

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2018

Chairman Brian Turmail (ANC3B05) opened the meeting at 7:01 pm. All the other Commissioners were also in attendance: Ann Mladinov (ANC3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (ANC3B02), Melissa Lane (ANC3B03), and Mary Young (ANC3B04), which constituted a quorum.

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and the Commission approved the agenda by a vote of 5-0.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal presented the monthly police report for ANC3B for the most recent 30-day period. The crime statistics showed very low crime: 1 violent crime (robbery not with a gun) and 19 property crimes (1 stolen auto, 7 thefts from autos, and 10 general thefts). He emphasized the importance of locking vehicles, parking them near a light, making sure that no valuables are in the vehicle, and having some type of alarm. He also mentioned that the MPD would have a booth at the Glover Park Day to distribute information on crime prevention and give neighbors a chance to meet the local police officers.

Commissioner Young mentioned an incident at Idaho Terrace the previous Thursday, involving a man who entered the parking garage at about 9:30 pm behind a car and stayed in the building until the morning when he was seen in the lobby using a cell phone. The building had a video that was provided to MPD and Lt. Neal said a police detective is looking into it.

A resident who drives and uses a bicycle to get around the city mentioned the dangerous behaviors of drivers who make turns from the middle lane and take right turns in front of Metrobuses that are pausing at a bus stop. Lt Neal said there is money in the MPD budget for officers to target pedestrians who walk against the traffic signals and bicycles that violate traffic regulations. The resident asked if there is a budget for public service campaigns to create greater awareness of safe practices for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. Chairman Turmail asked if that might be a question for DDOT, which is running the Vision Zero effort to reduce traffic deaths, as DDOT Director mentioned at the ANC3B February meeting. Russell Rowe, Ward 3 community liaison from the Mayor's office, said he would check with the city agencies for an answer.

No representative was at the meeting to make the scheduled presentation from the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, so Chairman Turmail went on to the next item on the agenda.

Discussion of Initiative 77 "Tipped Wage Ballot Measure" on the June 19 primary ballot

Chairman Turmail introduced Diana Ramirez, Deputy Co-director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of DC (ROC-DC), to talk about the initiative that ROC put on the primary ballot that would require tipped workers in District restaurant, bars, hotels, nail and hair salons to be paid the same minimum wage as other workers in the city. Currently in DC restaurants, the minimum wage for those tipped workers is only \$3.33/hour (not counting tips), and by law DC employers are required to make up the difference between the tipped worker minimum wage and the standard minimum wage of if a worker falls short of making the minimum wage (currently \$12.50/hour) within an individual shift. Ramirez said that many of the 30,000

tipped workers in DC are women and/or people of color who are not getting that level of compensation, cannot make a living wage under the current system, and are subject to pressure from employers not to complain for fear of losing their jobs. She also reported that tipped workers often must tolerate sexual harassment and abuse in order to keep their jobs and try to make adequate tips to support themselves.

DC restaurant owners Ris Lacoste of Ris, and Paul Holder of Town Hall and Maria Barry from Tin Shop presented a different perspective, noting that workers at their restaurants make \$20 to \$40 or more per hour, their paycheck services automatically ensure that tipped workers make at least \$12.50/hour on each shift, and Initiative 77 is an “answer in search of a problem.” They believe the measure would irreparably harm restaurants in Glover Park and the DC hospitality industry in general because their prices would have to cover what customers have been paying in tips, could drive away both customers and experienced **servers**. They also said that the proposal would also increase payroll taxes, income taxes, and even rental fees for restaurant properties, which cause restaurants in DC to close or move to other jurisdictions. They pointed out that the membership of ROC-DC is a small percentage of the number of tipped workers in the District and maintained that most DC tipped workers are against the proposed initiative. If the initiative passes in June, it would have to be approved by the DC Council and Congress before it could go into effect. Chairman Turmail noted that this is an issue for individual voters in the primary, and the ANC is not planning to take a position.

