

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B

GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Chairman Brian Turmail (3B05) opened the meeting at 7:02 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.)

Commissioner Blumenthal 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 gave a brief report on crime in the area in the previous 30 days, and highlighted the number of arrests MPD has been making. The statistics for ANC3B showed that from March 12-April 11, no violent crimes but there were 3 thefts from autos and 15 other thefts, which Lt. Neal said includes package thefts from people's porches. Commissioner Blumenthal if package thefts could be reported separately, and asked if Lt. Neal could share the location of the thefts. Commissioner Mladinov had checked the location of the reported crimes on the MPD crime map and said almost all the reported thefts were on Wisconsin Avenue with only two on residential blocks, so it seemed clear that most package thefts were not being reported to MPD. Lt. Neal and the Commission urged neighbors to call MPD to report any suspected crime including package thefts. Lt. Neal also spoke about several community outreach activities that the 2nd District MPD will be participating in, including Glover Park Day on June 1, where local police officers will talk with residents and share information on crime prevention.

Highlights of Mayor's Proposed FY 2020 Budget

Polly Donaldson, Director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development, gave an overview of the Mayor's budget proposal for FY 2020, which totals \$15.5 billion, of which \$8.6 billion comes from local funds. (The Federal portion is \$3.4 billion, primarily for Medicaid.) The Mayor calls it a "Fair Shot" budget, because it focuses on "sharing the upside," helping those in need and also making it possible for middle class residents to live and thrive in DC. Director Donaldson reported that the biggest issue at the Mayor's budget engagement forums and the largest item in the proposed budget was education, and the other issue raised by residents across the District was housing.

She also spoke about a number of issues that ANC has discussed in recent months. The budget proposes a \$30 million increase in the annual funding from the Housing Production Trust Fund to create affordable housing, beyond the \$100 million proposed in each recent year. In the past 4 years, the city has created 7,200 affordable units and the proposed increase would add 1,000 more units. The increase would be paid for by higher commercial deed and recordation taxes. The budget also includes a Preservation Fund to preserve affordable housing; down payment assistance; a new Workforce Housing Fund; increases to the "Safe at Home" program to help senior residents remain in their homes; and more funds to help individuals and families move beyond homelessness. The budget would also increase the income ceiling for Schedule H and increase the maximum value of the credit.

One resident noted that the budget for education would include a cut in per pupil funding for 20 schools, including 17 schools in Wards 7 and 8. Commissioner Mladinov highlighted a report on District school funding that showed Stoddert would get 6.6% less in education funding per pupil than it received in the current school year, when funding went up 11%, so the funds available per pupil would be close to what was budgeted for 2017-18. The Director reported that the total funds to Stoddert would go up 10% but others mentioned that total has to cover school security costs that used to be paid by the central office.

The Director said the capital budget calls for future improvements to address overcrowding at Stoddert. Under that plan, Stoddert is slated for \$20.5 million in capital spending: \$0.5 million in FY 2023 and \$20 million in FY2024, to pay for constructing 10 new classrooms. The proposed capital investment would replace the 6 demountables now on-site and add 4 more classrooms, to accommodate 230 more students. Chairman Turmail said that at the May meeting the Commission hoped to have representatives of the local schools/PTOs and Ruth Wattenberg, Ward 3 representative on the school board.

The Commissioners asked several questions. Chairman Turmail raised the City Auditor's statement about the long-term sustainability of the proposed spending compared to revenues. Director Donaldson responded that the District's Chief Financial Officer, Jeffrey DeWitt, certified the budget as balanced and responsible.

Residents also had questions, including:

- How much money is proposed to be spent on pavement, since many city streets are in poor condition. Director Donaldson said the Mayor is committed to having all streets in good repair by 2023, and ' providing the funding needed.
- What is happening with the proposal to place the Housing Authority under the control of the Mayor?
- Does the Mayor's proposed budget provide funds:
 - to make up for the proposed cuts in federal funding for public housing
 - to implement the NEAR Act of 2016 (Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results)
 - to implement the Student Fair Access to School Act of 2018
 - to increase the number of beds for mental health treatment of homeless youth
 - to cover lead remediation for more housing units
 - to increase assistance for tenants
 - to maintain per pupil funding at District elementary schools including those in Wards 7 and 8
 - to pursue more opportunities for Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (TOPA)/District Opportunity to Purchase (DOPA)

Ariadne Henry also asked whether the city is considering creating Limited Equity Co-operatives to enable low-income households to own and retain low-cost housing, which the residents at the Beecher apartments in Glover Park were able to do several decades ago to be able to stay in their units at affordable prices.

