

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



ANC3B Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2016

Chairman Blumenthal called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners Lane (3B03), Young (3B04), and Turmail (3B05) were present, which constituted a quorum. Commissioner Mladinov (3B01) was absent.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the agenda as proposed, the motion was seconded, and the agenda was and approved unanimously, 4-0.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal, evening supervisor for MPD Second District PSA 204, summarized the local crimes in PSA 204 for the preceding four weeks. He noted one burglary from the National Cathedral and one assault with a knife by a man who had stolen a lighter from the Rite Aid. Thefts (other than from autos) more than doubled compared to the comparable period in 2015 (32 in 2016 v. 15 in 2015), as did reports of stolen autos (6 in 2016 v. 3 in 2015). Lt. Neal noted, however, that most of the motor vehicles reported stolen were on or near the commercial area and the vehicles turned out to be parked in places the owners had forgotten. Lt. Neal also wanted to highlight suicide prevention. He reported there had been 4 or 5 suicides in the Second District in the previous week, most of them 60- or 70-year old males with health concerns. He recommended that people call the suicide prevention hotline (1-800-SUICIDE) if they or anyone they know is in distress and in potential danger of harming themselves.

Resolution Regarding Proposed Legislation to Provide Unpaid Family and Medical Leave in the District

At-large Councilmember Elissa Silverman gave a brief presentation on the draft Universal Paid Leave Act she is co-sponsoring, originally introduced in the Council in October 2015. She was joined by Hannah Weilbacher, a community organizer working for the legislation through the organization Jews United for Justice which is leading the campaign in the District and Maryland. The current draft calls for up to 12 weeks (not the original 16 weeks) of at least partially paid leave for workers who need to take care of family and medical needs including having a child. The bill proposes to cover people working for private companies and non-profits in the District. Those who are self-employed could opt not to participate. The coverage would be paid for through a 1% tax on those employers' total payrolls. Benefits would be a maximum of \$1500 per week, on a graduated scale: up to 50% of current earnings for higher income workers, and as much as 90% of earnings for those making twice the minimum wage or less.

Commissioner Young asked who would oversee the program. CM Silverman said that the DC Chief Financial Officer would administer the fund, but the bill does not specify the agency that would oversee the program including making eligibility determinations. Paul Holder, resident and managing partner of Town Hall restaurant expressed concern that the ANC had not invited any speakers opposed to the bill and also had not gotten input from the Glover Park-Cathedral Heights communities before putting a draft resolution on the agenda to support the legislation. With the assent of the other Commissioners, Chairman Blumenthal

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agreed to postpone consideration of the resolution, open a 30-day comment period for people in ANC3B to express their views on the legislation, and seek a representative of the business community who could offer a different perspective on the proposed bill.

Resolution Regarding Settlement Agreement with Rite Aid on Application for Class A Retail Liquor License

Rite Aid's District Manager John Watson and Rite Aid's attorney, Steve O'Brien of Mallios and O'Brien, were at the meeting to represent Rite Aid. Chairman Blumenthal explained that the ANC and Glover Park Citizens Association had supported extending the prohibition on Class A retail liquor licenses as part of renewing the Glover Park Liquor License Moratorium but in April the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) denied the request, after Rite Aid challenged the Class A provision. The ABC decision opened the way for Rite Aid to apply for a Class A license in order to sell beer, wine and spirits at their store in Glover Park. Chairman Blumenthal noted that the ANC's inclination was to oppose the liquor license, as most residents who submitted comments had requested, but the Commission decided to listen to what Rite Aid would offer and found them very professional and interested in being good neighbors. ANC3B was able to negotiate a settlement agreement with Rite Aid to be submitted to the ABC Board for approval, and not contest the Rite Aid liquor license request.

