

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHORHOOD COMMISSION 3B**  
**GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS**

**December 2011 Minutes**

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center. In attendance were: Commissioners Cohen (05), Blumenthal (02), Thielen (01), and Kreitzman (04).

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to change the schedule of the agenda for the meeting and this was approved unanimously. The Open Forum was held first. The special election to fill the vacancy for ANC 3B-03 (previously held by Mark Stevens) took place between 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM.

#### SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Sargent Tolliver gave the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District report. Sargent Tolliver cited the crime statistics for the entire precinct at this meeting, not just Glover Park. There was an armed robbery recently at the Tenley metro station. Sargent Tolliver also noted the number of stolen I-phones throughout the Second District. During the previous month, there was also one rape in an incident involving the Psychiatric Institute of Washington.

Commissioner Thielen asked Sargent Tolliver his opinion of Councilmember Mendelson's proposed gun legislation, which would eliminate provisions requiring the ballistics registration of guns in the District of Columbia. Sargent Tolliver noted there are a lot of guns in DC.

#### OPEN FORUM

*DC City Council election:* Sekou Biddle, candidate for the at-large seat on the DC City Council appeared before the commissioners and neighbors to discuss his campaign for office. Mr. Biddle said his top three priorities are: 1) education, 2) jobs and employment, and 3) honest and ethical leadership.

Commissioner Thielen asked Mr. Biddle whether he would serve full-time. Sekou Biddle said that from the time he spent on the Council, he only served in that role but noted there are some full-time Council members who aren't doing a good job. Commissioner Cohen asked about constituent service funds. Mr. Biddle said he thinks they should be abolished. According to Mr. Biddle, this is influence-buying on the one end and vote-buying on the other end.

Commissioner Thielen asked Sekou Biddle about his views on university expansion. Mr. Biddle said that universities are important but shouldn't have unchecked growth. One resident asked Mr. Biddle for his views on how he would expand the amount of affordable housing in DC. Mr. Biddle said the District has to find a way to subsidize an affordable stock of rental units.

Another resident asked Sekou Biddle about his approach to DC's public middle schools. Mr. Biddle cited the example of Deal middle school, noting that Deal has over one thousand students but the school is organized in a way that the school works.

## NEW BUSINESS

*ANC 3B-03 Special Election:* The ballot box for the ANC 3B-03 special election was open between 7:15 PM and 8:30 PM. The election was supervised by Gottlieb Simon, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. Charles Fulwood won the special election to replace Commissioner Stevens. Commissioner-elect Fulwood received 13 votes, while Abigail Zenner received 9 votes. ANC 3B approved a resolution to the DC Board of Elections by a margin of 4-0, affirming these results. Mr. Fulwood will be sworn in and begin service as an ANC Commissioner prior to the January 12, 2012 ANC 3B meeting.

*N2 bus route:* Commissioner Kreitzman noted that WMATA re-routed the N2 bus through Spring Valley (instead of the current route via Tenley) without sufficient public notice. Commissioner Kreitzman received many complaints from his constituents as a result of this change. Ann Chisholm from WMATA's Office of Government Relations appeared at the meeting to answer questions about the re-routing. David Erion from WMATA was also at the meeting to answer questions from commissioners and residents.

One resident noted that the N2 provides a great service for their kids to get to school. He noted that many of his neighbors don't own cars.

David Erion said the reason for both the N2 and N4 was to split service where you have a lot of dense condos and apartment buildings. Mr. Erion noted that twelve years ago, the N buses were reorganized. Earlier this year, the N8 bus was eliminated and the N2 bus was then re-routed to go to Spring Valley. No survey was done with passengers, however, to determine where they were going.

Commissioner Cohen said that it was unacceptable for a public agency to make these changes without any public notice. A resident said that it defies logic and it is beyond belief, to go to Spring Valley and not Tenley. Another resident noted she has been riding the buses in DC for sixty years but in the last three months, she has waited nearly an hour for the bus. She also said that people who have cars used to ride the bus but this is not the situation now. According to this resident, WMATA has a total disdain for the Cathedral Heights and Glover Park neighborhood.

Commissioner Cohen asked that since WMATA made the changes without any public notice or public comment if they can't just change the route back to connect to Tenley. Commissioner Cohen said that the high level of dissatisfaction with the new route is exactly why WMATA needs to seek public input and comment before making any changes.

Another resident commented that many of the bus schedules are in pdf format and that he'd like to see all of them in a format that is easily accessible with smart-phones.

Commissioner Thielen said that the re-route of the N2 bus again shows the need to reconsider the earlier decision to eliminate the N8 bus. Commissioner Thielen also asked if WMATA could consider the feasibility of adding a bus shelter at the intersection of Wisconsin and Fulton (on the west side of Wisconsin).

Commissioner Cohen introduced a resolution opposing the changes WMATA made to the N2 route and supporting the previous N2 route connecting via Tenley. The resolution was approved 4-0.

*Café Romeo liquor license:* Café Romeo (2300 Wisconsin Avenue) sought a liquor license. Brian Lederer, an attorney representing an architect who performed professional architectural services for the Café Romeo proprietor, said that the applicant for the liquor license hadn't paid his client \$20,000 for work done. According to Mr. Lederer, the applicant is applying for the liquor license based on architecture services provided by his client but the applicant hasn't filled his promises. According to Mr. Lederer, the applicant's character isn't fit for a liquor license. The applicant has refused to fulfill any of the promises he made regarding the architecture work provided. The commission voted 2-0 to support the liquor license for Café Romeo, with two abstentions (*Ben – note who voted yes and who were the two absentions*). Because a majority of the five-member ANC did not cast a vote for the resolution, it was not considered formally approved, and the ANC took no formal position for or against the liquor license.

## OLD BUSINESS

*Wisconsin Avenue streetscape:* Commissioner Cohen provided an update of the Wisconsin Avenue streetscape project, noting the project will take between 12 – 20 months. The Georgetown ANC (2E) approved the resolution supporting the streetscape plan at their November meeting.

One resident noted that he lives in the Observatory area of Glover Park/Georgetown and he doesn't understand the benefit of what is being done. He said that Wisconsin Avenue is a narrow thoroughfare and this is going to make a mess of the street. Commissioner Cohen noted that there have been pedestrian fatalities on this section of Wisconsin Avenue. The sidewalks are narrow and dangerous in some locations.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

*Treasurer's Report:* The opening balance for November 2011 was \$8,947.11. During the previous month, there were the following withdrawals (Check #1182 --grant to the Community Council for the Homeless for \$3,000.00; Check #1183 grant to the Friends of Glover Park for \$1,208.00; Check #1184 to DLM Web Development for \$100.00; and Check #1185 petty cash reimbursement to Commissioner Cohen for \$188.12. There were no deposits during the month and the closing balance was \$4,450.99. The Treasurer's Report was approved, 4-0.

*November minutes:* The November minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously.