

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 10, 2020

Chairman Brian Turmail called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, rather than meeting in-person, the Commission held the meeting using “Zoom” technology, as allowed under the District’s Emergency Legislation of March 17, 2020, and the Commission’s vote at its March 12, 2020, public meeting to amend the ANC3B by-laws to allow Commissioners to meet, hold official votes, and be counted for a quorum by participating using virtual technology.

All five Commissioners were participating: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05), 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 Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

Police Report

MPD Captain Brian Bray from the Second District sector that includes ANC3B presented the police report for the preceding 30 days. He provided information on several incidents, including a domestic incident at 2712 Wisconsin and a burglary at 2100 Huidekoper, as well as the break-in at Lalguras restaurant at 2332 Wisconsin on November 14. He also provided background about the double shooting at 2929 Connecticut in ANC3C on November 17 which was followed by an arrest.

He reported that in Police Service Area 204 which includes most of ANC3B, total crimes for the year to date had gone down 12% in 2020 compared to 2019, and violent crime had gone down by 32%, dropping from 24 in 2019 to 15 in 2020. He noted an uptick in commercial burglaries from Georgetown north to the 2D station.

Chairman Turmail asked about the thefts of entire sets of car tires in ANC3B. Captain Bray responded that in the previous 3 months, 5 thefts of sets of tires had been reported in ANC3B and he had sent extra patrols to the area and also requested additional police personnel to be assigned to help.

Thank you to Commissioner Mary Young for her 8 years as a Commissioner in ANC3B04

Chairman Turmail introduced a series of speakers to recognize Commissioner Young’s service to the ANC, as the term came to an end. Councilmember Mary Cheh presented a letter of congratulations and thanks to Commissioner Young as ANC3B Treasurer and representative from Single Member District 3B04 in Cathedral Heights for four full terms. CM Cheh also said the Council was preparing a formal Council resolution to recognize Commissioner Young’s service, her work on issues for tenants and seniors around the city, her willingness to testify on important matters, her principled approach to her ANC work and contribution to the collegiality that makes ANC3B so effective, and her assistance as a partner to the Councilmember. Iona Senior Services Executive Director, Sally White, also spoke about Commissioner Young’s service, especially as a member of Iona’s Citizen Advisory Group. Several others including building managers and residents, as well as her fellow ANC3B Commissioners, added their thanks to Commissioner Young, and she also made comments.

Discussion of Good Guys' application to expand its space into the second floor at 2311 Wisconsin Avenue
Good Guys owner Mahesh Patel was accompanied by Jenna Gross of the marketing company Moving Targets to present Good Guys' request to the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA). Mr. Patel said that since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, Good Guys had not been allowed to offer live entertainment. Since August, the city would have let the club open just with restaurant service but he said that to break even, the club would need more space to accommodate the number of customers the city would allow (25% of capacity) and still have safe distance between them under social distancing requirements. Ms. Gross said that adding the second floor space would allow the club to serve 20 people total, under COVID-19 restrictions. Mr. Patel said the menu would be upgraded and the kitchen facilities in the basement would have to be upgraded.

Mr. Patel explained that the application to ABRA would add space for food and beverage service to patrons on the second floor of the building, which has housed an office, storage area, and bathroom. He said the space on the second floor is not large, especially with COVID-19 restrictions, and would probably only be able to accommodate a few tables with space for 5 or 6 patrons, maybe a small service bar, and TV monitors to stream the live entertainment from the stages on the first floor. He talked about removing walls to open up the space, but hadn't determined if the existing walls were load-bearing. A question about partitions came up but Mr. Patel said everything at his clubs is open and he doesn't have private rooms, because when you do that, you start getting into trouble.

Mr. Patel said he had not yet contracted with an architect to prepare detailed floor plans. Commissioners Blumenthal and Young said he would have to provide plans for the second floor before the ANC could take a position on the proposal. Commissioner Blumenthal also asked for clarification of whether the application would maintain the current occupancy of 75 or expand that capacity, Mr. Patel said he was not intending to change the total capacity of the club and would review the application to see if any changes were needed to clarify that. Commissioner Blumenthal said the ANC would take comments from the public and would take a vote at the January meeting on whether or not to protest the application.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the DDOT Bike Planning Team was preparing preliminary designs to present to the community for making safety improvements to the bike route on New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Street, per DDOT's 2019 Livability Study. DDOT was planning to make a presentation at the January ANC meeting.

Commissioner Mladinov also reported that WMATA was planning to open a public comment period in January on its draft budget for FY2022 based on funds available. The draft budget would call for 30-minute spacing between trains on weekdays, no weekend Metrorail, and reduction of Metrobus services from the current 60 routes to 41 routes. The changes would include consolidating the D2 route with the N6, M4, and D6 routes. The WMATA Board was still hoping Congress would appropriate additional funds to allow more service but it wasn't clear if that legislation would be adopted before January so WMATA was planning to go ahead with scheduling hearings and a public comment period, before a scheduled vote on the final budget in March to go into effect on July 1, 2021. Chairman Turmail said the information would be posted on the ANC3B website.

Chairman Turmail announced that DC Department of Public Works was 2 or 3 weeks behind on the Fall Leaf Collection schedule in the ANC3B area, and had not yet provided the first collection in the area. He said the Holiday Tree Collection policy still had not been announced.

Commissioner Mladinov also announced that the final written comments on the Pepco rate case were due to the DC Public Service Commission on December 23, and the deadline was December 31 for self-employed workers to sign up to participate in the DC Paid Family Leave that is expected to go into effect in the next year.

Open Forum

Residents asked questions about:

- "Slow Streets" initiative which had been discussed at the past two meetings. The Mayor's Ward 3 representative, Tony Donaldson, said he was talking with DDOT about the comments from ANC3B on that program and they were working on finding a way to make it work better.
- installation of a right-turn lane from westbound Whitehaven Street onto Wisconsin Avenue, which had been discussed at the time the Holiday Inn redevelopment plan was first presented. Mr. Donaldson said he had spoken with DDOT about this and it might require a study. Commissioner Blumenthal said she would look into whether DDOT or the developer had conducted a study recommending a right-turn lane there.

- getting repairs to a “sinkhole” after a recent water line break.
- “near miss” on 39th at Cathedral heading to Massachusetts Avenue which led to calls for immediate improvements, not a study
- any progress on steps to improve safety on Cathedral Avenue where the trail crosses from Glover-Archbold Park

Mr. Donaldson said he would look into the street and traffic questions and invited residents to submit any infrastructure questions to him as he is working in the neighborhood on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will be glad to check any concerns on the ground.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Turmail proposed that the first ANC3B public meeting of 2021 be held on Thursday, January 14. He made a motion to adopt that date for the January meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to set January 14, 2021, for the next meeting, unless circumstances changed to require a change per the ANC by-laws.

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the November meeting. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Mary Young read the ANC3B monthly financial report for November:

November 2020 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$9,897.67

Income: \$6,910.10 District quarterly allotments for 2nd and 3rd Quarters FY2020

Total Income: \$8,910.10

Outgoing: \$ 0.00

Total Outgoing \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$16,807.17

Treasurer Mary Young presented the draft ANC3B quarterly report for the 4th Quarter of 2020, ending September 30, 2020. The report included preliminary reports on income, including District allotments, but Commissioner Young noted that updates might be needed if the reported income had to be adjusted after checking with the city. Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve submission of the report, with allowances for corrections if needed.

Chairman Turmail proposed that the Commission approve expenditures for printing business cards for the new Commissioner, Elizabeth Elson, in ANC3B04, and any other Commissioners who need new business cards. Commissioner Blumenthal provided an estimate of \$175 for the printing of official business cards using a local vendor. She made a motion to approve the expenditures on business cards up to an amount of \$175. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve up to \$175 in administrative expenditures for business cards.

Chairman Turmail repeated that the next meeting would be held Thursday, January 14, 2021, and would again be a “virtual” meeting.

Chairman Turmail made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn. Chairman Turmail noted that the Commission would be welcoming Commissioner Elson to the Commission in January, and he again expressed thanks to Mary Young for 8 years serving as ANC3B Treasurer and Commissioner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.