

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020

Vice Chairman Jackie Blumenthal called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04) were in attendance. Chairman Brian Turmail (3B05) was traveling for business and could not attend. Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum, so a quorum was present.

Commissioner Blumenthal also announced that no representatives from WMATA would be participating in the main discussion on the agenda, as upper management had asked that the staff not present details of WMATA budget and operating proposals until after the WMATA Board had met on January 16 to approve sharing the draft budget and related details.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Blumenthal announced that the first order of business at the meeting, as the first ANC3B public meeting of the year, would be election of officers for the Commission for the new calendar year. Since all officers had agreed to continue serving in their current positions, she made a motion to approve the officers by acclamation. The motion was seconded, and the Commissioners voted 4-0 to maintain the current officers for calendar year 2020: Brian Turmail as Chairman, Jackie Blumenthal as Vice Chairman, Mary Young as Treasurer, and Ann Mladinov as Secretary, with Melissa Lane continuing to be responsible for Communications and Media including using the website, email, listservs, and social media.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to approve the agenda as presented without the WMATA presentation by WMATA. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda.

2020 Meeting Dates

Commissioner Blumenthal proposed that ANC3B public meetings continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month, except in August when the Commission does not generally meet. Made a motion to vote, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approved the proposed schedule of 2020 meeting dates and reported that the list of dates for the monthly public meetings would be posted at www.anc3b.org

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal presented a brief report about crime in the ANC3B area. He reported that in the preceding 30 days there were no violent crimes, but there were 16 property crimes, up 2 from the same month last year.

Proposed Changes in Metrobuses Serving ANC3B

As the Commissioners reported at the ANC3B December 12 public meeting, WMATA had announced that the proposed WMATA budget for FY2021 (beginning July 1, 2020) included changes to several Metrobus routes affecting ANC3B: D1, D2, 30S, 30N, and 37. The D2 was proposed to be combined with the G2 between Georgetown and LeDroit Park/Howard University. The other four routes were proposed to be eliminated, but WMATA indicated that additional trips would be scheduled on the 31, 33, and G2 to replace most of the trips eliminated on the D1, 30S and 30N for at least part of their route. Commissioner Blumenthal announced that WMATA had offered to participate in the next ANC3B meeting on February 12 to present more details on the proposals and take questions, since they were not allowed to participate in the January meeting. Commissioner stated that the Commissioners were committed to preserving our bus service and would be voting to send a message to the WMATA Board asking for a community meeting to provide more information for the communities that would be affected by the proposed changes in Metrobus services.

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced Raka Choudhury, in charge of WMATA Coordination at DDOT, who had been part of briefings with WMATA on the proposed changes and had agreed to present the information she had received about the proposals affecting ANC3B. She provided background on the WMATA budget and guiding principles behind the proposed changes in Metrobus services, and took a few questions.

Most of the participants at the meeting were attending to talk about the possible loss of Metrobus services to the area, so Commissioner Blumenthal opened the floor to comments from the community. Many residents spoke of the negative impact that losing bus service would have on the neighborhood. An overarching concern was that the proposed changes would leave many transit-dependent riders without any good options and make it difficult to continue living or working in Glover Park.

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the proposed letter to WMATA recommending that it hold a community-wide meeting to share more information about the proposed Metrobus changes, so people would have better understanding of the data and reasoning that went into the proposals and what they would mean for riders. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the letter, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the letter.

Grant Request from Iona Senior Services

Jennie Smith-Pierce of Iona presented a request for a grant of \$1,055 to purchase 500 reusable grocery bags printed with Iona logos and contact information to distribute to seniors and others who participate in Iona programs. Recipients of the bags would include those who are homebound and would receive home-delivered meals in the bags, as well as people who participate in Iona's Active Wellness Center at St. Alban's Church and the bimonthly Farm to Market programming. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the grant, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

