May 2012 Minutes

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:10 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 provided the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) report for April 2012. There has been a 46% decrease in crime this year compared to last year. Sargent Tolliver noted, however, that there have been many robberies in the Second District, especially targeting people with I-phones and encouraged neighbors to be aware of their surroundings.

Commissioner Cohen inquired about a mugging that occurred on a recent afternoon. Sargent Tolliver noted that the victim’s property was recovered but the victim could not positively identify the suspect. Sargent Tolliver advised residents to leave the GPS-tracker turned on with their cell phones.

Commissioner Cohen followed up on the previous discussion about traffic cameras. Sargent Tolliver suggested that neighbors contact Lisa Sutton (lisa.sutton@dc.gov) if they would like to request traffic cameras for Glover Park. Commissioner Cohen inquired whether there has been new traffic problems because of the Glover Park streetscape construction, with Sargent Tolliver responding that he had not seen anything.

OLD BUSINESS

Wisconsin Avenue Streetscape Update: Paul Hoffman, the construction manager for the Wisconsin Avenue streetscape project, and Shana Vieira from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) were at the May meeting. DDOT noted that there is now a field office for the Wisconsin Avenue improvements next to Café Romeo, a website (www.wisconsinavenueproject.com), and a project email address (info@wisconsinavenueproject.com). Commissioner Fulwood asked if there is a monthly project calendar. Paul Hoffman noted that DDOT will post a document on the project website looking ahead two weeks.

According to Paul Hoffman, the project is now about twenty percent complete. Mr. Hoffman also noted that the contractor has tried to do Saturday work. Commissioner Blumenthal asked that with the opening of the first farmer’s market of 2012, if the contract can avoid doing work near Hardy Middle School and stay above 35th Street on Saturday, May 12.
Paul Hoffman reported that contrary to initial plans, Washington Gas will not be replacing old pipelines at the same time as the streetscape project. What this means is that pipe replacement will not be able to be done until after 2017 due to a five-year moratorium on non-emergency work that would tear up the newly laid roadway.

Commissioner Cohen noted that new electrical conduits from the streetlights were being installed around the time of May’s ANC meeting. Commissioner Blumenthal cited the work in Adams Morgan, noting that the street signals are still on blocks and inquired about whether this would happen in Glover Park. Paul Hoffman assured the ANC that it would not.

Paul Holder from *Town Hall* remarked that he has not noticed any problems with the construction to date.

Commissioner Cohen inquired about tree boxes on the sidewalks of Wisconsin Avenue.

Tom Smith from the Mayor’s office noted that Aaron Rhones from DDOT assigned a request for speed humps to a DDOT engineer. Commissioner Thielen requested crosswalk for the intersection of Fulton and Bellevue Terrace, as well as a study for the placement of stop signs at Fulton Street and 39th Street.

Commissioner Cohen noted he was frustrated that there was nobody from either DDOT or MPD to discuss additional traffic enforcement or traffic calming measures (including crosswalks, stop signs, and other approaches) as part of the Wisconsin Avenue streetscape improvements. Commissioner Cohen also noted that the Metropolitan Police Department will locate a speed indicator camera on Whitehaven Place.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*D1/D2 Bus Stop Consolidation:* Commissioner Cohen started the discussion by noted that the ANC has not resolved to do anything so far and the ANC may decide to take no action. Commissioner Thielen noted that bus stop consolidation can help save money, create more on-street parking, and improve the efficiency and reliability of the D1/D2 service. Commissioner Thielen noted that over the past year, the Washington Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority (WMATA) eliminated the N8 route and proposed service reductions for both the D1 and D2 routes partly because of the cost of providing this service.

Commissioner Thielen also noted that he doesn’t want to cause anyone hardship but asked whether the current placement of stops is the most rational, noting there are six stops around Stoddert Elementary, including two stops on the same block within two hundred feet of each other.

Commissioner Cohen noted the problem of idling buses around Stoddert Elementary and noted that one way to address this without parking loss could include consolidating stops.

One resident suggested that if the ANC is going to propose a stop for consolidation or elimination, providing the 7-digit stop ID is useful. Another resident asked whether the WMATA would look at every stop recommended for consolidation. Commissioner Cohen
responded that he didn’t think so and believed that WMATA’s default position is to leave the current stops unchanged. Another resident suggested that the ANC shouldn’t just rely on the list-serve for comments but should seek input and comments in other ways as well. She said that surveys may be helpful as well.

Commissioner Fulwood suggested that the ANC and WMATA look not just at usage and spacing of the stops but at topography and density as well.

