

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



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

ANC-3B Minutes
March 10, 2005

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Lane asked if there were any changes to the agenda. At the request of Commissioner Howe, stating that he would need to leave before the conclusion of the meeting, items on the agenda requiring a quorum present were moved to the beginning of the meeting. A motion was made to accept changes to the agenda and was passed 3-0.

Commissioners present

3B01 – Tamela Gordon
3B02 – Charles L. Howe
3B03 – Melissa J. Lane

RUSH HOUR RESTRICTIONS ON TUNLAW RD. BETWEEN 37TH AND 39TH STREETS

Commissioner Lane presented background on the recent posting of signs on the 2300 block of Tunlaw Road restricting parking during AM rush hour and resulting in a number of residents receiving parking tickets. DDOT posted the new signs while replacing RPP signs in the area because of a 1951 declaration of that stretch of Tunlaw as AM rush hour though no signs to such effect had been posted in the last several years according to many residents. Because DDOT had not enforced rush hour restrictions on this section of Tunlaw Road in previous years and residents had a reasonable expectation that parking restrictions would not change overnight without notice, Commissioner Lane stated that ANC 3B would work to have all tickets issued immediately after the posting of the new signs on the 2300 block of Tunlaw forgiven. In order to remove the rush hour restrictions, DDOT officials advised Commissioner Lane that ANC 3B should pass a resolution directing DDOT to remove rush hour restrictions. DDOT would then study the issue and report back to ANC 3B. In addition, Commissioner Lane requested that DDOT remove rush hour restrictions on Tunlaw Road from Calvert Street to 39th Street where there had been a history of signage but seemed to be little need for rush hour restrictions. Commissioner Lane then introduced a resolution requesting that DDOT remove rush hour restrictions on Tunlaw Road between 37th Street and 39th Street. The resolution was passed 3-0.

PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL AT 3812 FULTON STREET

Commissioner Gordon reported that she had met with the residents regarding the development at 3810 & 12 Fulton Street and attempted to address neighborhood concerns regarding the project and continued to investigate various issues. The driveway plans had been revised to allow the tree which the developer originally requested the removal of to remain. However, due to the unusual driveway configuration, DC Public Spaces had

requested that the ANC advise to their consent of the plans. Mr. Silicki, the developer of the property stated that at the driveway configuration met Department of Urban Forestry Tree Protection specifications. Commissioner Gordon advised Mr. Silicki that she would independently confirm Urban Forestry approval of the plans and advise DC Public Spaces of ANC 3B's approval upon verification. A member of the audience asked what would happen if Urban Forestry approval was not verified and Commissioner Gordon advised that the ANC would then not issue approval to Public Spaces. Commissioner Gordon then introduced a resolution to allow the removal of the 18" diameter oak which failed 0-3.

2nd DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Officers Friedman and Baker appeared to give the police report. Between February of 2004 and 2005, crime has declined by 21% overall in the District and 30% in PSA 204. The first week in March 2005 saw a decline in crime of 36% compared to last year and vehicle theft had declined by 100% year over year. Traffic Officer Baker, newly appointed to PSA 204 reported that he patrols the area between 10am and 6pm and had issued 137 tickets and made 4 arrests over the previous seven days. He cited Porter Street and New Mexico Ave. as the sites of the worst violations in the PSA but also noted that speed violations were numerous along Wisconsin Ave. Commissioner Howe asked for increased enforcement at Fulton St. and Wisconsin Ave. citing the danger to pedestrians. Officer Baker acknowledged the intersection as a problem and noted a new law to go into effect on March 15th requiring motorists to stop for pedestrians. He also suggested that the use of orange flags to assist pedestrians when crossing the street. He stated that they have been used successfully in Chevy Chase. Commissioner Lane suggested talking to John Bullock, Ward 3 Traffic Coordinator at DDOT regarding the installation of flags at Wisconsin and Fulton.

A member of the audience asked about the lack of lighting in the alleyway at the now vacant M&T Bank at 2400 Wisconsin Ave. and suggested that officers frequently patrol the area. Officer Baker said that he would advise Lieutenant Rock at roll call and see to it that the area was patrolled.

