

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 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.)

Election of Officers

Chairman Turmail announced that the first order of business was to elect new ANC3B officers for the calendar year 2021. He introduced the proposed slate of officers: For Chairman, Brian Turmail; for Vice Chairman, Jackie Blumenthal, for Treasurer, Elizabeth Elson; for Secretary, Ann Mladinov; and continuing on Media and Communications, Melissa Lane. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the officers. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the officers by acclamation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Mladinov 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 Lt. Paul Johnson participated for MPD. He reported briefly on the MPD activities continuing at the U.S. Capitol after the January 6 incursion. He said that 4 or 5 officers from 2D who went down to the Capitol that day had been injured, but everyone was healing. He also provided statistics on crimes for the preceding 30 days in Police Service Area 204, including ANC3B. There were no violent crimes reported. Property crimes were down about 25% from the previous year, with 2 motor vehicle thefts, 10 thefts from auto, and 12 other thefts. One of the motor vehicle thefts involved a 2021 Toyota Forerunner left unlocked with a key fob in the car, and he emphasized the importance of locking vehicles and not leaving a key inside. Crime for the year to date was also down sharply from last year. Lt. Johnson also reported that MPD has a special unit examining the recent theft of full sets of tires, including the recent theft of tires from a brand new Toyota from a parking pad behind a home near 38th and Fulton. He advised anyone with a new Toyota to get a wheel lock.

Letter of Support for MedStar Health use of third floor at 2233 Wisconsin Avenue

Regina Knox Woods, Vice President for Government and Regulatory Affairs for Medstar DC Region, and Kathleen Stratton, counsel from law firm Sheppard Mullin, presented the request to relocate Medstar’s ob-gyn and internal medicine physician practices to the 29,000 square foot space on the third floor of the office building at 2233 Wisconsin. The new space is intended for internist offices to accommodate patient visits with the doctors. Medstar already leases space at 2233 Wisconsin for IT, scheduling, and other administrative services.

The proposed move would involve an estimated 101 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). This is part of an effort to shift some functions from the main campus where Medstar Georgetown University Hospital is undertaking major construction. Under District law, Medstar needs to get a Certificate of Need from the DC State Health Planning and Development Agency for medical use of the space, which calls for approval for the ANC. Therefore, Medstar requested a letter of support from the Commission, so they could proceed with renovations for a planned move-in to the new space in approximately December 2021. The move is a long-term lease.. Medstar has arranged to have shuttle bus service from the Georgetown campus for employees and they also discussed parking options. Commissioner Elson made a motion to vote on approving a letter of support for the Medstar request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter of support.

Presentation of Application for Zoning Variance for Rear Deck Addition at 2022 37th Street NW

Jon Gillespie presented a request for support for a variance to allow construction of a rear deck at the property he is renovating, which would increase the overall lot occupancy at the property to 63%, which is more than the 60% allowed under zoning regulations in the R-3 zone. He said the deck will be approximately 9.3 feet deep, which is smaller than the rear decks on the two adjoining properties. He had received a letter for support from the neighbors on the south side and had heard from the neighbors on the north side but still needed to send their letter of support to the ANC. On the basis that adjoining neighbors were both in support, Chairman Turmail made a motion to send a letter of supporting the variance to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Resolution protesting Good Guys plans to expand its operations to the 2nd floor at 2311 Wisconsin

Commissioner Blumenthal explained that in December Good Guys owner Mahesh Patel had made a presentation at the ANC public meeting to discuss Good Guys' plan to expand food and beverage services to the second floor where there is currently an office but no space for patrons. Good Guys had applied to the DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) for a substantial change to its liquor license to allow the proposed expansion. Commissioner Blumenthal reported that in recent days Mr. Patel said he would withdraw his application, knowing that the ANC was likely to protest. Because the deadline to protest was Monday, January 25, Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to approve a resolution protesting Good Guys' substantial change application on the basis that the change would violate the Settlement Agreement between Good Guys and ANC3B and is a threat to the "peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood." With the approval of the resolution, the ANC would be able to file the protest before the due date if Mr. Patel did not withdraw the application. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the protest letter.

DDOT presentation on options for bicycle infrastructure and safety improvements in New Mexico/ Tunlaw/37th Street corridor

DDOT Bicycle Specialists Mike Goodno and Gilberto Solano participated in the meeting along with DDOT's Active Transportation Branch Manager George Branyan, Climate Advisor Catherine Teebay, and Community Engagement Specialist for Ward 3 Donise Jackson. Mr. Goodno and Mr. Solano presented preliminary concept designs for two options:

- A – two separated bike lane, one on each side the street
- B - a two-way "cycle track" the entire length of the route between Nebraska Avenue and Reservoir Road.

Both options would eliminate all on-street parking on both sides of Tunlaw and 37th between Calvert Street and Reservoir Road. Between Calvert and 3900 Tunlaw, between 25 and 30 parking spaces would be eliminated (45-55% of the current 55 parking spaces along that segment of Tunlaw). They presented some charts of recent safety issues on the corridor, as well as estimated counts of parking occupancy and parking availability on various blocks in various parts of the ANC3B area but there were glitches in the tables so those figures will have to be reviewed.

