

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 8, 2018

The meeting was convened in the library on the second floor of Stoddert Elementary School, because the usual meeting space was being used for a STEM fair that evening. Chairman Brian Turmail (3B05) opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Other Commissioners in attendance were Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the agenda as presented.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal of MPD Second District and Public Service Area 204 (including ANC3B) reported on crime in the area for the previous 30 days. He reported no violent crimes in the ANC during that time with the exception of one case of sex abuse, a domestic incident at an apartment at 3051 Idaho Avenue. That case was closed with an arrest. The ANC3B area had 1 stolen vehicle, 1 theft from a vehicle, and 11 other thefts in the 30-day period. Lt. Neal said MPD is putting extra patrols in areas of concern.

Lt. Neal also reported that MPD had undertaken a traffic initiative in PSA204 focused on ticketing motorists as well as pedestrians and bicyclists who violated traffic laws. He estimated that about 30 tickets had been issued each day, including two or three to pedestrians and bicyclists. As part of that program, he said a speed measurement device had been installed at 34th Street and Cathedral Avenue. Several Commissioners requested that MPD place a speed monitoring device on Cathedral Avenue between 39th Street and New Mexico Avenue, which has been the subject of several requests from ANC3B in the past two years for traffic safety improvements to reduce speeding. Lt. Neal said he would work on getting one or two devices on Cathedral and also mentioned having one on Tunlaw Road.

A number of other participants urged creating safer conditions for scooters, bicycles, and motorists and improving enforcement of traffic laws. Commissioner Turmail suggested having a discussion on that subject with residents and transportation safety experts and advocates at a future ANC3B meeting. Lt. Neal offered to invite MPD Second District traffic officers Alton Brown and Tony Mcelwee, who have been doing traffic investigations in other PSAs.

Commissioner Turmail also announced that the Chief of Police Peter Newsham will be adding a new Police Service Area to the MPD Second District, PSA 209, covering areas between 9th and 14th Streets NW in the downtown area. He said there is no plan to shift officers to PSA 209 from existing PSAs in the Second District; the change will just shift that geographic area into a different police district.

Status Update from DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) on ANC3B Service Requests

Donise Jackson, Ward 3 Liaison from the DDOT Community Engagement Office, provided a status report on a series of requests made by ANC3B Commissioners during the spring walk-through with DDOT and subsequent 311 cases. These included:

a) removal of No Parking signs during morning rush hour on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue in the 2300 block, which were put in place during the 2012 streetscaping project and have never been removed to allow customers to get to adjoining businesses in morning hours. Ms. Jackson said a DDOT parking office technician was going to be visiting the site the following day. Commissioner Blumenthal asked if she could accompany the technician on the site visit.

b) addition of no parking signs on Observatory Lane east of Wisconsin Avenue, where vehicles are often blocking one of the two traffic lanes. Ms. Jackson said a request had been issued to install No Parking signs in that location.

c) a requested traffic safety investigation to deal with speeding and pedestrian safety on Cathedral Avenue between 39th Street and Glover-Archbold Park, including crosswalks and signage in the 4100 block. Ms. Jackson said a DDOT Traffic Safety Technician would be doing a site visit November 21 and laying traffic counters (“tubes”) to monitor vehicle volume for a week. The Commissioners suggested traffic counts should be made during a regular week, not the week of Thanksgiving, and also recommended monitoring traffic speeds, not just traffic counts.

d) solutions to traffic congestion and safety issues at W Place and southbound Wisconsin Avenue, including changes in parking spaces near the corner. Commissioner Blumenthal reminded Ms. Jackson of this issue that is still pending and was told Ms. Jackson would look into it and get back to her.

e) a traffic safety investigation at the intersections of Wisconsin Avenue with Fulton and Garfield Streets. A 311 request had been made by a resident for a Traffic Calming Investigation but without the required petition with signatures of 75% of the residents. Commissioner Mladinov said she has been working with neighbors to prepare a request for a coordinated Traffic Safety Investigation at the intersections of Wisconsin Avenue with Fulton and Garfield Streets.

f) sidewalk repairs at Idaho Avenue and Cathedral Avenue, and in front of 4000 Tunlaw. Those requests are in the 311 system and have been sent to the Street and Bridge Division to schedule the work. (That division handles repairs of 0-9 feet.)

Commissioner Lane thanked DDOT and the Mayor’s liaison Rich Harrington for completing the repaving of 2200-2600 42nd Street and 39th Street and Davis Place, as well as replacing the sidewalk on the south side of 4000 Tunlaw Road.

Ms. Jackson urged the Commissioner to continue to use the 311 system to submit service requests and provide the cases numbers to her and the Mayor’s liaison to make it possible for DDOT, the Mayor’s office and Chief Performance Officer to track the responses. She also recommended that the ANC set up a 30 – 60 – 90 day check-in with her, to keep up on progress on DDOT service requests.

