

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



ANC3B Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019

Chairman Brian Turmail opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. Four Commissioners were in attendance: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five members make a quorum.) Commissioner Melissa Lane (3B03) was out of town for work and was not able to attend.

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commissioners voted 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Police Report

Sergeant Shedd reported briefly on crime in the ANC3B area. Property crimes in the past 30 days were down to 10 compared to 19 last year at the same time. There was only one violent crime in ANC3B, a carjacking near 4000 Massachusetts Avenue that was categorized as an armed robbery with gun, which was closed immediately by an arrest. Sgt. Shedd also said that for the Year to Date, total crime in ANC3B was 159 vs. 139 last year, which means only about one crime report every two days. Commissioners asked about package thefts, the apartment fire on Monday, and a break-in at an apartment at Alban Towers.

Chairman Turmail asked for advice on where to call if an individual is sleeping in an ATM vestibule or on the sidewalk. Sgt. Shedd recommended calling 911 so the emergency van can be called and the individual can get help getting to a shelter or at least be given a blanket. Turmail noted that someone appears to have taken up residence in the Bank of America ATM space on Wisconsin Avenue and he encouraged the police to look into it.

Discussion with At-Large Councilmember Robert White

Chairman Turmail introduced Councilmember White who spoke about priority policy issues and legislative initiatives. He said that as Chairman of the committee that oversees ANCs, he has visited every ANC in the city, as well as the senior wellness centers. He noted that he had been able to get increased funding for ANCs in the current budget year and also support for developing a mobile app that ANCs could use to stay in touch with constituents.

CM White also talked about bills he had introduced, including:

- Senior Co-Living Establishment Act (B23-0537), to allow older homeowners to get financial incentives for renting space in their homes to peers who need. low-cost spaces to live, with the requirement that the monthly rent is no more than 30% of the tenant's income
- Financial Literacy in Schools Act to try to make up for the lack of education that high school students get on basics like credit cards and interest rates.
- Small Business Procurement Reform to assist Certified Business Enterprises

Commissioner White also mentioned he has been looking into issues related to public school capacity, the agreement for Maret School to use Jelleff playing fields, and potential uses of the Old Hardy School for public education purposes.

Chairman Turmail asked about the proposed change in service on five Metrobus lines in or near ANC3B. CM White said he would write to WMATA. He also shared the name of the new DC representative on the WMATA Board, Stephanie Gidigbi, who had taken office earlier that day.

Ray Phillips, President of the co-op association at 3900 Tunlaw, raised three concerns in ANC3B: scooters, failure to comply with snow shoveling law, and proposed changes to service on Metrobus routes D1 and D2. CM White responded and committed to looking further into each question.

DDOT Status Report on Issues in ANC3B

Donise Jackson, Ward 3 Liaison from the Office of Community Engagement at the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT), provided updates on service requests and other transportation matters affecting ANC3B:

- PaveDC and Alleypalooza – lists of projects being developed for 2020
- Rock Creek Far West Livability Study – final recommendations for safety improvements posted
 - DDOT is working on the design of possible bike facilities on Arizona Avenue and putting together committee to work on study of bike facilities on Dalecarlia Parkway. Commissioner Mladinov added that, as with other recommended studies, DDOT has committed to conducting a study of the options for putting a dedicated bike lane and pedestrian lane on Dalecarlia Parkway and emphasized that no decision has been made on what to do.
 - DDOT is working on short-term improvements to safety on Cathedral Avenue, such as signage. Commissioner Young and other neighbors asked for attention to the water leak and pavement deteriorating on Cathedral Avenue. Ms Jackson said she would ask DDOT to look at that.
- Councilmember Cheh held a roundtable on December 2 on “public parking” (the area between the public sidewalk and the front wall of a private residence) clarifying that maintaining those areas is the responsibility of the property owner.
- Glover Park business corridor – DDOT had put out a Notice of Intent to restore the parking spaces on Wisconsin Avenue during morning rush hour on the east side of Wisconsin. The work order for the new signs would be issued before Christmas.
- Traffic Safety Investigation at Wisconsin and Fulton – After several recent crashes, DDOT is putting together an assessment of possible steps to improve safety, including a traffic signal. Several requests for vertical pedestrian signs/pylons had been submitted as well.
- DDOT’s 2020 Terms and Conditions for e-scooters were issues and four companies were selected to operate e-scooters in the District in the coming year (Lyft Skip, Spin, and Jump), based on their scores on specified criteria. DDOT had decided not to issue new permits for four companies that have been in operation (Bird, Bolt, Lime, and Razor). The current number of e-scooters available to rent was 3,400, compared to the allowable total of 6,200. The full fleet is never deployed at any one time. But the numbers will be increasing. DDOT’s permits for 2020 would allow 2500 per operator for a total of 10,000. One constituent suggested better enforcement of regulations on parking e-scooters and suggested that scooter companies be allowed to negotiate with private companies to allow parking scooters on their properties.
- Small Cell Technology - proposals for installation will come through each SMD
- LED. Streetlights – DDOT had two community meetings on this in the fall, it is in procurement through the Office of Public-Private Partnerships. A streetlight advisory group meets every second Tuesday at DDOT and meetings are open to the public.
- DDOT Open House for Ward 3 is proposed for February 8. She was looking for locations.

Chairman Turmail asked if DDOT had carried out the recommendation in its 2006 Glover Park Traffic Study for signs (including STOP signs) to be placed on traffic islands at intersections. Ms Jackson agreed to check on that. Commissioner Blumenthal also asked Ms. Jackson to check on the status of “no parking” signs DDOT had committed to put up along Observatory Lane east of Wisconsin.

Commissioner Young asked Ms. Jackson to check on the application for a lower curb or curb cut in front of Annunciation Church on Massachusetts Avenue.