The DDOT representatives took questions from the Commissioners. Several questions were raised about accommodation for Metrobus services on Tunlaw and 37th Street, and also curbside space for deliveries, contractor vehicles, ride-sharing and Mobility Access for people with disabilities. Mr. Goodno said the team had not considered those questions, but generally DDOT would set aside a few spaces in the parking lane for pick-ups and drop-offs, though he recognized that where there are no longer any parking spaces, that would not be possible unless a loading space was designated on a side street.

Commissioner Mladinov asked if DDOT had considered any other options, as the DDOT Livability Study included several other options. Mr. Goodno said that DDOT had looked at one other option for a bike lane between the curb and the parking lane on the wider section of Tunlaw, but it would eliminate more parking spaces so they only presented two options. He suggested that was not to say that others couldn't come up with something else and DDOT could consider it. He also asked for input on any "hot spots" that DDOT to pay attention to. The ANC3B had previously flagged a number of intersections for traffic safety investigations, including Tunlaw and Davis Place where DDOT's map showed a cluster of crashes and other incidents, and residents had also been asking for attention to traffic safety concerns at the intersection of Tunlaw and Fulton Street and Watson Place.

Commissioner Blumenthal mentioned that parking spaces on the New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th corridor are not just used by residents and visitors but also by customers for businesses in commercial area, and Glover Park is already one the most difficult neighborhoods in the area for parking. Commissioner Elson asked if DDOT could install bike facilities on one part of the corridor but not the entire length. Mr. Goodno said that is how DDOT started, doing a block at a time, but now they are trying to establish a connected network of bike lanes.

Since the corridor also involves ANC3D and ANC2B, Mr. Goodno said DDOT would be working with those ANCs in coming weeks as well, and hoping to come up with something people can agree on. He outlined DDOT's planned schedule, starting with 6 months of community engagement, an NOI on a chosen option in the fall, and if there is agreement, possibly construction in the spring of 2022. He agreed he would share the slides and DDOT contact information, but would try to get some more updated data because some of the information is incomplete or out of date. Chairman Turmail said the ANC would save the comments in the Chat, reach out to constituents, share the slides that DOT provides, and try to get back to DDOT with some feedback.

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. Based on the new federal funds approved for public transit companies, WMATA had been able to cancel its December proposal for drastic reductions in employees and service through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2021 ending on June 30, and also for the first half of the next fiscal year 2022. The current plans call for restoring Sunday service on the D2 and potentially returning D1 service if D2 buses are carrying more than WMATA's limit of 20 riders to ensure safe social distancing. For the second half of FY2022, WMATA is still hoping Congress will approve additional funds to cover the projected budget shortfall to allow expanded service, but for now the proposed WMATA budget for January 1-June 30, 2022 would cut service to about 50% of pre-COVID levels. If additional funding is not available by next January, one proposed change would combine the D2 bus route with the N6, M4, and D6, operating on 37th and Tunlaw all the way to New Mexico Avenue, with no stops in West Glover Park, Commissioner Lane agreed to post the information on the WMATA plans and request for comments on the ANC3B website when WMATA posts the notice.

The Commissioners offered updates on the DC COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, which is proceeding for residents 65 and over, at local pharmacies and hospitals. Chairman Turmail reported that the vaccine plan had just been opened to DC Public School teachers, as the schools were preparing to reopen for in-person learning at partial capacity.

Commissioner Mladinov provided a brief update on legislation the ANC had discussed over the past year, that had been passed by the DC Council at end of 2020 session, including the Second Look Act, a bill to break up DCRA into two separate agencies to deal respectively with business licenses and permits, and amendments to the law governing ANCs to require "great weight" for ANC comments to executive agencies on proposed amendments or updates to the DC Comprehensive Plan and also provide new assistance to ANCs with zoning and planning issues.

Chairman Turmail mentioned that DC Department of Public Works had not yet picked up holiday trees behind the house but had picked up several trees from the tree box—the reverse of what is supposed to happen but the exact same experience as in 2020, though in Commissioner Mladinov's block, DPW service had worked according to the instructions. Because DPW is behind schedule, holiday tree collection has been extended until February 19.

Open Forum

Tony Donaldson, the Mayor’s liaison, provided an update on the District’s decision to allow museums and restaurants to open to 25% capacity on January 22. COVID-19. He reported that there was some progress with DDOT on the “Slow Streets” designation of 39th Street in Cathedral Heights. He said the following week the core team would be meeting with MOCR representatives for Ward 3 and he was hoping to get that selection worked out. He said that the community had provided the qualitative information and the team was going to be looking at the quantitative data.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Turmail presented a proposal to hold ANC3B public meetings on the second Thursday of the month, through January 2022, which for now will continue to be in “virtual” format, though the Commission hopes to get back to in-person meetings when possible. Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on the meeting schedule. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the proposed meeting schedule.

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the December 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 December:

December 2020 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$16,807.17

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 2,500.00 Check for Open Collective Foundation on behalf of Ward 3 Mutual Aid

Total Outgoing \$2,500.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$14,307.17

Chairman Turmail proposed that the Commission approve a payment of \$25 to allow the ANC to participate in the ANC Security Fund for 2021. (The Fund secures the Commission against misappropriation and negligent losses of funds by the Chairperson and Treasurer of the ANC for unpaid operating expenses.) He made a motion to vote making the \$25 payment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next meeting would be held Thursday, February 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 8:50 pm.