Presentation by Mahesh Patel, New Owner of Good Guys

Mahesh Patel, the new owner of Good Guys, talked about his plans for managing the club, which he bought from Behnam Zanganeh in October. Mr. Patel does not live in the area but owns a number of adult clubs in West Virginia and other nearby states. Mr. Patel said he intends to retain the same manager at the club, Mike Aloupis, who has managed the club for ten years and also participated in the meeting. Mr. Patel said he may invest in improvements inside the club but he is not planning to change the name, sign, or exterior appearance. He said he would come to the ANC before undertaking any changes. He said he also wants to maintain the quality of food service at Good Guys, its support for community events, as well as the club’s reputation for security and enforcement of all requirements of the law, liquor license, and associated settlement agreement with ANC3B.

Resolution on Providing a Men's Hypothermia Shelter West of Rock Creek Park

Chairman Turmail noted that as the cold weather approached, the city had not designated a hypothermia shelter west of Rock Creek Park for men who are homeless. The closest shelter will be on 17th Street in Columbia Heights, which would require individuals to travel 3 or 4 miles from the Glover Park-Cathedral Heights area, taking them away from their familiar area and support network. Chairman Turmail presented a resolution urging the city to establish a shelter west of the park in time for cold emergencies this winter. (The Commission adopted a similar resolution in 2015.) Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

Letter to Councilmember Mary Cheh on Small Cell Technology

Commissioner Mladinov presented a draft letter for the Commission to send to CM Cheh, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, for the committee's public roundtable on Small Cell Technology scheduled for November 19. The roundtable was being organized by CM Cheh's Legislative Counsel Cole Wogoman, who is also her liaison to ANC3B. He presented some background points on small cells, which are antennas that are proposed to be located at frequent points throughout commercial and residential neighborhoods in the city to support higher speed 4G and 5G voice and data communications in the District. The draft letter followed the text of the letter the ANC had approved to send to the DDOT Public Space Committee for its hearing on October 15 about DDOT's draft Proposed Small Cell Design Guidelines. Commissioner Mladinov was designated to present the letter at CM Cheh's roundtable.

Grant request from Hardy Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Jason Orlando represented the Hardy Middle School Parent Teacher Organization in presenting the request for a grant of \$2,500 for library books and other materials. He thanked the ANC for grants to the PTO for similar purposes in previous years. He reported that each city school would normally receive an annual allotment from DCPS for the library to order materials but Mr. Orlando reported that the allotments had not been issued for this academic year and that would not be expected until at least January 2019 so the Hardy library had not been able to purchase any new books this year to update its collection and continue to replace outdated materials. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant, with one recusal.

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail reported that he and Vice Chairman Blumenthal had met with members of MPD, DC Department of Human Services and Department of Behavioral Health, on approaches to dealing with criminal actions by homeless individuals in the area. The city officials discussed the challenges the community has noted. They also encouraged members to advocate for more funds in the coming year's District budget to provide more psychiatric beds that could be used to help homeless individuals who are experiencing mental health issues.

Commissioner Young reported on recent developments about the Ward 2 and 3 Satellite Wellness Project, a pilot program to demonstrate the concept of city wellness services for seniors at a variety of locations around the area. This was an idea that came out of the Citizens Advisory Group of Iona Senior Services. Satellite Wellness Program Manager Lena Frumin is leading a survey of older adults about their needs and priority interests, and will be working with the Department of Parks and Recreation, local community centers such as Guy Mason, faith communities, UDC, and Iona Senior Services to develop a coordinated program of health and wellness activities, arts and crafts classes, social and educational activities. A total of 300-400 surveys went out and the next step was to analyze the results and identify locations that can best serve seniors where they are.

Commissioner Mladinov reported on the DDOT Public Space Committee's October 15 hearing on Proposed Design Guidelines for Small Cell Technology, at which she presented ANC3B's October letter urging further opportunities for sharing information and encouraging public review and comment. The Committee did not proceed with a planned vote on the guidelines but deferred consideration until after hearing more from the Council and concerned groups and residents around the city.

Commissioner Mladinov also reported on the Council's committee hearings about the Clean Energy DC bill October 9 before CM Cheh and October 29 before CM McDuffie, which elicited widespread support from public witnesses though OPC and PSC had asked for further consideration of consumer and regulatory implications and Pepco asked for some amendments. The bill was heading toward mark-up in November to allow passage by the end of the legislative session in December.

Open Forum

No additional questions or comments were offered.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's October meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for October:

October 2018 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$8,449.65

Income: \$2,930.71 DC Allotment - Q3 FY2018

Total Income: \$2,930.71

**Outgoing: \$ 42.22 Check #1296 Reimburse Treasurer Mary Young
for scanning and printing - Q4 FY2018**

Total Outgoing \$42.22

CLOSING BALANCE: \$11,338.14

Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the report as presented.

Commissioner Mladinov introduced the ANC3B Second Annual Report, covering Commission activities serving the community in the 12-month period from December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018. The Commissioners had reviewed the draft and were working toward publishing it by December 1, as required by the ANC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the annual report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the report as presented, so it can be shared and posted on the ANC3B website.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next ANC3B meeting will be Thursday, December 13, in the usual location, the cafeteria of Stoddert Elementary School.

Chairman Turmail made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.