

**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  
October 12, 2006**

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioner Gordon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. A motion was made to change the order to present new business after the Police Report, followed by the results of the retail study, and then discussion of the alley between Tunlaw and Hall Place. A motion was also made to table the vote on removing the northbound metro bus stop on Wisconsin Avenue at Fulton Street because representatives from DDOT could not attend the meeting. The motions were passed unanimously.

**Commissioners present**

**3B01 – Tamela Gordon  
3B02 – Charles L. Howe  
3B03 – Melissa J. Lane  
3B04 – Horace Kreitzman (arrived at 8:20 pm)  
3B05 – Amy Bowman**

**2<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT POLICE REPORT:**

Lt. Kusick introduced Officer Hector Manqual. He will be the community officer assigned to Glover Park to patrol the commercial and surrounding strips during the late evening and early morning hours. These areas are of concern to the community because of disruption, noise, and unruliness that occurs around the bar and restaurant areas. Officer Manqual will work Tuesdays through Saturdays from 6 pm to 2 am on weeknights and 8 pm to 4 am on weekends. Commissioners Howe and Bowman said that these problems also occur at group houses during those hours. Lt. Mangual will also be patrolling those areas and will issue citations when necessary.

Lt. Kusick reported a 32 percent decline in crime in September 2006 compared to September 2005. Overall, crime in PSA 204 is down 8 percent for the year. There have been three burglaries in Glover Park in a short period of time. Lt. Kusick will report more on those crimes at the next meeting.

A citizen asked about a vandalism case in the 3800 Block of Benton St. Officers asked citizens to call the 2<sup>nd</sup> District if the suspect was sighted in the neighborhood. One citizen did see the suspect and called the 311 non-emergency number but said the 311 operator did

not respond to the report. Lt. Kusick apologized for the operator but said that officers had been alerted to the report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Grant Request from Guy Mason Baseball.** Bob Haldeman presented a grant request from Guy Mason Baseball for \$1,386 for two wood benches for the players' dugouts. The benches would be mounted on plates so they could be moved as needed. Commissioner Bowman presented a motion to approve the grant request. It passed 4-0 (Commissioner Kreitzman had not arrived.)

**Grant Request from Episcopal Senior Ministries.** A representative presented a grant request for \$2,750 to hold monthly seminars on health for senior citizens in Glover Park. Transportation to the seminar would be provided free of charge and the seminars would be advertised in the local newspapers and with flyers. Commissioner Bowman presented a motion to approve the grant request. It passed 4-0 (Commissioner Kreitzman had not arrived.)

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Glover Park Retail Area Study, Melissa Bird, DC Office of Planning.** Melissa Bird and staff presented the results of the retail study. Citizens are encouraged to send comments on it. A draft will be ready for review by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Proposal to Close Alley Between the 2200 Block of Tunlaw Road and Hall Place, DC City Council Bill 16-874.** Commissioner Gordon introduced the issue of the alley. Although it is a public alley, it has not been maintained by the D.C. government and has been basically closed to all but foot traffic for 46 years. A bill is now in front of D.C. Council to "permanently close the alley." [N.B., One fact that was not generally known until recently was that "permanently close" in the D.C. legal systems means to "privatize" the impacted space and attach it to the properties of the adjacent homeowners rather than to "physically close" the space.] While some residents would like to see the alley "closed" to foot traffic, others would like to see it repaired and opened as a public pedestrian walkway, while others would like to see the alley repaired, paved, and opened to vehicular traffic. Another question about the alley is who is responsible for maintenance and repair of the retaining wall (e.g., is it private or public). Commissioner Gordon read a letter from Ken Laden, Associate Director of DDOT, saying that DDOT prefers to retain ownership of the alley and designate it as an "un-maintained" alley although they will clear out the debris and make some repairs. The DDOT letter also asked the petitioner to withdraw his petition to close the alley. DDOT General Counsel is scheduled to report back to by October 20 on the legalities of maintaining the alley as an unimproved public alley (thus avoiding privatizing the space as required by the Council Bill).

Commissioner Gordon asked Penny Pagano, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Patterson, to comment on the Council meeting that had recently taken place regarding this legislation. Ms. Pagano said that at the meeting, Council Chair Cropp asked the Surveyors Office to develop options and report back to Council.

Several citizens spoke on the issue. A major theme was that the current legislation should be pulled because there was not enough information to make any decision at this point and

that there were several outstanding issues (i.e., retaining wall responsibility, drainage problem, disposition, etc.) to be addressed.

Mr. Bitondo, the citizen initiating the request to close the alley, said that it was not his intention to privatize the alley, only to close it to traffic permanently. He said that he would prefer that the alley be maintained as public space. He said that he had no intention to withdraw the petition to close the alley legally, however.

Council requested comments on the issue with a deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>. As such, Commissioner Gordon introduced a resolution asking Council to pull the legislation and send the issue back to ANC 3B. ANC 3B will work with community members to try to achieve consensus and resolve the issue.

The resolution (attached) passed unanimously.

#### **OPEN FORUM:**

A citizen asked about the continued problem with the two known prostitution businesses operating in Glover Park. Commissioner Gordon said it was unclear at this point what next steps should be. Another citizen suggested that ANC 3B invite representatives from the D.C. Department of Health (as these “operations” fall under their purview), the registered owners of the properties, a representative from the D.C. Attorney Generals Office, and representatives from the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to address the issue.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**Treasurer’s Report.** Commissioner Bowman gave the treasurer’s report. The beginning balance was \$27,416.28 and the ending balance, \$28,007.10. The report was accepted by unanimous vote.

**Minutes for July and September 2006.** The September minutes were not complete so a motion was made to table approval of the minutes for July and September until the November meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

**RESOLUTION ON BILL 16-874: THE “CLOSING” AND REVERTING TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP THE ALLEY ADJACENT HALL PLACE, TUNLAW ROAD & 37<sup>TH</sup> STREET (SO 05 5470)**

WHEREAS, there has been a lack of clarity on the part of the Homeowners and ANC 3B as to the meaning of “closing” the alley and actions stemming from various inquiries; and

WHEREAS, the party petitioning for the alley’s closing has communicated in writing to the ANC and the Council that they are seeking a resolution other than that mandated by language set forth in Bill 16-874; and

WHEREAS, had the impacts and issues resulting from the petition for closure been known to the ANC and communicated by various DC Agencies during any one of the ANC’s inquiries, the ANC would have had public discussion and taken appropriate action at an earlier date; and

WHEREAS, the alley in question has been closed to vehicular traffic and records and citizen’s recountings conflict on the number of years and reason; and

WHEREAS, various DC Government agencies, including the District Department of Transportation, have offered conflicting accounts and recommendations regarding the alley; and

WHEREAS, the “closing” of the alley as mandated by Bill 16-874 requires that publicly owned land be transferred to the private ownership of the abutting properties in separate parcels; and

WHEREAS, there has not been a definitive statement from the DC Government as to the impact this transfer will have on homeowners regarding liability, taxes, safety and other unknown issues; and

WHEREAS, Homeowners have expressed an unwillingness to assume these unknown or undetermined liabilities; and

WHEREAS, A majority of adjacent homeowners have signed a petition rejecting Bill 16-874; and

WHEREAS, rejecting or withdrawing Bill 16-874 does not commence any action to re-open the alley to vehicular traffic;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3B strongly urges the petitioner for the alley closure to withdraw his petition;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that ANC 3B urges the Mayor of the District of Columbia to withdraw Bill 16-874; and

