

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2017

Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05) were also in attendance, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed agenda for the meeting, and offered an addition of one item to the printed agenda: a resolution on the proposed changes to the DC Circulator route serving Glover Park. She moved to make that amendment to the agenda. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to make the addition to the agenda. The Chairman made a motion to vote on adopting the proposed agenda, with that amendment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda with the addition.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal reported on crime statistics for the 30 days between May 7 and June 7 in Police Service Area 204, including ANC3B. He noted that there had been little change in area crime over the previous 30 days in most categories but there had been an increase in burglaries in PSA 204, from 2 in 2016 to 4 in 2017. He spoke about a series of burglaries in Tenleytown that had been in the news, including one when the resident was at home and was injured. MPD is pursuing the evidence in those cases.

A neighbor brought up the problems for residents on Cathedral Avenue getting safely in and out of their driveways, where traffic is often going more than the speed limit and visibility is even more limited in the summer when the trees and vegetation along the street become so thick. She noted that after the ANC discussion earlier in the year about concerns with speeding in that area, MPD had placed a speed gauge along Cathedral Avenue near Glover-Archbold Park but it was only there for a couple of weeks, stopped working, and was removed. Lt. Neal asked if people would like a speed camera on Cathedral, which could be requested by the ANC or residents could petition. Chairman Blumenthal mentioned that it is not easy to get a speed camera, especially on a hill such as the hill along 4100 Cathedral Avenue. She asked about placing a traffic officer in that location, or signs to reduce speed with flashing lights, as often are installed in school zones. Lt. Neal said the ANC could petition DDOT to take those measures.

DC Water Presentation on Downspout Disconnection and Rain Barrel Programs in Glover Park

Lilia Ledezma, Green Infrastructure Public Outreach Coordinator for DC Water's Clean Rivers Project, led her team in presenting the short video, "A Drop's Life," about the threat of sewage overflows from Combined Sewers that serve some parts of the city and DC Water's program to reduce that problem. Bethany Bezak, Professional Engineer and Green Infrastructure Manager for the Clean Rivers Project, explained that much of Glover Park is served by a Combined Sewer system that handles waste water and stormwater through the same sewer pipes and, especially in rain or snowstorms, a lot of water drains from

our streets and properties into the storm drains which can cause sewage overflows into the rivers. In the next few years, DC Water will be installing rain gardens (“bioretention areas”), curb extensions and permeable parking lanes and alleys in several parts of Glover Park to reduce run-off.

Chairman Blumenthal asked Ms. Bezak when the Green Infrastructure improvements would be installed. Ms. Bezak said DC Water is just finishing the designs and will then get permits for the projects. The hope is DC Water will be installing rain gardens and permeable pavements by summer 2018. An interactive map at <https://www.dewater.com/projects/potomac-river-green-infrastructure-project> shows where specific projects are planned and whether a specific address is within the project area.

Ms. Bezak announced that in Glover Park, DC Water is now offering a new option: a voluntary program that allows residents to disconnect the downspouts that currently carry stormwater from their homes into the storm drains and instead to install free rain barrels to collect the water and make it available to water plants or use for other purposes.

Amanda Zander, Senior Public Outreach Coordinator for the Clean Rivers Project, demonstrated the rain barrels available to local property owners. The downspout disconnection and rain barrel program has started a pilot project in several other areas of the city, working with the Rock Creek Conservancy. Project representatives were scheduled to be at the Glover Park-Burleith Farmers’ Market on June 17 and coming to the neighborhood distributing flyers and going door to door to explain the options to residents. There is no cost or any work required for the residents; DC Water does everything, including disconnecting as many downspouts as the building has and connecting one rain barrel per building. Anyone who enrolls in the program automatically gets a discount on their DC Water bills.

In response to questions, the DC Water representatives explained that only properties within the area served by Combined Sewer systems are eligible for free downspout disconnection and rain barrels. No properties in Cathedral Heights are included. Anyone outside the project area can participate in separate programs managed by the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). DC Water is following the same standards and practices as DOEE. They will not disconnect a downspout if that would mean water would flow back into the building or property, so there should not be any effect on water problems or homeowner insurance. Philadelphia, Boston and Portland, OR, have similar programs that have worked effectively, and DC Water has tried to put together the best practices for the local project.

Grant Request from Iona Senior Services

Diane Greenspun of Iona Senior Services presented an application for a grant of \$850 to allow Iona to print copies of its new informational flyers for local residents, to explain the basic Iona services available to Ward 3 residents and ways for people in need or their families to make use of the services. The older trifold brochures Iona has been using are running out so the staff designed new materials and would like to print 5,000 copies each of their five new “rack cards” with information about particular needs and interests for seniors and caregivers. The project was not in the annual budget that Iona adopted last year so the staff has had to seek additional funds to cover the expenses. ANC3F has already approved a grant of \$850 for the same purpose. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the grant request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant.

