

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
January 12, 2006

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:04 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
3B05 – Amy Bowman

Commissioner absent

3B04 – Horace Kreitzman

2nd DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Officer Greg Rock gave the police report. Regarding the 2 massage parlors on Wisconsin Avenue, three arrests of employees have been made. MPD is following leads concerning the two street robberies in December on W Street and Benton Street. Burglaries are currently on the rise, part of that is because people have been away for the holidays and some let mail pile up in plain view thus providing a signal that a house is vacant. On Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenue, there has been a rash of thefts from auto. There has also been an increase in tagging lately where juveniles are putting gang signs on different objects such as windows. Finally, Officer Rock reminded people to stay aware of your surroundings. Many people who are wearing sound equipment (iPods) are being robbed.

A member of the audience brought up the “visitor pass issue,” saying they were getting tickets from the same officer every day about their visitor passes. She said she needs visitor passes for her parents who live out of town but have been here for a long time because they have a new grandchild. Commissioner Bowman suggested that anyone with a question about this issue should e-mail ANC 3B at anc3b@yahoo.com and ANC 3B would intervene in the issue. The person who brought up the issue gave her contact information to Commissioner Bowman who said she would follow-up.

OLD BUSINESS:

General Discussion of the Proposed Recreation Center for Stoddert. Before discussion began, Commissioner Gordon set up the following ground rules: a) everyone would be

given roughly one minute to speak and b) everyone would have an opportunity to speak once before anyone spoke a second time. A woman from the audience asked if people would also give their names, their approximate addresses, and an affiliation, if applicable. The first two requests were agreed upon.

Thirty-nine people spoke altogether, which includes a handful who spoke more than once. Comments and questions included:

1. **What is the status of the requested traffic study?** Commissioner Gordon read a memo that was received by Commissioner Lane in April 2005 at a public meeting on the recreation center. The memo was suppose to be the traffic study but it was not an analysis of any kind. Commissioner Gordon introduced Jeffrey Jennings who is the new Ward 3 Coordinator for DC DOT (202.673.2377; Jeffrey.jennings@dc.gov). Mr. Jennings has only been in the job for a few weeks. One of the topics he will be working on is whether or not DDOT can do a comprehensive traffic study regarding the new recreation center. The answer will depend on available resources and schedules. He is currently reviewing the ANC 3B request for a traffic study made in June 2004. He will provide a formal reply within a week or two.
2. **Will the traffic study be conducted during the permitting phase?** J. Jennings responded that there were many requests for traffic studies and whether or not this one was done depending on resources and capacity limits.
3. **A traffic study is a waste of time. We've had them done on many occasions and do not mean anything.**
4. **Who are the intended beneficiaries of the recreation center?** Commissioner Lane stated that school kids were the first priority followed by neighborhood kids in general. Follow-up question on the security of the parking lot. That issue has not been resolved yet but is on the list.
5. **Not related: Asked J. Jennings about a dangerous intersection.** J. Jennings said he should e-mail him the information and he would look into it.
6. **Does not like DPR responses to ANC 3B questions and wants all the mud-slinging to end.**
7. **Has a lot of questions including those about basic specifications. Doesn't like the project.**
8. **Outlined the benefits for children and said Stoddert could be closed at some point because it is such a small school.**
9. **Described overwhelming benefits and urged ANC 3B to move forward.**
10. **Have tried to close Stoddert before, could do so again.**
11. **What facilities will be shared?** Explained that it was a partnership between DPR and DCPS.
12. **Urged moving forward as DCPS could be forced to close buildings soon (per Congress). A small school with a recreation center is more much viable.**
13. **Who is behind the anonymous fliers?** We need to be skeptical of the so-called information they contain. Gave examples.
14. **Urged people to visit Stoddert and see how small and closed in it is and how it lacks basic resources like a gym and an assembly space.**
15. **Thinks doing a traffic study is nothing but a red-herring. Saturday soccer and adult softball bring more cars than a rec center will.**
16. **Wants more information and a set of accessible set of plans.** Commissioner Lane said she will continue to try to get the most recent plans from DPR and then post them. Plans from last April which are similar are posted on Kathy Patterson's and ANC 3B's web sites.