NATIONAL PARK POLICE REPORT: Sergeant Griffith reported Park Police responded to 2 calls in recent weeks, the first on the 3700 block of 39th Street where a resident reported hearing someone scream for help at 3:30 am. Officers responded and found nothing. The second call was on the 4400 block of Reservoir Rd. where a resident reported hearing a screeching sound that may have been someone calling for help. Officers responded with a canine and found nothing. Sergeant Griffith suggested to residents that they call the Park Police Communications line at 202 619-7105 which is staffed 24 hours a day and specify that they are in beat area 313 rather than 911 to expedite response. He stated that 911 operators forward calls to that line as a matter of course and the referral process can lead to a 5 to 7 minute lag in response time. He also advised that 2 instances on skeletal remains had been found along the C&O Canal in recent weeks. He reported that he expects to get 2 more officers to patrol the area and is attempting to get another horse patrol. He stated that Park Police would begin to clear out homeless encampments in the area and explained that many homeless leave their encampments during the day for various reasons and return at night. DC Law states that if a person is more than 3 feet away from their property that it is then determined to be abandoned property and can be confiscated. Park Police will utilize this law to clear the encampments. Commissioner Gordon asked where to report areas of disrepair along national Park trails. Sergeant Griffith stated that reports could be made directly to him and he would advise the proper authority. He can be reached regarding this and other matters on his cell phone between 7am and 4pm at 202 345-9020.

NEW BUSINESS:

Opening of Glover Park Hardware: Gina Shaeffer, owner of Glover Park Hardware, introduced herself to the audience and gave background on the new store just opened at the 2200 block of Wisconsin Ave. She stated that she and her husband had opened Logan Circle Hardware 2 years before and that it had proven to be very successful. She expects the same from the Glover park location. The store will hold a grand opening celebration on April 15, 16, and 17 and will feature a number of promotions including giveaways. She said that the store stocks 17 thousand items and will make special orders as well. She informed residents that free 15 minute parking was available behind the store at 2251 Wisconsin.

Commissioner Howe asked about whether the store had a loading dock in the back and the approximate time it took to unload a truck. Ms. Shaeffer, stated that loading took place at the front of the property because the alley was too narrow to accommodate even a small semi-truck and the approximate loading time was 25 minutes based on the first delivery. She also stated that the area was designated a loading zone and should not interfere with traffic.

Saveur Restaurant Plans. Commissioner Lane stated that the plans for the sale of Savuer discussed at last months meeting had fallen through and that new buyers had been found. A member of the audience asked about the status of Savuer's liquor license and Commissioner Lane responded that ABRA records showed that the liquor license allowed liquor to be served until 11:30 PM and that there were conflicting records showing the cessation time to be later than this but the later times were never approved by ABRA. She stated that it was a matter for ABRA to resolve but believed that the earlier time would be enforced. She then introduced the new owners who then proceeded to present their plans for the restaurant. Henry Shields, Tim Walsh, Jeremy Carmen, Darrell Green and Paul Holder introduced themselves and explained that among them they had owned other DC restaurants including an Irish Pub style restaurant in Adam's Morgan. They emphasized that they intended the establishment to be a neighborhood family restaurant in the style of Café Deluxe. The Executive Chef at Maggiano's in Friendship Heights had been hired to develop the menu. They stated that they had not yet decided on a name for the restaurant but would welcome suggestions. They stated that they would serve lunch on weekends and test expanding lunch hours into weekdays. They expect the restaurant to be closed for 30 days while they renovate.

