

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
June 10, 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.)

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the revised agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

Police Report. Lt. Paul Johnson, 2D, reported on crime in ANC3B during the past 30-day period compared to last year. In 2021 there were 21 reported crimes, up from 12 for the same time last year. All the reported crimes in 2021 were property crimes, not violent crimes—5 thefts from auto, 2 stolen autos, 13 other thefts, and 1 burglary. The increase was almost entirely attributable to general thefts, many of them along the Wisconsin Avenue corridor. Lt. Johnson reported that the burglary involved removing some computers from a commercial building overnight on Wisconsin Avenue at the podcast studios, which are located in the building with Point Chaud Café. He also noted that with bars and restaurants open, a lot more people are out, especially at night, and that is generally leads to an increase in thefts and other crimes. He said MPD was assigning more officers in areas like Dupont Circle and Wisconsin Avenue and would be patrolling more frequently.

Presentation from DC Office of Human Rights (OHR)

Ajan Brown, Community Engagement Specialist for OHR, spoke about the work of the agency and the protections DC offers for vulnerable populations, including rights related to housing, public spaces, employment and educational institutions. District law provides for more protected traits than many other jurisdictions including race, sex, national origin, religion, disability, age, personal appearance, political affiliation, income, familial status. OHR’s focus is on education and awareness to prevent discrimination, increase equal opportunity, and protecting civil rights. He described mandatory mediation services, investigation, legal review and quasi-judicial Human Rights Commission processes when there is a probable cause that discrimination took place. (OHR jurisdiction does not cover federal agencies, WMATA, MPD, or DC Courts. OHR is also not responsible for on-the-spot enforcement when individuals experience a violation of local human rights laws. Mr. Brown recommended that residents continue to contact MPD in those instances.

OHR has developed a program for youth bullying prevention, the Fair Chance initiative for returning citizens, a nationally-recognized poster campaign to prevent discrimination against transgender individuals, and a study and report to the DC Council on street harassment (email nostreetharassment@dc.gov).

Rosa Carrillo and Alkindi Kadi of OHR provided information about the Language Access program which assists individuals who require translation or interpretation to apply for and receive District services. The program covers any agency or organization responsible for delivering services using District funding. Six languages are mandatory—Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Chinese/Cantonese, Korean and Ethiopian-Semitic, and OHR can help identify sources for interpreting oral communications and translating written documents into other languages that may be required. OHR also has the capacity to help identify where language barriers are making it difficult for constituents to participate in District government services and other activities and how to let them know about language access services. More information on all OHR services is available at <https://ohr.dc.gov/>

They explained that ANCs are not covered by the same requirements as service agencies under that law, but when the ANC law was amended in 2016, it provided for ANCs to be reimbursed for translation and interpretation services required by residents and Commissioners in relation to ANC proceedings or documents. The DC Council recently established a fund that OHR administers to provide reimbursements of the costs, for example, if ANCs arrange for language services at public meetings.

Resolution to Support Amended Settlement Agreement with Breadsoda at 2233 Wisconsin Avenue

At the June ANC meeting, Breadsoda had presented a request to amend its settlement agreement with ANC3B to allow extending the hours of their food and beverage service in their outdoor space, as well as ambient music which has been allowed during COVID-19. The bar and restaurant has a small lower patio as well as space on the upper patio, which is currently able to offer service until 1 am daily. Breadsoda would like to extend the outdoor service hours to 2 am weekdays and 3 am on Friday and Saturday nights, matching the hours of their indoor service, and continue to offer ambient music outdoors. The Commission had opened a 30-day public comment period, and Commissioner Jackie Blumenthal said the comments received had been largely positive. All concerns that were noted had been addressed in the proposed amended settlement agreement. Commissioner Blumenthal presented a resolution to amend the ANC's settlement agreement with Breadsoda to extend the hours as requested, and then asked for questions. In response to a question about recourse if there are complaints, she explained that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board governs enforcement of liquor licenses, and they have certain standards for protests, which can be difficult to meet. Another option would be mediation. The business has been a long-time part of the neighborhood, the owner and manager are usually on-site and they have been very responsive to any calls or concerns. The ambient music is required to be contained on the premises. (That does not apply to the sound of human voices.) Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Presentation by Glover Park Main Street (GPMS) about Streetlight Banners and Other Improvements

Kate Dean, Executive Director of GPMS, provided updates on multiple projects the Main Street program is undertaking this summer the Glover Park commercial area on Wisconsin Avenue, including painting, power-washing and repairs at the entrance to the area, around the gas station and cleaners on the west side of the street at Calvert and Wisconsin, and also on the other side of the street by the Whole Foods, Chase Bank, and Sprig and Sprout, to improve that “gateway” for people entering Glover Park from the north. She also described the proposal to install 30 vertical banners on streetlight poles along Wisconsin Avenue to build the identity and appeal of the Glover Park commercial area, create a greater sense of place, and increase foot traffic and business. The Main Street is applying to DDOT for permission to install the banners. She presented the design GPMS developed based on conversations and survey results. The banners are not highlighting the Main Street organization but the image and character of the area. With a public space permit for the installation, GPMS will be able to change the banners for different seasons or activities. Ms. Dean said that GPMS did not require the support of the ANC to apply for a public space permit, but wanted to share the information about the plans. She asked for questions and comments.