Commissioner Young asked if there had been action on legislation to require that landlords that lease a rent-controlled unit through voucher programs at market rates have to return the unit to the rent-controlled rate when the unit is vacated. Director Donaldson said she supported that proposal and would check on the status. She committed to getting answers to all the questions that had not been addressed.

Grant Application for AimHire Program at Friendship Place

Stephanie Jones-Patterson, Assistant Director for Workforce Development with the AimHire program of Friendship Place, presented a request for a grant of \$2,500 to purchase pre-paid TracFones and SmarTrip cards for jobseekers. AimHire is the program at Friendship Place that helps people who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness to find and keep a job. Ms. Jones-Patterson said the grant will help between 150-200 individuals in the program. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant.

Grant Application from DC Food Project

Krista Weymouth of the DC Food Project presented a request for a grant for \$1,505 to pay for noon-food supplies to support its “share table” and Weekend Food Bag projects. The DC Food Project launched the programs at Stoddert Elementary School in the past year, with the assistance of a previous ANC3B grant. The “share table” in the cafeteria encourages students to put wrapped and unopened food they don’t want at lunchtime into baskets for anyone else at the school who would like them. The weekend food bags allow students who face food insecurity at home to get a bag of healthy non-perishable food to take home for the weekend. Ms. Weymouth said that about 12% of students at Stoddert face food insecurity. This year the DC Food Project has expanded the share table program to a total of nine schools and wants to begin offering Weekend Food Bags in all the schools with share tables. The ultimate goal is to extend the programs to all District schools and also include DC recreation centers. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Young reported that in front of 4100 Cathedral Avenue, the crosswalk had been restriped that day, after a resolution from the ANC, walk-throughs with DDOT, repeated 311 requests, and follow-up phone calls.

Commissioner Mladinov reported on the Friendship Place symposium on progress toward the city’s meeting goals in the 2015 “Homeward DC” plan to prevent homelessness and make individuals’ and families experience of homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by the target year of 2020.

Commissioner Mladinov also reported that the DDOT Public Space Committee held a hearing on March 21 to hear comments on its February 1 revised proposed Draft Design Guidelines for Small Cell Technology. The guidelines were the subject of an ANC3B resolution in February, calling for a number of changes to provide clearer standards as well as increased opportunities for residents, ANCs and other groups to receive notice and offer comments on applications to install small cell technology in District neighborhoods. At the end of the hearing, the Public Space Committee took a vote to approve the proposed guidelines with a number of amendments, but as of the ANC March meeting, DDOT had not yet published the full amended guidelines, as approved.

DC Water has announced several new programs to reduce costs to customers for the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC), which makes up a large part of monthly water bills. Under the plan, part of the monthly CRIAC bill could be based on the volume of water use, rather than just the amount of impervious surface on the customer’s property. DOEE will also begin offering discounts on water bills to households with incomes at various levels below the Area Median Income, as part of a Customer Assistance Program (CAP) to help offset the CRIAC.

Open Forum

One resident asked if there was any news about the building that previously housed the Grog and Tankard. Commissioner Blumenthal said the building had been purchased by an investor a year ago who wanted to put a restaurant in that space and he was planning to post plans for that but did not appear to have a tenant yet to operate a restaurant there.

Theo Good, consultant to the DDOT Livability Study, encouraged residents to participate in the second Community Workshop scheduled at Stoddert on Saturday, May 18, to provide input to the study. He urged people to check the website, get on the email list, and provide suggestions of areas for traffic safety improvements in the neighborhood.

Other announcements: Emancipation Day celebrations on Saturday, April 13; Glover Park Day on Saturday, June 1; and two events in honor of Dorothy Biondi on April 13 at 3 pm at St. Albans School and the evening of April 26 at Guy Mason Recreation Center.

DPW Inspector Jacqueline Brooks introduced herself and reminded residents that no plastic bags or plastic film should be placed in recycling bins, and plastic trash bags should not be used to hold the recycling when it is placed in the bins. The plastic gets tangled in the machinery used to sort recycling, which endangers the employees. She said DPW will be mounting a summer campaign to educate residents on this policy, with mailings and hangtags on door knobs. Inspector Brooks also reported that after working with the CVS in Glover Park for many months, the store is keeping the area around the building and are no longer storing containers or pallets on the sidewalk.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov presented the minutes of the Commission's March meeting. Chairman Turmail made a motion to take a vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the February minutes as presented.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for March:

March 2019 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$11,392.52

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 0.00

Total Outgoing: \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$11,392.52

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

Treasurer Mary Young presented the ANC Quarterly Report for the second quarter of FY2019, ending March 31. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to approve the quarterly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the second quarter report as presented.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next ANC3B meeting will be Thursday, May 9.

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 8:40 pm.