

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

June 2012 Minutes

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center. In attendance were: Commissioners Cohen (05), Blumenthal (02), Thielen (01), and Fulwood (03).

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Sargent Tolliver from the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District provided the police report for May 2012. He compared statistics for this year to last year: 4 burglaries this year to 16 last year; 19 thefts this year, 13 in 2011; 35 thefts from autos in 2012 (missed the number from last year). There was a robbery with a handgun in the parking lot of the Wells Fargo bank on Calvert Street at 12:50 a.m., which is part of a growing problem with robberies. MPD is using more plainclothes police to monitor the situation.

ANC BUSINESS:

Wisconsin Avenue Streetscape Improvements: Alberta Paul, Paul Hoffman, Kelly Peterson (DDOT Ward 3 planner), Rahul Jain (DDOT Traffic Services), James Cheeks, and Shana Vieira from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) attended the meeting to discuss the progress of the Wisconsin Avenue streetscape improvements and answer questions from residents.

Paul Hoffman, the chief project engineer, said that the Wisconsin Avenue improvements are on schedule for completion by the end of September. At the time of the June Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) meeting, DDOT was installing the poles and globe street lights. Mr. Hoffman reported that DDOT finished traffic signal work at Wisconsin and Whitehaven and was moving northward on Wisconsin Avenue as of mid-June.

Paul Hoffman noted that an increased amount of traffic had been observed on 37th Street, possibly because drivers were avoiding the construction on Wisconsin Avenue. Commission Cohen noted that with regard to the 37th Street and Tunlaw Road intersection, improvements will be based on the 2007 DDOT study. Commissioner Blumenthal asked with Glover Park residents will have an opportunity to review the construction plans for the 37th Street and Tunlaw Road improvements. Mr. Hoffman said residents will have this opportunity and the plans should be ready by the September 2012 ANC meeting. It will take an additional one month beyond this to do a community survey.

One resident was concerned about delivery trucks using 37th Street for deliveries. Commissioner Blumenthal responded that DDOT is trying to work on establishing dedicated loading zones and times for those businesses who get deliveries on Wisconsin Avenue, but that the businesses who get deliveries on 37th will still continue to do so.

Commissioner Cohen inquired with DDOT staff about what additional improvements can be made between Calvert and 37th Street. Commissioner Cohen also noted that Glover Park residents should not pretend that Wisconsin Avenue isn't dangerous for pedestrians.

James Cheeks from DDOT noted that many drivers were already using Whitehaven as a cut-through street before the Wisconsin Avenue improvements. Mr. Cheeks also noted that many of the vehicles on the side streets in Glover Park belong to local residents. He also confirmed that work will begin on reconfiguring the intersection at Tunlaw and 37th this summer, starting with the design stage which should be available for review in September.

Commissioner Blumenthal encouraged DDOT to stripe the Tunlaw Road and Benton intersection with paint to increase pedestrian safety. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that pedestrian safety is important at this intersection because there are only two main ways for pedestrians living in Glover Park to reach Wisconsin Avenue. A resident expressed continued frustration at DDOT for not adding a striped crosswalk at Tunlaw Road and Benton and Commissioner Cohen said that many neighbors are frustrated because the Glover Park community has been asking for a striped crosswalk here for years.

Mr. Cheeks committed to reporting on a timeframe for addressing the crosswalk and other issues by Wednesday, June 20.

Paul Hoffman noted that DDOT will be issuing a work order for the installation of a three-way stop sign at 39th Street and Fulton Street. Commissioner Thielen encouraged DDOT to look at striping a crosswalk at the intersection of Fulton and Bellevue Terrace. Commissioner Thielen also noted that the utility pole in the middle of the sidewalk on Tunlaw Road, north of Davis Place, is a hazard for pedestrians.

Mr. Hoffman also said that he would follow up on two issues raised by residents concerning a section of sidewalk on Tunlaw that is blacktop, not concrete, and a telephone pole located north of Davis on Tunlaw that completely blocks pedestrian access.

One resident remarked that the new streetlamps look great but noted the old traffic signals are still located on Wisconsin Avenue. Paul Hoffman answered that all the traffic signals on Wisconsin Avenue in Glover Park will be new signals.

Massage Escape Spa: Commissioner Blumenthal noted that a zoning exception is necessary for the proposed *Massage Escape Spa* which will be located on the first and second floors of 2352 Wisconsin Avenue. ANC 3B can choose to weigh in pro or con based on neighborhood reaction. Ms. Cong Jie Chen, an attorney for the landlord, was present to answer questions. She explained that the owner, Mr. Chu Yen Chung, is a trained and licensed acupuncturist and masseur. According to Ms. Chen, the owner has already spent \$30,000 renovating the building, has signed a five-year lease and seeks to employ fifteen people.

Commissioner Blumenthal inquired about the hours of the business. The representative said she would have to get back to the ANC with an answer. She noted that the employees will be

licensed and certified. Ms. Chen explained that the owner used to work for a chain called Massage Envy and currently operates an acupuncture business in Montgomery Mall.

Commissioner Blumenthal inquired about whether parking will be a problem. Ms. Chen said the business hopes to attract patrons from the local area. Commissioner Blumenthal also asked the representative to convince ANC and the neighborhood that this is a legitimate business since there had been an illegitimate massage operation in the same building previously. The owner's representative said that the owner won't repeat what happened in the past. Commissioner Blumenthal responded that knowing that the owner has work for the *Massage Envy* chain is reassuring, as is knowing that he owns a similar legitimate business in Maryland.

The ANC will put out a call for comment and decide whether or not to comment on the zoning adjustment at its July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Friends of Glover Park Recreation Center: Joe Fiorillo from the Friends of Glover Park Recreation Center appeared to request a letter of support from ANC 3B for the extension of the ball field fence next to 39th Street. Currently, the fence terminates before third base and Mr. Fiorillo would like to extend the fence to prevent balls from going into the street. Mr. Fiorillo noted that this will protect kids. Mr. Fiorillo also noted that a 501(C)(3) organization has provided the funding for the fence.

The request for a letter of support was approved by a vote of 4-0.

OPEN FORUM

Anacostia Watershed Society: Laura Washington from the Anacostia Watershed Society appeared before the ANC to discuss the efforts of the group to promote green roofs for Washington, D.C. homes and businesses. Ms. Washington noted that a typical rowhouse will cost about \$3,000 to install a green roof but the District government offers tax credits to help offset this cost. A neighbor inquired about whether residential units are required to have an engineering study to be eligible for the tax credit. Ms. Washington responded that an engineering study is one of the requirements to obtain the tax credit. Commissioner Thielen asked if the Anacostia Watershed Society has reached out to embassies to install green roofs. Ms. Washington answered that there will be a seminar this fall about greening DC's embassies. She also noted the U.S. State Department has a program to make embassies more sustainable.

ADMINISTRATIVE

May 2012 Minutes: The May 2012 minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

May 2012 Financial Statement: There was an opening balance of \$6,561.33 for May 2012. There was a withdrawal of \$2,890 for a grant to the Hardy PTA (check # 1196). There were no deposits during May. The closing balance was \$3,671.33. A check is expected to be written in June for a grant to the DC Greens, pending available funds. Commissioner Cohen noted that the DC Auditor deposited \$1,600 into ANC 3B's account on June 13.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:30 PM.