Several neighbors asked about the major hole on 40th Street, which had gotten temporary asphalt patches but was never fixed. Ms. Jackson said she would contact DDOT's Street and Bridge as well as Asset Management teams.

Commissioner Young also read a letter of gratitude to DDOT for the repaving of the T-shaped alley behind 4000 Massachusetts and Idaho Terrace.

Presentation about the DC Office of Inspector General (OIG)

Jaime Yarussi, Deputy Inspector General for Business Management and Public Information Officer, spoke briefly about the role and responsibilities of the office for investigating fraud and abuse in the city government. OIG is the only state office of the inspector general that has a unit that looks into Medicaid Fraud. Other areas under OIG authority include misappropriation of funds and contract steering. Ms. Yarussi said that all reports released by OIG can be found on the website <oig.dc.gov>.

Letter to Mayor on Extending Time to Comment on Amended DC Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Mladinov introduced a proposed letter for the Commission to send to the Mayor and the DC Office of Planning (OP) requesting additional time for members of the public and also ANCs to comment on the 1,500-page "redline" draft amended version of the District "Comp Plan" released on October 15. OP had set the due date for comments as December 20 for the general public, January 31 for ANCs. The letter encouraged extension of the deadline until at least April 1, as a constituent had requested at the November ANC3B meeting. The letter noted that the amendment process had not included wide-ranging outreach to residents across the city to hear their priorities and vision for the future, and emphasized that the length and complexity of the plan, the extent of the proposed amendments, and the significance of the changes merited further opportunities for the public to learn about the proposed changes and what they were intended to do, and prepare informed comments.

Susan Kimmel of Ward 3 Vision recommended that that comment period not be extended more than a few months because she believed many of the changes in the Comp Plan were needed and shouldn't be delayed for years and years. She offered to present briefings to people interested in learning more about the changes proposed in the amended Comp Plan.

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the proposed letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the letter as presented.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Mladinov presented a response that Verizon had provided to the DC Office of People's Counsel (OPC) about the Verizon outage on December 2 which had affected local residents who get FIOS internet, phone and streaming services from Verizon as well as a number of residents' land line phones. Several meeting participants noted that the number of customers affected by the outage was far greater than the numbers cited by Verizon, after a contractor had mistakenly cut through a large bundle of Verizon cables on the 31st Street Bridge in Georgetown, and that had brought down FIOS service to an entire area for 2 to 3 days and put land line customers out of service for 10 days. The Commissioner said she would report the added information to OPC, and urged residents having problems with their Verizon or other utility services to contact Cheryl Morse at OPC at 202-727-3071.

Chairman Turmail listed the changes to bus services in ANC3B that had been presented earlier in the week to the WMATA Board for its consideration as part of the FY2021 budget. The changes included "elimination" of the 30S and 30N cross-city routes that run on Wisconsin Avenue, the 37 limited stop rush hour service, and the D1 rush hour buses, and the consolidation of the D2 route with the G2 route that runs between Georgetown and Howard University. WMATA had not made available detailed plans for alternate service, such as expanded service on the 31 and 33 buses. (At the WMATA Board

meeting the afternoon of December 12, several residents expressed concerns about the proposed elimination of Metrobus routes in the area. The Board asked for more time to review the changes and decided not to vote at that meeting to call hearings immediately on the proposed changes, so more specific information on the proposed changes would not be released as quickly as the ANC hoped.)

Commissioner Mladinov committed to sharing the links when WMATA announced additional details and the dates of future WMATA meetings and community hearings on the proposed changes in Metrobus services. Chairman Turmail also announced that WMATA was planning to have staff members participate in the ANC3B meeting on January 9 to discuss the proposed changes and take questions. The Commissioners encouraged residents to be in touch with the ANC and also with CM Cheh and WMATA about how the proposed changes would affect them and their buildings or blocks.

Cole Wogoman, Legislative Counsel in CM Cheh's office and liaison to ANC3B, urged people to attend the next WMATA meeting about the proposed changes in Metrobus services and share their comments and concerns. Others suggested taking photos of crowds on the current buses and at bus stops. Several neighbors asked to have information about the proposed changes posted on the ANC3B website, and in the Glover Park Gazette, which the Commissioner agreed to do.

Shawn Hilgendorf from CM Robert White's office said that they had heard more from residents of ANC3B and Ward 3 about the proposed Metrobus changes than they had heard from anyone else in the District. He also recommended that in their comments about the effect of proposed changes, local residents should include the effects on people in other parts of the city such as riders on the 30S and 30N who live in far Southeast. Mr. Phillips recommended outreach to local businesses about the Metrobus changes because many businesses in the area have employees who get to and from work by Metrobus, often for long distances each way.

Open Forum

Rich Harrington, liaison to ANC3B from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, announced the 21st Annual Senior Holiday Party on December 19, and the Mayor's 5K race on January 1, 2020. He asked residents to comply with snow shoveling requirements, and to call in violations to DC 311, He did not have new information on DPW's plans for collecting holiday trees and greens.

RoseMarie LaPeter of Good Guys mentioned the major rat infestation in the area behind their building. Commissioner Blumenthal and several meeting participants supported a coordinated effort with the city to deal with the rats.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov presented the minutes for the November meeting. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as written.

Commissioner Young presented the ANC3B financial report for November:

November 2019 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$10,127.22

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Incoming: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$2,500.00 **Check #1311 - Grant to Glover Park Alliance D/B/A Glover Park Main Street for laptop computer, iPad and software**

Total Outgoing \$2,500.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$7,627.22

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the November financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the financial report as presented.

Commissioner Mladinov announced that the next meeting of ANC3B would be Thursday, January 9.

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.