The settlement includes provisions for: limiting hours of sale of alcoholic beverages to 9 am-11 pm (7 days a week); programming all the cash registers so they don't allow alcohol sales outside those hours; calling for store areas displaying alcohol to be blocked off during other hours as much as possible; requiring that displays of alcohol on sale would not be visible from the street; allowing only one sign visible from the outside announcing sale of liquor but no advertisements or other promotions for alcoholic beverages to be displayed in the windows; prohibiting sales of kegs, fortified wines, individual containers of beer, and half pints or smaller containers of spirits; requiring Rite Aid to keep trash in closed containers and to clean and maintain the sidewalk in front of the store as well as in the tree box; requiring deliveries to be made through the loading dock behind the store if possible and for vehicles too large to use the loading dock to load and unload on Wisconsin Avenue only in non-rush hours; barring delivery vehicles double parking outside the store and requiring Rite Aid to refuse to accept deliveries from vehicles that are double parked.

Chairman Blumenthal introduced a resolution in support of Rite Aid's application for a Class A retail liquor license, subject to the terms of the settlement agreement. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve. Chairman Blumenthal and the Rite Aid representatives signed the settlement agreement as approved.

Grant Request from Iona Senior Services

Diane Greenspun, who works on partnerships and fundraising for Iona Senior Services, presented a request for a grant of \$325 to produce and distribute a fold-out guide, "Where to Find Food in Ward 3: Healthy Affordable Food Resources in Your Neighborhood," providing information for residents on where to find information and assistance on obtaining affordable food in an emergency, through stores and service programs. The organization DC Greens has produced similar guides for the other seven wards but did not prepare one for Ward 3. Ms. Greenspun noted that Ward 3 has the image of being a high income area where residents don't have economic challenges but the fact is that many people in Ward 3 are living on limited or fixed incomes and are at high risk of hunger and malnutrition. The plan is to print 1,000 copies of the guide in the spring and distribute the copies directly and discreetly to at-risk residents. The total cost of the project is \$1300. Because the project was not anticipated in the Iona budget, the organization is asking for grants of \$325 each from four ANCs. Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on the Iona grant request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

Ms. Greenspun said Iona would continue to seek other sources of funds to pay for printing more copies. Commissioners Young and Blumenthal pointed out said that ANC 3B currently has funds available and

would like to use them for grants to charitable organizations for projects to help the community so if Iona needs more than the requested \$325, they should submit another request. Iona, like other non-profit organizations, is eligible to receive up to \$2,500 from ANC3B in any one fiscal year.

Updates

Matt Wexler, Principal and Managing Partner of Foxhall Partners, gave an update on their project to renovate the Savoy Suites Hotel on Wisconsin Avenue and rename it the Kimpton Glover Park Hotel. He said the renovation will be completed in July. The new restaurant on the first floor of the hotel, Casolare, planned to open around that same time, operated by James Beard-winning Chef Michael Schlow (also known for Riggsby and the restaurant at the Carlyle Hotel in Dupont Circle). It will offer three meals a day to hotel guests and the public, featuring family-friendly menu with a focus on coastal Italian cuisine and pizza. The restaurant will be open for three meals per day. The Urban Athletic Club in the hotel is already open to guests and public members, expanded to more than 2,000 square feet. The ballroom (renamed the "Walnut Room") now has capacity for plated meals and other events. The hotel is interested in doing more in the community, including meetings and school events. Guitar player John Henry is returning for family friendly weekly Wednesday late afternoon performances on the terrace. The hotel also is offering neighbors a 15% discount on room charges, using the rate code "Glover."

Open Forum

No additional comments were offered.

Administrative Business

Chairman Blumenthal presented the minutes of the May meeting and moved to approve them. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as drafted.

Commissioner Young, ANC3B Treasurer, presented the Monthly Financial Report for May:

ANC3B May 2016 Financial Report

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$11,689.26

Income: \$2,928.40 received 5/31/16 from DC Auditor – 3rd Quarter 2016 Allotment

Expenses: Check #1256 for \$234.00 payable to DLM Web Management – 4 months of Website Updating and Management

Closing Balance: **\$14,383.66**

Treasurer Mary Young noted that the Office of the Auditor withheld \$2.31 from the quarterly allotment because they had a slightly different calculation in the petty cash account.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the financial report, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the next ANC3B meeting would be on Thursday, July 14. She noted that the meeting would include a panel discussion on the needs of senior citizens in the area and programs and services available to meet their needs, with representatives from the DC Office on Aging, Iona Senior Services, and others.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.