

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
July 9, 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 remotely.

All Commissioners were participating: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), Mary Young (3B04) and Brian Turmail (3B05).

Commissioner 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, who oversees Police Service Area (PSA) 204 covering Glover Park and Cathedral Heights, gave a brief report on police activity in the area over the preceding 30 days.. He announced that only 5 crimes had been reported in ANC3B during that time, : 1 burglary, 1 stolen auto, 1 theft from auto, and 2 other thefts. He also reported that MPD was seeing an increase in apartment burglaries near Woodley Road, mostly related to doors that were not secured, and thefts of autos or thefts from autos in PSA 205 (Foxhall/Wesley Heights). Compared to the usual 40% of stolen vehicles that involved electronic key fobs in the vehicle, MPD found that in recent weeks the share was 60%. Captain Bray urged that people not leave keys in the vehicle, or anything else of value.

Commissioner Young asked about whether MPD had gotten a video related to the front door lock being popped out at the Marlyn, 3901 Cathedral Avenue. Captain Bray said he had not but would look into it. Commissioners Young and Lane asked about residents’ reports of hearing gun shots in the previous week. Captain Bray said MPD had gotten 3 reports of the sound of gun shots in PSA 204 and had checked all the locations but had not found any damage or shell casings. Chairman Turmail asked about the status of investigations of looting and vandalism at the beginning of June. Captain Bray said MPD had made more arrests but was still working on about 150 cases, trying to making identify suspects, though the face masks and lack of clear surveillance photos were making that difficult.

Chairman Turmail mentioned the possibility of a longer discussion of policing, maybe in September. Captain Bray said he and MPD would be pleased to participate. Captain Bray also spoke briefly about discussions between MPD and the DC Council about provisions in the District’s emergency legislation on policing in June, and reported that CM Cheh had been working with MPD on some additional changes.

Grant Request from Friendship Place for AimHire Program

Chris Rutledge from Friendship Place presented a request for a grant of \$2,500 to purchase Giant Food and Rideshare gift cards for participants in the AimHire program, which helps formerly homeless individuals in the area find and keep jobs. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant.

Letter on installing a traffic signal at Wisconsin Avenue at Fulton Street

Commissioner Blumenthal presented a draft letter to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) supporting installing a traffic signal at Wisconsin Avenue at Fulton Street, in response to DDOT's Notice of Intent dated June 20, 2020. She noted that over the past decade ANC3B has asked DDOT for safety improvements at that intersection, where there are no traffic control devices and significant risks for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter, and the motion was seconded. The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter as presented.

Vote on Letter on Zoning Case #20214 Special Exception for Rear Deck Addition at 2211 38th Street

At the June ANC3B public meeting, the Commission heard presentations by the Applicants and adjoining neighbors and Chairman Turmail had announced that the Commission would take a vote at the July meeting if it needed to submit any further statement on the case to the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), before the July 29 BZA hearing. Chairman Turmail presented a proposed letter to the BZA saying that the ANC had heard presentations by all the parties as it had committed to do, and the Commission would maintain its position that because the adjoining neighbors do not support the application, the Commission would not support it. He explained that he had made one change to the wording in the first sentence of the draft he had shared, to say that it would "amend" instead of "update" the letter that ANC3B approved at its March meeting expressing opposition to BZA approval of the Special Exception. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter as presented.

Resolution RE Pepco Multiyear Rate Plan before the Public Service Commission (PSC)

On June 1, Pepco submitted a new request to the PSC in Formal Case 1156 proposing a series of short-term benefits to ratepayers to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency but continuing to ask for a significant rate increase in 2022 as well as approval of a new "Multi Year Rate Plan" (MRP) allowing Pepco to forecast its future costs as the basis for the next three years of rate increases. Commissioner Mladinov presented a proposed letter to the PSC recommending that it not support Pepco's application, including either the original MRP or the "enhanced" MRP Pepco presented on June 1, because it doesn't meet PSC standards for justifying an alternative approach to ratemaking, and it also has not taken into effect the changes in business and population growth, electricity use, operating expenses and investment needs in the wake of the pandemic. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter, and the motion was seconded. The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter as presented.

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail reported that the DC Council had taken its first vote on the city's FY2021 budget and had accepted the Mayor's proposal to appropriate funds for construction of a new elementary school on the site of the Old Hardy School, instead of using the funds for expansions at Stoddert Elementary School and Key Elementary School. ANC3B had sent a letter to oppose shifting those funds away from Stoddert which sorely needs additional space to deal with enrollment already 30% over capacity. Chairman Turmail said the ANC will continue to work with Stoddert's Parent Teacher Organization on that matter.

Open Forum

A resident on Cathedral Avenue asked about concerns about safety for pedestrians and others on the section of the street crossing Glover-Archbold Park including:

- a tree limb hanging over the sidewalk after a recent storm. Commissioner Young said she had called the city's arborist in DDOT and a crew was being dispatched to remove the branch and debris
- the crosswalk at the base of the hill, near the entrance to 4100 Cathedral Avenue, which is hard to see and very dangerous especially when so many people are walking during the COVID-19 emergency. Commissioner Young said she was checking regularly with DDOT on what it was doing on the ANC's repeated requests for traffic safety improvements in that portion of Cathedral Avenue.
- possibilities for DDOT to remove some parking spaces on the north side of Cathedral Avenue just west of the crosswalk, which reduce the ability to see pedestrians and also create difficulties in making safe turns from the entrance driveway into 4100 Cathedral.

Kate Weitzel, a DC resident and volunteer with Community Mediation DC, made a brief presentation about the free mediation services available from the organization. Mediation is voluntary and confidential. She provided a phone number to contact for service or referrals: 240-766-5311.

Stephen Marencic from the DC Office of People's Counsel (OPC) spoke briefly about the consumer services available from his office, and encouraged people with complaints or concerns about their utility services or bills to be in touch with OPC at 202-727-3071 or his email smarencic@op-dc.gov, or to check the website www.opc-dc.gov. He also emphasized that the District's emergency legislation prohibits late fees and disconnection of utilities during the COVID-19 emergency.

Janet Leppin, local resident and weaver, spoke about a new outdoor art project she hoped to submit to the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities for a Public Art Building Communities grant. She had spoken to the ANC in July 2019, which provided a letter of support for her application to install an outdoor art, at the time likely to involve a large wall mural in the Glover Park commercial area, but she explained that she ran into a technical glitch and had to delay her grant application to this year. She said she was thinking of something smaller, such as a free-standing sculpture, and she had spoken to Stoddert Elementary School about installing something near the bus stop in front of the school. She said she was collecting signatures in support of her effort. Chairman Turmail suggested that Ms. Leppin provide the new details about her proposed project and the Commission could discuss it at a future public meeting and send a new letter of support if needed.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the June 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 June:

June 2020 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$3,112.52

Income: \$3,455.05 DC Government Allotment for 1st Quarter FY 2020

Total Income: \$3,455.05

Outgoing: \$25.00. DC ANC Security Fund (Annual payment in January)

Total Outgoing: \$25.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$6,542.57

Commissioner Young presented the ANC3B Quarterly Report for the 3rd Quarter FY2020. Commissioner Turmail made a motion to vote on the quarterly report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the quarterly report as presented.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next meeting would be held Thursday, September 10, 2020, probably using remote technology. He committed that the Commission would announce the instructions or location of the meeting at least one week in advance.

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 7:55 pm.