments of 15 days each or in smaller increments not to exceed 30 days. There are special exceptions granted to these restrictions but it is done on a case-to-case basis. Any one of who has special circumstances that needs a pass must go to the Second District to work out the issues.

MPD has stepped up enforcement of visitor pass restrictions because of an increasing number of forged passes that are turning up. Second District MPD now has a computer tracking system of the passes which has improved their ability to crack down on illegal use.

Police Report. Officer Baker gave the crime statistics. Thefts from autos and burglaries are up a little, mostly on Wisconsin Avenue and mostly involving cars with out-of-state tags. Also, incidents are up during events at the National Cathedral.

MPD has moved been able to move the homeless people who were living in the laundry mat out and have reminded the liquor store owners in the area that it is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone who is intoxicated. Also, a special attention “form” has been implemented by MPD for Hall Place and W Street between 12:30 am and 3 am to control any rowdy behavior that occurs when the bars/restaurants in the neighborhood close. “Special attention” includes looping the impacted blocks every 20 minutes.

Officer Baker made 76 stops and made 11 arrests. The offenses included speeding and possession of drugs and paraphernalia.

Officer Baker believes there is a trip light needed at Wisconsin Avenue and Fulton Street. He said community involvement would help get it.

OLD BUSINESS:

DPR Installation of Dog Restriction Signs at Stoddert. Sometime in January, a DPR staff person e-mailed commissioners to say they were putting “No dogs” signs up at Stoddert field. The e-mail indicated some change in legislation passed by the Council. After checking with a number of sources, the dog regulations have not changed, i.e., dogs can be on DPR fields but must be leashed and owners must clean up after them. There is pending legislation that would establish more dogs parks in the City but that has not been passed yet.

Since the regulations have not changed and therefore the signs are incorrect, Commissioner Gordon asked DPR to have the signs removed which they did in early February. Despite the signs being down, it was noted that owners must be vigilant at monitoring their dogs’ behavior and cleaning up after them. One resident indicated that he has had problems with unleashed dogs jumping on his kids and excessive waste on the field where his kids play. It was suggested that maybe neighbors could start a “Friends of...” group to organize clean-ups and remind those owners who may not be as vigilant to be more responsible.

It was also noted that the field itself is poorly landscaped and poorly maintained. For example, when it rains or snows, drainage on the field is poor. Also, wear and tear on the field comes from many sources including all the child and adult sports teams that use the field. DPR needs to come up with a plan for better maintenance.

Stoddert Recreation Center. Commissioner Lane gave an update on the situation with the new Stoddert Recreation Center. A draft “general agreement” has been developed and forwarded to DPR for review. The signatories on the agreement will be ANC 3B, Friends of Glover Park, the Glover Park Citizens Association, and DPR. The agreement calls for coordination between the partners in all phases of the new Stoddert Recreation Center. Specifically included are a) scheduling and milestones, b) design, development, and preconstruction phase, c) construction phase, d) programming, e) parking and traffice, f) environmental impact, g) security and safety, and h) restoration of damaged facilities and fields. Commissioner Lane said that DPR is planning on taking this draft agreement and generalizing it to use with all ANCs in the city.

Commissioner Howe said that at the January meeting he was going to introduce a motion to vote on Stoddert. He asked for a motion on whether or not to vote on the Stoddert Recreation Center project. The motion was seconded.

A member of the audience asked for the status of the traffic study. Jeff Jennings of DDOT said that he had been trying to arrange a meeting with DPR about the topic but he had been unsuccessful in making contact or holding a meeting to date.

Commissioner Gordon objected to having a vote on the Stoddert project before she and other commissioners could question DPR directly in a public meeting. Commissioner Lane said that although DPR hadn't presented at an ANC meeting per se in several months that there had been public meetings in which to ask questions, e.g., the Community-wide meeting at Guy Mason last April and the GPCA meeting in December. Commissioner Lane said that DPR was not going to do any further work on the project until ANC 3B acted one way or the other. Commissioner Gordon countered that there were many unanswered questions yet and that DPR should not have used the GPCA meeting as their forum for presenting the plans in December. She felt that DPR was avoiding ANC 3B by not requesting to be on the agenda.