Good Guys request to extend its hours to 3 am on weekdays, 4 am on weekends. RoseMarie LaPeter, manager for Good Guys at 2311 Wisconsin Avenue, spoke about its request to ABRA to extend by one hour the time that the club is open on weeknights (changing from 2 am to 3 am) and on Saturday and Sunday nights (changing from 3 am to 4 am). During that extra hour, no alcohol could be sold, served or consumed at the club, under ABRA rules. Several Commissioners and other residents had questions. Commissioner Young asked about a recent arrest at the club. Ms. LaPeter said a patron was giving the club trouble about paying his tab and ended up saying he wanted to go to jail. MPD officers were already there, which she said is often the case, and they handled the incident. Other residents asked how the club intended to make money during the extra hour if they could not sell alcohol, Milton Grossman pointed out

that no alcohol could be consumed during that time either. Ms. LaPeter said she knew that, and said the club already clears away all alcohol about 15 minutes before closing time to avoid any drinking beyond the end of the ABRA hours of service. She said the club would continue to serve food during that time, and presented as the reason for the change that the club would like stretch out the time that patrons leave the club, so everyone is not going out to get their cars or catch a ride at the same time people are leaving all the other bars in the area when alcohol service ends. With the current hours of operation, she said traffic is so heavy on Wisconsin at 3 am on weekend nights that cars are double parked, sometimes leading to arguments and fender benders, to the point that MPD has assigned officers to oversee the area at closing time.

Commissioner Blumenthal explained that the request for extending opening times for one hour without alcohol sales is legal under DC law. Also since there have been no disturbances to the community's "peace, order and quiet" at Good Guys since 2012, Commissioner Blumenthal said the Commission does not have any grounds on which to protest Good Guys' application for the extending its hours of operation. She said the deadline for comments to ABRA about the Good Guys application was February 3. She also committed that the ANC would continue to monitor the situation and if there were problems, the ANC could protest renewal of the ABRA license when it is due to expire.

Updates and Information

On the subject of e-scooters, Commissioner Mladinov reported that DDOT had deferred implementation of its 2020 Terms and Conditions for companies that had been selected to provide scooters for rent in the District this year. Cole Wogoman, liaison between ANC3B and CM Mary Cheh's office reported that several of the companies that had been providing scooters in 2019 but were not selected to continue in 2020 had challenged DDOT's decisions so DDOT decided to allow all the companies that had been offering scooter rentals in the District to continue operating for another quarter, through the end of March while the legal issues are addressed.

On the subject of the Verizon outages in the area starting on December 2, Commissioner Mladinov reported that the DC Office of People's Counsel (OPC) was conducting an ongoing investigation of the outage and Cheryl Morse of OPC had requested that anyone who still did not have Verizon service should be in touch with her so OPC could get Verizon to restore service. Ariadne thanked OPC and the Commission for attention to the outage but asked if ANC3B could send an official letter to OPC and the DC Public Service Commission asking them to investigate and redress the failures in Verizon customer service. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on sending a letter to that effect, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve sending the letter as proposed.

Commissioner Young reported that the Commission had gotten alarming information about continuing loss of the tree canopy in the District, backed up by aerial photos by Casey Trees, the non-profit that works with the city, businesses and residents to plant trees on private property in the District. Commissioner Young said the many trees in the city had been one of the main attractions of the District as a place to live, and urged again that city policy support preserving and increasing the tree canopy, as she recommended be part of the Commission's comments on the city's draft amended Comprehensive Plan ("Comp Plan").

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the city had extended the deadline for comments on the Comp Plan, so members of the public would have until close of business on Friday, January 10, to submit comments, and ANCs would have until Friday, February 14. That extension would allow the Commission to take up comments at the February public meeting.

Open Forum

Rich Harrington, liaison to the Mayor's office, announced that the city was having a Roll-Off Day for Ward 3 at Stoddert School, for residents to recycle old electronics, dispose of bulk trash in a DPW dumpster, and donate items such as good clothes and working electronics which charitable organization A Wider Circle would distribute to households who could use them. Mr. Harrington also urged residents to sign up for the Mayor's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Peace Walk on Monday, January 20.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov presented the minutes for the December 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.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the ANC3B financial report for December:

December 2019 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$ 7,627.22

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Incoming: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$0.00

Total Outgoing \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$7,627.22

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

Treasurer Mary Young presented the ANC3B quarterly report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1-December 31, 2019). Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the quarterly report, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the quarterly report.

Commissioner Young also reported that the Commission had to replace its small audio recorder used to keep a record of meetings, and Commissioner Mladinov had found a unit of the same kind at a good price so she was asked to purchase a replacement recorder. Without objection, Treasurer Young said she would reimburse Commissioner Mladinov the cost of \$78.44 for the purchase of the audio recorder.

Treasurer Young explained that the city urges each ANC to approve an expenditure of \$25 each year to participate in the ANC Security Fund, which is designed to protect the public funds in the ANC account against any unauthorized use. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to take a vote on making that expenditure. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the expenditure of \$25 for that purpose for calendar year 2020.

Commissioner Blumenthal announced that the next meeting of ANC3B would be Thursday, February 13.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.