WASA PRESENTATION

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority made a presentation regarding their plans for capital investment, rate increases and lead pipe replacement. Paul Bender, WASA CFO and Michelle Cowan, WASA Director of Finance and Budget made the presentation along with additional staff to answer detailed or technical questions. Ms. Cowan made the presentation on the plan for rate increases over the next several years to fund capital investment projects with an expectation that rates would increase by 6% in 2006 using 2004 rates as a baseline. WASA projects that rates will increase by 6.5% in 2007 and peak at a 7.5% increase from the baseline in following years provided they receive expected federal funds. WASA projects that rates will decline from their peak after 2010 to a 5% increase from the baseline by 2013. This is largely due to infrastructure improvements. However, if federal funds are not forthcoming, WASA projects that rates will peak at an 8% increase

from the baseline in 2011 and 2012 and only decline modestly to a 7.5% increase in 2013. Ms. Cowan noted that even after applying rate increases, WASA rates fall within the mid-range when compared to other cities.

Mr. Bender made the presentation regarding WASA's capital improvement plans. He stated that DC had historically underinvested in water and sewage infrastructure that the capital investment plan was aimed at updating the system. The program calls for over a billion dollars in investment over the next 10 years: \$568 million for pipes including the lead program, \$164 million in sanitary and storm sewer projects and \$458 million in combined sewer projects. He noted that not only would these investments improve the overall system but they would also have environmental benefits including reduced pollution in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and in Rock Creek. Additionally, these improvements will serve to reduce operating costs overtime which accounts for WASA's projections that rate increases will begin to decline after 2013 in the worst case scenario and in 2010 in the best case. WASA's plans to build new digesters at Blue Plains and expects this project to reduce electricity costs and sewage volume. As a result of their capital spending plan, they expect combined sewage overflows to be reduced by 96% overall and 98% on the Anacostia River alone. WASA had received \$84 million in federal assistance for these projects to date but expects additional funds in the coming years. WASA's six year lead service line replacement plan is \$300 million and covers all publicly owned portions of pipe. Privately owned lead service lines are being replaced as well. Residents can receive financial assistance to pay for lead pipe replacement through both a special DHCD grant program and a loan program through Wachovia Bank. Residents can learn more about these programs at www.dcwasa.com or call the lead hotline at 202 787-2732.

Mr. Bender answered a number of questions on lead replacement from the audience. One resident noted that very little lead pipe replacement had taken place in Glover Park and a WASA staffer answered that this was largely due to street resurfacing that had taken place just prior to the discovery of lead in DC pipes. DC's policy is to not tear up streets within a 2 year time frame after resurfacing. She did note that pipe replacement was slated to begin in Glover park in the near future and would forward specific dates with block by block information to the ANC. She also made a list of upcoming plans available for review. An audience member asked about the standard pipe size for the area and if replacement would be with comparable pipes. A WASA staffer answered that 3/4 inch was standard for the area but that they would be upgrading to 1 inch and that there was no expected change in water flow or pressure as a result. One resident asked about whether hedges would be affected by the construction. A WASA staffer explained that a "mole" device would be used in most cases to go under existing plants and therefore in most cases should not cause harm to hedges. An audience member asked why the curve of the projected rate decline was so flat if capital improvements were to reduce operating costs. Mr. Bender explained that funding for the capital expenditures would come in large part from increased borrowing by WASA. While the current amount of debt being serviced is \$50 million, the expected total debt service in the future is between \$100 and \$120 million. While this debt service will add to WASA's costs, their low cost of borrowing at between 1.7% and 4% makes borrowing an efficient way to fund capital improvements.

OPEN FORUM:

A member of the audience asked about whom to contact regarding the clogged storm drains and catch basins. They were asked to send an e-mail of the locations of these catch basins to anc3b@yahoo.com so a list could be compiled and sent to WASA.

Another member of the audience asked about re-striping at Calvert and 39th and 40th and Calvert as well as a possible gas leak at 40th Street and Benton. Commissioners said they would talk to the city about the former issue and that Commissioner Bowman was working with the city on the latter issue. This person also asked about a plan to patrol the alleys. Commissioner Gordon said that Commissioner Bowman was working on that issue and would solicit community help when plans got further along.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Treasurer's Report. Deferred.

Approval of the March 2005 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Lane presented the February 2005 minutes for approval. They were approved by a vote of 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no quorum, a resolution for adjournment could not be introduced. The meeting ended at 8:44 pm.