Several persons in the audience weighed in on both sides of the issue. Some wanted more information before any decision was made. Some thought that it had gone on too long and a decision was long overdue. Some thought the project should not be done at all.

Jarrett Ferrier, President of the Glover Park Citizens Association, read a resolution from the February 7th meeting which urged ANC 3B to take a vote on the Center.

When a question was raised regarding DPR and their past performance in working with the community, Penny Pagano, Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Kathy Patterson, acknowledged that DPR performance had not always been good in the past on this front but that in the last couple of years they have been improving. She cited the recent establishment of the "Office of Partnerships" by the new DPR director as one indication of how DPR now views working with the community as one of their critical tasks.

After some clarification, a vote was taken on Commissioner Howe's motion which specifically asked for a vote on whether to vote on Stoddert. The vote passed 3 to 2 with Commissioners Gordon and Bowman in dissent.

Commissioner Howe started to introduce a resolution to support the creation of a new Stoddert Recreation Center. He then yielded the floor to Commissioner Kreitzman who then introduced the motion to support the conceptual design of the new Stoddert Recreation Center. The motion was seconded and the vote passed 3 to 2 with Commissioners Gordon and Bowman in dissent.

Commissioner Gordon then read the following statement and asked that it be entered into the minutes of the meeting:

I must state my objection for the record to this ANC Commissions' taking action on this \$10 million dollar project prior to the Department of Parks and Receptions formal presentation of the concept plans that we are being asked to approve. DPR has not presented nor faced questions for the public record from this Commission. I believe that it is unconscionable that we would go forward without this rudimentary step. In addition, this Commission is choosing to vote without the following:

- *A needs analysis to determine if there is in fact a demonstrable need for a facility of this size and scope with this intended usage.*
- *A traffic and parking study to accurately determine the impact on the neighborhood.*
- *An Environmental Impact Screening Form.*
- *An MOU with DCPS regarding the intended usage and agreements regarding facilities.*

NEW BUSINESS

Bourbon Request for Live Music. Bill Thomas, owner of Bourbon, gave a briefing on why he was requesting an entertainment endorsement as part of his liquor license. He said that it never asked ABRA for it but that they thought he had requested it and charged for it anyway. As such, he decided to pursue it. He does not ever plan on using it but is pursuing it just in case he needs it some day.

Commissioners were not generally supportive of the entertainment endorsement and talked about delaying any vote until next month depending on when the ABRA response dates were set (Commissioner Lane to check but she thought the date was mid-March.) Commissioners felt that Bourbon was too close to residential buildings in the back and live music would disrupt these residents. After further discussion, a motion was introduced to protest the entertainment endorsement for live music and a disc jockey to ABRA. The motion was seconded and approved 5-0.

Hearst School Grant Request. Natasha Cabrera, representing Hardy Middle School, made request for a grant from ANC 3B to support their spring production of *The Wiz*. The performance is March 4th. Commissioner Bowman introduced a motion to provide a grant of \$1,500 to Hardy for the production. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Bowman gave the treasurer's report. As of the end of January 2006, the ANC 3B bank balance is \$24,377.53. One check for \$25 to the ANC Security Fund was written last month.

Approval of 1st Quarter FY 2006 Report. Commissioner Bowman gave a summary of the First Quarter report for FY 2006. We started the quarter with \$24,427.03. After bank charges of \$24.10, the ending balance for the quarter was \$24,402.93. A motion was presented to pass the quarterly report, it was seconded, and passed 4-0 (Commissioner Howe was temporarily absent).

Approval of January 2006 Meeting Minutes. A motion was introduced to pass the January minutes. It was seconded, and passed 4-0 (Commissioner Howe was temporarily absent).

FY 2006 Budget. Discussion tabled.

OPEN FORUM:

A member of the audience brought up the problem of rowdy and unruly behavior when the bars close in the neighborhood at night. The problem is especially acute in areas within a block of the commercial strip. Paul Holder, owner of Town Hall, offered to help by getting information on establishing “club zones” which are areas that police target for increased patrols during the hours immediately before and after the bars close. It was agreed that the Commission would put it on the agenda next month.

A member of the audience asked about the status of Good Guys. Milt Grossman said a grievance had been filed and was underway.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.