Conversation with Ward 3 representatives on the DC Commission on Aging

Commissioner Young introduced Commissioners Marguerite Pridgen and John Giacomini, who represent Ward 3 on the Commission on Aging. They outlined the work of the Commission, which has 13 members including several ex officio members and representatives for each ward, appointed by the Mayor. The Commission was established to advise the Mayor, DC Council and the general public on the needs and concerns of DC’s older citizens. The Commissioners noted that Ward 3 has the highest number of senior residents in the city: about 22% of the Ward 3 population or close to 20,000 are 60 or over. They also reported that the city has more than 100,000 seniors who are underserved, and it is a challenge to reach seniors and serve their diverse needs. Mr. Giacomini said the Commissioners try to work with senior villages, religious congregations, and other organizations in the community to identify needs and advocate for services for seniors. He urged the ANC and others in the community to work on improving awareness of senior needs and services, encourage seniors to seek help when they need services, and also testify at DC Council hearings on April 13 and April 25 about agencies and programs affecting seniors. Commissioner Pridgen mentioned the Ambassador program run by the DC Office on Aging to train residents in sharing information and advocating for seniors. She also pointed out that some wards have Mini- Commissions made up of volunteers who advise and assist the DC Commission on Aging, but Wards 2 and 3 do not have Mini- Commissions. Commissioner Giacomini noted that Iona Senior Services, the city’s designated provider for senior wellness services, has a Citizens Advisory Group, but Commissioner Mary Young pointed out that the Citizens Advisory Group had voted **unanimously** not to be a Mini-Commission under the Commission on Aging.

Stephen Marencic, Community Outreach Specialist for the DC Office of People’s Counsel (OPC) for Wards 3 and 4, also introduced himself and encouraged seniors to contact OPC if they have complaints about their electric, gas, phone, or cable television service in the District.

Public Space Permit Application for Pearson’s Parking Lot

Commissioner Blumenthal reported that a bid has been accepted for purchase of the lot at 2340 Wisconsin currently used for parking for Pearson’s Liquor Store, and the purchaser has applied for a public space permit (application #299146) seeking to close the curb cut to Wisconsin and add a bike rack and planter on the sidewalk. The owner of Pearson’s is challenging the sale on the basis that he was not granted first right of refusal on the property. Commissioner Blumenthal said the proposal will probably be to construct a small condo building on the lot with retail on the first floor. The major interest of the community will be to preserve a pedestrian passageway between Wisconsin Avenue and 37th Street through that property.

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a resolution opposing the public space permit and asking DDOT not to take action on it until the legal challenge to the sale of the property is resolved. She made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Letter of Support for Glover Park Day on June 2, 2018

Commissioner Lane presented a letter to the DC Parks of Recreation from ANC 3B supporting the 29th Annual Glover Park Day on June 2. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on approving the letter. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve and send the letter.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Blumenthal announced that the next ANC3B meeting on May 10 would be devoted to a discussion of the Glover Park commercial district, with a panel including Gina Schaefer of Ace Hardware, Robert Isen of the Calvert Center, Jonathan Willingham from Councilmember Mary Cheh’s office, and representatives of the city’s Main Streets program and the Van Ness Main Street organization. She said she hopes a neighborhood group can be formed to identify problems for the commercial area and potential solutions, and evaluate whether Glover Park should form a Main Street organization.

ANC3B Walk Through with DDOT: Commissioner Blumenthal reported that on March 26, Russell Rowe and representatives of DDOT led a walk-through of Cathedral Heights and the Glover Park commercial area with ANC members, focusing on areas where the ANC has requested traffic safety improvements, parking adjustments, and sidewalk repairs. The city recommended that to get effective response, all ANC requests to DDOT should be submitted via the DC 311 system so they can be tracked, and additional forms with more detailed information should be submitted to apply for traffic calming and traffic safety investigations.

Mayor’s Proposed FY 2019 Budget: Commissioner Turmail reported that the Mayor’s proposed budget includes several additions that will help Ward 3, including higher per pupil spending for students in DC Public Schools and increased investments for roads and infrastructure, senior programs, the short-term shelter for homeless families, and public safety. In the list of capital projects, the budget also includes an addition to Stoddert Elementary School in FY 2024. Russell Rowe encouraged people to share their comments on the proposed budget at the DC Council’s budget hearings through the spring.