Commissioner Cohen said that ANC 3B is not considering consolidating or eliminating any of the Wisconsin Avenue stops. He noted that the ANC previously discussed this with DDOT and WMATA. Commissioner Blumenthal said that the bus stops need concrete bays because of the weight of the vehicles and the Wisconsin Avenue streetscape improvements are not including new concrete bays.

A resident asked whether any data is available that would describe how improving bus stop spacing may work and suggested that perhaps express buses during the peak commuting periods with fewer stops might improve service.

JP’s: Paul Kadlich from the Vice Group LLC. appeared to answer questions from ANC commissioners and neighbors about plans for the JP’s property. Commissioner Blumenthal informed attendees that in Glover Park there are two nude dancing licenses that are grandfathered in law. Currently, no more nude dancing can open in the District except in the central business district. The JP’s license is valuable because of this grandfathered status. The previous owner of JP’s sought to have an ABRA renewal hearing so that he could sell the license. ANC 3B, the Glover Park Citizens Association, and a coalition of fifteen neighbors formed a group to oppose this. Due in part to changing demographics and concern about quality of life, the license was renewed but ABRA added a provision that prohibited nude dancing before 5 PM.

Commissioner Blumenthal noted that another hearing is required before the license comes out of safekeeping status. She expressed concern that the Kadlich group had not filed any papers to transfer the ownership of the business from Brian Petruska, who is the owner of record, and said that the ANC only deals with the actual license-owners. Kadlich had explained that Brian Petruska will own a 10% minority interest and the Vice Group will own the remaining interest in the business. The owners plan to open in the fall of 2012. Commissioner Blumenthal explained that first they must build out the interior of the building, which is currently a shell, and then get a certificate of occupancy before they can apply to get the liquor license out of safekeeping.

According to Paul Kadlich, he wants to proactively address the Glover Park community and get inputs. He said that the Vice Group has signed a twenty-year lease with the family that owns the JP’s property. Mr. Kadlich said the name of the establishment will remain JP’s and it will honor existing voluntary agreements. Paul Kadlich said that JP’s may open earlier than 5 PM but there will be no nude dancing before 5 PM. One resident asked about this and demanded that Mr. Kadlich be more specific and definitive about the prohibition of nude dancing before 5 PM. Mr. Kadlich said that he paid more than $1M for the license and he intends to honor the prohibition.
Another resident inquired about security for the establishment. Paul Kadlich said that the security used by JP’s will be bonded. Commissioner Blumenthal asked whether there will be security cameras inside the building. Paul Kadlich said that there will be cameras placed inside at both the entrance and egress of the building.

Commissioner Fulwood asked what Paul Kadlich wants from the ANC. Mr. Kadlich responded that he wants the ANC not to protest the decision to open. In response, Commissioner Fulwood said that the issue the ANC wants Mr. Kadlich to appreciate is that it isn’t just the ANC that is opposed to the establishment but the views of the community matter as well.

Commissioner Cohen recommended that to the extent the owners of JP’s are interested in reducing community concerns, they should enter into a contract with an off-street parking lot for patrons.

*Dog Park at Guy Mason Recreation Center:* Commissioners approved a letter supporting the application for a dog park at Guy Mason Recreation Center by a vote of 4-0.

*Breadsoda Extension of Hours:* Commissioners approved a resolution supporting the extension of hours limited by the current voluntary agreement for Breadsoda to full hours (i.e., 2 A.M. weeknights and 3 A.M. weekends) except for the upstairs patio which will continue to close at 1 A.M. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that there have been no reported nuisances at this establishment and it has been a responsible operator.

*Glover Park Day:* A resolution seeking approval from the DC Department of Parks & Recreation to collect money on Guy Mason Recreation Center grounds during Glover Park Day to support the Center was approved 4-0.

**OPEN FORUM**
One resident noted that the District Department of Transportation failed to reverse lanes on Reservoir Road during the 2011 Emancipation Day observance.

There was a request from a resident that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3B consider a motion to require that the Glover Park Citizens Association publish its bylaws in order to increase transparency.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
*Approval of April Minutes:* The April 2012 minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

*Treasurer’s Report:* Commissioner Cohen noted that there was an opening balance for April 2012 of $3,809.49. There was a withdrawal of $140 to DLM Web Development. There were deposits of $3.75 (refund from the Healthy Living, Inc. grant) and $2,888.09 (ANC quarterly allotment. The closing balance was $6,561.33 for April. Approval was given for a grant check for the the Hardy Middle School PTA.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed 4-0 at 8:35 PM.