

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021

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), Elizabeth Elson (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 for the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

Police Report

Second District Captain Brian Bray summarized crime reports in ANC3B in the preceding 30 days, which included 9 property crimes and no violent crimes v. 21 property crimes and 2 violent crimes in 2020. Captain Bray reported that total reported crime was down 30 percent. He also announced that in response to a sharp increase in car-jackings in the District, MPD Chief Robert Contee had established a special task force to work collaboratively with other agencies and law enforcement in adjoining states to address the problem, sharing information and creating a central data base on the missing vehicles. He also reported that several thefts of airbags had been reported in the Second District and he advised that everyone keep vehicles locked.

Presentation of Ghostline DC request to allow live music on rear patio at 2340 Wisconsin Avenue

Tracy Wilson, co-owner of Ghostline DC, presented their proposal to host live jazz performances with her husband’s jazz quintet, in an effort to preserve jazz music and also maintain the chance to hear live jazz in the District after several other venues have closed during the COVID-19 emergency. No live performances are allowed under the current District COVID-19 rules, but after the emergency restrictions are lifted, the plan is to have live jazz on the patio one weekend night each week, and possibly increase to three nights per week if the plans go well. She proposed the performances would last no later than 11 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. She reported that in September Ghostline tried a “pilot test,” working with a sound engineer, which was successful in confining the sound to their premises. She said Ghostline has been in contact with some nearby neighbors who are supportive of the proposal and she is working on preparing a written agreement share with neighbors covering the terms that Ghostline would follow. Commissioner Blumenthal urged Tracy to be in touch with neighbors living in the Sheffield and Tracy committed to be in touch with them. To offer live music, Ghostline needs to get an Entertainment Endorsement to the liquor license and would also need an amendment to the Settlement Agreement between ANC3B and the previous business establishment at the Ghostline property, which prohibited live outdoor music performances. Commissioner Blumenthal announced the ANC would open a 30-day comment period on the proposal, with the intent to review the comments and take a vote at the March meeting on amending the Settlement Agreement.

Vote to Withdraw Protest of Good Guys' Plan to Expand Operations into second floor at 2311 Wisconsin

Commissioner Blumenthal reported that Good Guys had withdrawn its application to expand operations into the second floor level and the ABC Board had approved the withdrawal. ANC3B had submitted a protest to that application, in case Good Guys' application was not withdrawn before the protest deadline. In response to the withdrawal of the application, Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on withdrawing its protest. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve withdrawing the protest.

Letter to DDOT reiterating support for traffic signal installed at Fulton Street and Wisconsin Avenue

Commissioner Blumenthal explained that ANC 3B has been concerned for years about dangerous conditions at the Fulton and Wisconsin intersection, affecting pedestrians and motorists. After residents' requests for improvements at that location as part of DDOT's 2019 Livability Study for Rock Creek West, DDOT evaluated the intersection and determined that installing a traffic signal was the most effective solution to the safety issues. DDOT shared a Notice of Intent (NOI) in July 2020 and opened a public comment period. ANC3B had voted to send a letter to DDOT at that time supporting the installation of the proposed traffic signal. The ANC Commissioner for the neighborhood across Wisconsin Avenue in Massachusetts Avenue Heights had not received the NOI and was not aware of DDOT's plan to install a signal until the work was nearly completed in December. A number of her constituents had been in touch with DDOT and Councilmember Mary Cheh to express concern that the traffic signal would increase cut-through traffic on Fulton between Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues. The DDOT Director held a meeting with those residents and their ANC member, as well as representatives of the Councilmember's staff and ANC3B. In the interim, DDOT engineers had continued to recommend activating the traffic signal to improve safety and prevent additional crashes and injuries at the intersection. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on a letter reaffirming the ANC's support for activating the signal and expressing continuing concerns for pedestrian and vehicular safety at that intersection. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter to DDOT.

Letter to DDOT commenting on MoveDC 2021

Commissioner Mladinov provided an update on the DDOT project to update the District's State Long-Range Transportation Plan, including two online surveys soliciting public input and multiple online forums to describe the process. She noted that the discussions to date had presented maps and plans for action on transit, bicycles, and freight but there were not parallel efforts on the two forms of transportation used most in the ANC3B area, walking and using private motor vehicles. She presented a letter recommending to DDOT that it take a more comprehensive and holistic approach to the District's long-range plan, built around a holistic multimodal look at the choices and challenges facing all forms of transportation as an integrated system serving the city. The letter also recommends more effective outreach to all wards, neighborhoods and groups affected by the transportation system, to gather their input and better explain the District's efforts, particularly to members of the community who have not been participating in the discussions. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter to DDOT.