DC Water Town Hall: Commissioner Mladinov reported on the April 4 Town Hall meeting for Ward 3, sponsored by DC Water and Councilmember Cheh to present DC Water programs and proposed rates. DC Water did not provide any updates on the Glover Archbold Sewer Rehabilitation Project which is still being assessed by DC Water and the National Park Service, but DC Water did sign a contract on April 5 for green infrastructure projects this summer in Glover Park including several rain gardens, permeable parking strips and alleys, following the plan DC Water’s Clean Rivers Project issued last year. Further information will be provided to residents later this spring. Councilmember Cheh is also working with DC Water to make more funds available to ease the burdens of the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charges, especially for low income residents. At the Town Hall, DC Water offered to work with residents to recalculate their impervious surface area and said it is urging DOEE to increase the rebates to residents for reducing run-off from their property.

Airplane Noise. Commissioner Mladinov reported that the court denied a lawsuit brought by community groups in Northwest Washington against FAA over adjustments to flight routes at National Airport. The court ruled the lawsuit was not filed during the official FAA comment period in 2013, although the judge recognized the residents had a basis for their complaints about the process. The community groups may appeal the decision, and will continue to work on the issue. The city has also funded an additional study of ways to alleviate airplane noise in the area, for use in negotiations with FAA and the airport authority.

Proposed Satellite Senior Wellness Pilot Program for Wards 2 and 3. Commissioner Young reported on an initial meeting about a new pilot program by the DC Office on Aging to develop “satellite “wellness programming for seniors in Wards 2 and 3, where there is no designated city Senior Wellness Center. The concept would be that wellness activities would be provided at libraries, recreation centers and other locations around the ward. The city has agreed to pilot the idea and work with the community to develop new senior wellness services around the area, in order to bring programming closer to where seniors actually live.

Council Hearing on Comprehensive Plan Update. Commissioner Mladinov reported that more than 200 groups and individuals presented testimony at the DC Council’s March 20 hearing about changes the Mayor

is proposing to the DC Comprehensive Plan, which guides zoning and planning decisions. In January, the Mayor released the first 60 pages of a revised plan, called the “Framework Element,” without providing an opportunity to review the proposal before it went to the Council. In February, ANC3B voted to oppose the revised Framework Element on the basis that the process violated city law and the changes would significantly reduce opportunities for ANCs and others to oppose development proposals that require approval of the Zoning Commission. After hearing such a large number of concerns raised by witnesses and other Councilmembers about the potential weakening of the Comprehensive Plan, creating benefits for developers without providing for full public participation or meeting the city’s needs for affordable housing, Council Chairman Mendelson concluded by saying the Council would not act on the Framework Element of the plan update until at least July, when the FY2019 budget is completed.

Glover Park Whole Foods. Commissioner Blumenthal gave a brief update on the status of the dispute between Whole Foods and Wical Limited Partnership, the landlord for the Glover Park Whole Foods store. She explained that in spite of hopes for a settlement agreement, no news has emerged. The ANC will continue to monitor the issue and share information with residents.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Turmail introduced the minutes of the Commission’s March public meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for March.

ANC3B March 2018 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE:	\$ 10,077.51
Income:	\$0.00
Total Income:	\$0.00
Outgoing:	\$ 0.00
Total Outgoing:	\$0.00
CLOSING BALANCE	\$ 10,077.51

Outstanding: Check #1281 - \$25.00 to ANC Security Fund

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the ANC3B monthly financial report for March. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the financial report as presented.

Treasurer Young presented the quarterly financial report for the Second Quarter of FY2018. Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the quarterly report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the financial report as presented.

Chairman Turmail encouraged any non-profit organizations serving the community to apply for a grant from the ANC to support public service projects.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next public meeting of the Commission would be held on Thursday, May 10.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.