

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
November 9, 2006

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:10 pm. Commissioner Gordon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. A motion was made to interchange old and new business. The motions were passed unanimously.

Commissioners present

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

2nd DISTRICT POLICE REPORT: Sgt. Jeffrey Tolliver gave the police report for Lt. Kusick. Crime is down 30 percent in October 2006 compared to October 2005.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant Requests from St. Luke's. Shalom Mulkey presented to grant requests. The first was for \$2500 for the “Jazz in the Garden” concert series. The money will fund six artists for the upcoming series next summer. The second request was for \$2500 for St. Luke’s shelter. The shelter is a six month transitional shelter for me. The grant would help fund transportation costs for residents so they could get bus passes to go to interviews, doctor appointments, meetings with caseworkers, etc.

Commissioner Kreitzman introduced a motion to fund the two requests. It was seconded and passed 4-0. Commissioner Howe abstained as he is a member of St. Luke’s parish.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pedestrian Safety and Bus Stop at Fulton Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Jeff Jennings from DDOT discussed the possibility of putting a stop light at this intersection rather than removing the bus stops on the east and west sides of that intersection. He said that any request could take 4 to 6 years to complete if it was approved at all and that DDOT would be responsible for the costs because it would not meet the standards of the Federal Highway Commission who would normally cover part of the costs for such a project. If DC bore the cost of the whole project, the stoplight would cost \$250-\$300k.

Local funding for stop lights is not always available as one light does not get priority. For example, the signal at Morrison and Connecticut took six years to get installed even though pedestrian and traffic counts were high and more than met minimum standards.

If the ANC passed a motion requesting a light, DDOT would undertake a formal study of the intersection. Such a study would probably get higher priority at this time since a pedestrian was recently hit by a bus and hurt at that intersection.

A member of the audience said that a request had been made for a light at that intersection years ago but nothing had happened with the request. Mr. Jennings said he would check DDOT records to see what he could find out.

Commissioner Howe stated that putting in a stop light was still a better option than to take out the bus stops. He presented letters from Councilmembers Patterson and Catania that urged DDOT to work with the ANC to come up with a solution that would leave the bus stops where they are since many pedestrians rely on those stops. He also said that if a light could not be installed at that intersection that maybe the timing of the lights at intersections to the north and south of Fulton and Wisconsin could be changed so that intersection would be safer to cross.

The Commissioners said that more data was needed before any decision could be made and repeated their request to Mr. Jennings to provide more detailed information on pedestrian and traffic counts at that intersection.

Mr. Jennings noted that this issue is not exclusive to ANC 3B. It is also part of ANC 3C. The issue would also have to be discussed with them before any final decision could be made.

Meeting with DPR Staff. Commissioner Gordon reported that she and Commissioner Bowman had a meeting with DPR on October 23rd. The major topic of discussion was the exterior wall of the building on Davis PL. and the necessary removal of adjacent trees as a result. The building design calls for the exterior wall to be a number of feet outside of the current asphalt area and halfway down the hill toward the street. This placement requires that nearly all the adjacent trees must either be removed or will not survive construction. DPR is to come up with a proposal to save as many of the trees as possible and is still waiting for a report from Mr. Stuart Frazer, their arborist, for different options. They will report on these options and future plans at the December ANC meeting.

A member of the audience asked about the trees on the west side of the hill and was concerned that the root system of the old trees would be damaged due to the grading of the driveway. Another issue is the location of the proposed driveway on the Calvert side of the center and limiting damage to the cherry trees. The DPR arborist will be asked to address these issues. The current plans call for the removal of some of the Cherry trees.

Finally, an audience member asked if DCPS and DPR were working together and stressed that this project can only be really successful if they do work together.

OPEN FORUM:

Commissioner Howe announced that Blockbuster was moving out of their commercial space on Wisconsin Avenue and that BB&T bank would be occupying that space. He further announced that the owner of the building that houses the laundromat would be closing it and selling the building.

Commissioner Gordon asked that Commissioner Howe contact Melissa Bird with the DC Office of Planning with this information so that she can include it in the GP retail study.

Commissioner Gordon said that part of the original plan for the GP retail study was to do a statistical study of community needs. OP, however, was not able to fund this part of the study so it was not conducted. Audience members expressed concerns about so much unused retail space and what types of businesses would be attractive to fill those spaces.

Commissioner Howe asked why representatives from DC Department of Health were not at the meeting to discuss issues related the sex businesses operating in some Wisconsin Avenue buildings. Commissioner Gordon said she would try to get representatives to attend the December meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Bowman gave the treasurer's report. The ending balance was \$22,992.96. Expenditures were \$286.32 for Verizon and \$2,750 for Episcopal Ministries grant. The DC allocation was \$1,386.

Fourth Quarter report for FY 2006. Commissioner Bowman presented the fourth quarter report for FY 2006 for approval. The beginning balance was \$25,081.36 and the ending balance was \$27,415.28 on 9/30/06. A motion was presented, seconded, and passed. The report was accepted by a 5-0 vote.

Minutes for July, September, and October 2006. The minutes for July, September, and October were presented for approval. A motion was presented, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes. The vote was 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.