Letter to DDOT on corridor study and bicycle infrastructure on New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Street

Following up on DDOT's presentation to ANC3B at the January 21 public meeting, proposing two options for the installing new bicycle infrastructure on the New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Street corridor -- two separated bike lanes, one on each side the street, or a two-way "cycle track" -- Chairman Turmail presented a draft letter to respond. Echoing the points on MoveDC, the letter calls on DDOT to conduct a more comprehensive multimodal review of the safety and mobility needs for all forms of transportation on that corridor, including the Metrobus routes on the streets, pedestrians, delivery services and curbside pick-up and drop-offs including for people with disabilities, as well as contractor vehicles, visitors, and others who might be trying to park along the curbside. The letter also suggested that based on the fuller corridor study, which DDOT had committed to do in the Livability Study, then DDOT should evaluate a wider range of alternatives for improving mobility and safety for bicyclists, while also assessing the effects on other modes and their. The letter also suggested that DDOT give more attention to the safety risks that residents or the Commission had identified at particular locations on the corridor, including the intersections of Tunlaw and Davis Place and Tunlaw and Fulton Street to evaluate how pedestrian needs as well as bicyclists and motorists could most safely and effectively accommodated. The Commission took questions and comments from other participants. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter to DDOT.

Presentation of Application for Zoning for Rear Deck Addition at 3824 Beecher Street NW

Jarrett Ferrier presented his plans for a rear deck addition that would extend into the 20-foot rear setback required under zoning regulations in the R-3 zone. He also had received letters of support from the neighbors which he shared with the ANC. Chairman Turmail noted that it's the Commission's policy to support an application for a deck addition when the neighbors support it. On that basis, Chairman Turmail made a motion to send a letter of supporting the zoning application to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Presentation by Doug Klein, Community Prosecutor, Office of U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia

Community Prosecutor Klein works with MPD Districts 1, 2 and 6. He spoke about the role of the U.S. Attorney's office in prosecuting adult crimes in the District, and also the role of the Community Prosecutor in working with MPD, including with officers building evidence for prosecutions and police leadership on crime and quality of life issues. He also described the Community Prosecutors' work with individuals and groups on developing Community Impact Statements to be provided to the court in DC Superior Court cases, such as cases involving the Insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6. He was joined by Community Prosecutor Anita Larue. They underlined that their role is as a liaison between the community and the U.S. Attorney, and they also lead school programs, a Clergy Ambassador program, presentations to seniors on avoiding fraudulent scams, youth programs such as a Leadership Program and summer camp, and the Hate Bias Task Force. They also said they are happy to take questions related to crime, specific cases or the criminal justice system in generally, and refer them to the appropriate person to respond.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Mladinov reported that WMATA was still planning to open a public comment period on its revised draft budget for the year starting July 1, but no official docket, public comment period, or public hearing had yet been announced.

Chairman Turmail mentioned that DC Department of Public Works had picked up holiday trees behind the house according to DPW's stated policy, improving on the report of services missing at the end of January.

Open Forum

Tony Donaldson, the liaison for ANC3B from between the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, reported that the Mayor's Budget Engagement forums were being conducted to get public input before the Mayor sends her proposed FY2022 budget to the Council; the District had just gotten a report on its finances that was one of the strongest in the nation; on COVID-19, the District was pushing the Biden administration to provide more vaccines to the city; DCPS active teachers had been offered a vaccine; the DC COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center had set up its own separate supply of vaccines for people who can't or don't use the online portal; and the DC Department of Health was building a new portal to let people register one time and then be alerted when appointments became available to the group to which the person belongs.

Administrative Matters

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

Treasurer Elizabeth Elson read the ANC3B monthly financial report for January:

January 2021 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$14,307.17

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 0.00

Total Outgoing \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$14,307.17

Treasurer Elson also reported that the Quarterly Report for the first quarter of FY2021 was not yet ready, but she was expecting to get additional training from the Office of ANC's which should help with that process.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next meeting would be held Thursday, March 11, 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.