17. Struggles with parking issues as it is already very difficult at night and on weekends. Doesn't like all the snide remarks that are going around the neighborhood.
18. There really is not any parking issue with a new center. Stoddert Soccer takes up more spots on Saturday morning than anyone else. Commissioner Gordon stated in response that a lot of people will not come to the meetings and speak against the center because they are afraid of retaliation.
19. Stop studying it to death. Does not like any of the ANC 3B commissioners.
20. Asks Commissioners Bowman and Gordon who runs savestoddertpark.org now that they are Commissioners. Commissioner Gordon says that they gave up their affiliation with that group when they were elected. Thinks Tim Silva and his wife are now running the web site.
21. Favors building the center.
22. Still undecided about building the Center but thinks it is in better shape since the community got involved.
23. Why oppose it? If don't like the ANC then change it.
24. Asks Commissioners Howe and Lane how many questions they submitted to DPR. Commissioner Howe says about four. Commissioner Lane estimates around 20 to 25.
25. The evening parking numbers would not be large even if adult basketball were allowed. Plays on an adult league in D.C. and only a handful of cars are using the centers on game nights.
26. Proponents of the center have always taken the needs of the neighborhood into account.
27. Stoddert school has the smallest ratio of square feet per child. The school is not adequate and is in many ways obsolete. Kids have assemblies and playtime in the hallways for example.
28. Correlates this project with the Giant re-development project at Macomb. Need to move it along in the name of progress.
29. Opposed to the project. Proposed center is too big and there was never a needs study done.
30. Stoddert is deprived of space. DPR is offering to open up a new center to the community which is a great thing. DPR will clearly work with the community.
31. As a parent, supports the project. Need to put an end point on the debate.
32. Legitimate questions have been asked but DPR answers are lacking. Need more information.
33. Is information on the flyer from savestoddertpark.org true? The information is true: there is a billion dollar school bill; Guy Mason is slated for \$1.5 million in improvements in FY 2007; and a traffic study has not been performed. She asked if the billion dollar school modernization money would benefit Stoddert? Councilwoman Patterson did not dispute that Stoddert could be modernized using those funds, but said that she thought it would take longer because Stoddert wouldn't be at the top of the list. She was asked then if Stoddert could be on a list to close? She said that when school closing lists are developed that smaller schools are often the ones on the list. At this point though, no one has any new plan.
34. Asks Councilmember Patterson if Stoddert was attached to a recreation center, would it still be a candidate for closure? She said she doubted it.
35. DPR has been very cooperative, has been willing to work with the community, and respond to community needs.
36. President of GPCA asks ANC 3B commissioners to explain some of the ideas talked about at a meeting with Friends of Glover Park, GPCA, and ANC 3B. Commissioner Lane responds that one idea is to draw up a Memorandum of

Understanding with DPR to work with the community on all aspects of the project. The second idea was to form a liaison group of members of the community and all three organizations to work with DPR on the project and report to the community. This model was used effectively when major construction was being conducted in Glover Park in 2002-03.

37. Supports the project but thinks parking issues need to be studied as well as carefully developing plans that would result in the least negative impact on residents physically closest to the project.
38. Schools are deteriorating. Stoddert not likely to be on the list for funds. Keep Stoddert from closing.
39. The new center along with the school would only take up 15 percent of the two square block area and that the number of cars on site will not change so a parking/traffic study is unnecessary. Also states that most of the trees to be removed are already dead. Finally, issues with construction equipment can be dealt with later.

Commissioner Howe concluded the discussion by saying that he would be asking for the Commission to vote on proposed new Center at the next meeting in February.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Participation in the ANC Security Fund. Commissioner Bowman presented a motion to participate in the ANC Security Fund. The cost for the year is \$25. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0.

Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Bowman gave the treasurer's report. As of the end of November 2005, the ANC 3B bank balance is \$24,410.87.

Approval of December 2005 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Gordon presented the December 2005 minutes for approval. Commissioner Gordon presented a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

OPEN FORUM:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so presented, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.