Proposed Resolution Regarding Proposed Changes to the DC Circulator route serving Glover Park

Chairman Blumenthal introduced a resolution to oppose the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) proposal to change the route of the Georgetown-Union Station Circulator and eliminate the service on Wisconsin Avenue between M Street and Whitehaven Parkway. She explained that though the route only reaches a small part of the neighborhood and has not attracted a lot of riders, the option has been good for the local area; the Circulator service has been more reliable and also less expensive than Metrobuses

serving Glover Park, and the Metrobuses are usually very crowded. The resolution asks DDOT not to cut the Circulator service on Wisconsin Avenue, building on previous resolutions the ANC has adopted seeking to extend the service to Calvert Street, and then extend the service to the National Cathedral, which the city had been planning to do until this year.

Commissioner Mladinov read a message from the DDOT project director for the Circulator, Circe Torruellas, including DDOT's figures on the number of riders north of M Street and the shortage of buses to extend Circulator service. Commissioner Turmail commented that part of the problem with the number of buses available is that the city doesn't have a maintenance garage so many buses are not getting needed repairs and are out of service. A resident said that she had heard from people who've tried commuting on the Circulator and have found it slow and not reliable. The Chairman made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the resolution passed without objection.

Updates

Commissioner Turmail said that the FY2018 budget approved on a first vote by the DC Council [second vote scheduled June 13] would increase per pupil spending as the Commission had urged. The Council added a total of \$18.7 million to the Mayor's Budget for public education, including \$11.5 million for DCPS and \$7.2 million for public charter schools, and also put language in the budget to ensure that the additional funds are used for the specified purposes. He said that in a related matter, the Chancellor of DCPS is forming a community working group on overcrowding in Wilson High School and its feeder schools, including Stoddert Elementary and Hardy Middle School. DCPS is conducting an online survey on the subject of school overcrowding which residents are encouraged to take: <http://www.stoddert.org/2017/06/01/dcps-overcrowding-survey-please-take/>

Commissioner Mladinov said that DC Water is planning to begin a Meter Replacement Program in the area in August or September and DC Water would provide more information at ANC3B's July meeting.

Commissioner Young said that there should be an update in September on DC Water's prospective sewer rehabilitation project in Glover-Archbold Park. Chairman Blumenthal said that ANC3B would have DC Water come speak at a meeting when the options under consideration and the official environmental assessment are issued.

Chairman Blumenthal summarized DDOT's proposal for adding a traffic signal and lifting the no left turn restrictions at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Observatory Circle. Currently there is no legal or safe way to get to Glover Park or southbound Wisconsin Avenue from Massachusetts Avenue during rush hours. She asked residents to let DDOT know if they support the change, because there is an organized opposition.

One neighbor noted that the No Left Turn signs were gone already on outbound Massachusetts at Observatory Circle but Chairman Blumenthal explained that a gas company vehicle had knocked down the sign a few weeks before, so it was not officially removed.

Commissioner Young emphasized that it is essential to provide another route for traffic heading south from Massachusetts Avenue between the Naval Observatory and Idaho Avenue, because at this point the traffic is almost all taking Idaho Avenue south from Massachusetts to Cathedral Avenue, and those blocks are not suitable or safe for handling so many vehicles. One resident asked if left turns could be allowed at Massachusetts and Wisconsin, but Chairman Blumenthal explained that DDOT had investigated that intersection as well and determined that the sharp angle and the limited sight distance at that corner would

make that impossible. DDOT also looked at the intersection with Garfield Street but determined there is not enough space for a dedicated left turn lane and without a turn lane, traffic would become too congested.

Open Forum

A resident asked about the new city policy on parking meters for people with disabilities. Commissioner Mladinov said that the new Red Top Meter system had gone into effect [May 8, 2017]. Commissioner Young said that the red-top meters are downtown only, allow parking for vehicles with the appropriate placards or license plates or for up to 4 hours, and require everyone using them to pay at the meter. They are available for use only by people with disabilities. Vehicles with the placards or license plates can use any other meters downtown but have to pay the regular meter fees and can only park for two hours. Outside the Central Business District, people with disabilities can park in a metered space at no cost for up to 4 hours, as before

There were no other comments.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's May public meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as prepared.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for May:

ANC3B May 2017 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$7,625.31

Incoming: \$2.94 – Unused Grant Money returned by Stoddert PTO

Outgoing: \$0.00

CLOSING BALANCE \$7,628.25

Commissioner Young reported that she had talked again with the DC Office of the Auditor and the Commission would be receiving the funds that had been temporarily withheld from the District's allocation to ANC3B while the auditor reviewed use of funds to pay for fuel as part of the ANC's grant to Iona Senior Services for transportation stipends to seniors with severe disabilities.

Commissioner Young said that she was expecting \$404.16 in used grant funds from Wilson High School PTSO, which was required to return the funds to the Commission by June 9.

As required, Commissioner Young also announced an adjustment to the Commission's FY2018 budget in order to account for the cost of the ANC sound system purchased in March.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the report.

Chairman Blumenthal announced the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.