Residents asked about the renovation of Whole Foods, which is progressing toward reopening. Another question related to whether “streateries” for outdoor dining will continue to operate on Wisconsin Avenue. Ms. Dean explained that the District's approval for “streateries” extends to late October and could be continued, if customers still want to eat outdoors rather than indoors. She also spoke about new businesses coming into the commercial area. While several large spaces are still open for new businesses, two new projects have been confirmed for retail establishments: The Coba project at the former Georgetown Carpet store and in Petra project at the former Pearson's parking lot, will be the site of high-end design-oriented businesses related to

Stone countertops and fixtures for the home. These will build on and enhance the strength of furnishing and other design-oriented business in Glover Park, including architects and design firms in the office buildings on Wisconsin and also Theodore's and Ligne Roset that have been part of the commercial area for decades. Ms. Dean noted that design businesses tend to be neighborhood-friendly and generate daytime foot traffic. She also mentioned that GPMS has a concept for creating public art to welcome people to Glover Park, by projecting a creative image on an upper wall at the north entrance to the commercial area. GPMS is hoping to arrange that.

Presentation of Request for \$2,500 Grant for Feed the Family Pantry

Barbara Ferris of the 501(c)3 International Women's Democracy Center presented a request for a grant of \$2,500 to purchase a laptop computer, printer, and bags for use at their new Feed the Family Pantry, which has recently opened to offer food and household supplies to families in need during the difficult times caused by the pandemic. The pantry is located in Ward 3, using space at the back of the former RiteAid near Van Ness Metro. It serves households from ANC3B and other parts of the District who otherwise would not be able to fill their needs during this difficult time. Because the COVID-19 emergency legislation amended the District law to allow ANC grants to pay for food and other humanitarian assistance for residents District-wide, the Commission can approve grant requests to purchase food and supplies for recipients outside the ANC area and also to pay for other materials needed to support distribution of the humanitarian assistance. The laptop and printer are essential for the effective recordkeeping and management of the pantry's function to distribute the food and supplies and provide humanitarian assistance, as are the bags to hold food being provided to clients. Chairman Turmail asked for questions and comments. He made a motion to take a vote on the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the grant.

Presentation by DC Health Link about savings available on health insurance under federal Rescue Plan

Kishan Putta, Commissioner in ANC 2E01 in Burleith and also Community Outreach Specialist for DC Health Link – the District's program for carrying out the Affordable Care Act -- presented the opportunities being offered to District residents through funding provided under the "American Rescue Plan." The new benefits include: a) even lower premiums for 2021 and 2022 for those enrolled for health insurance through DC Health Link, regardless of their income; b) as a temporary benefit for laid-off workers, health plans for as little as \$2 per month with no deductibles; c) COBRA at no cost for workers who were laid off and got unemployment, unless they have Medicaid, Medicare, or employer-provided insurance through the end of the year. For more information see www.dchealthlink.com

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail reported that he had participated in the most recent meetings of the Community Working Group looking at DC Public School (DCPS) plans to construct a new elementary school near Foxhall Road, wrapped around the Old Hardy School Building and occupying 13-15% of the Hardy Recreation Center property. As he reported at the ANC May meeting, the initial discussions indicated that the new Foxhall School would affect about half of the students attending Stoddert Elementary. He did not convince the CWG to vote not to build the proposed new Foxhall School, but the Mayor's Proposed Budget for 2022 did once again include \$25 million for a construction project at Stoddert. DCPS Chancellor Ferebee said the funding was only to replace the demountables now in place at Stoddert with permanent classrooms, not to expand capacity. Chairman Turmail noted that two new portables were being sent to Stoddert, and it was not clear what the Mayor's budget would cover or what the Chancellor would do with the funds.

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the WMATA Board was still considering possible changes in Metrobus service for the fall. The changes on June 6 had increased service on the 31 and 33, and maintained almost all the cross-town bus service on the 30N and 30S but those two routes were still under threat. DDOT recently shared a request for comments on its master plan, with no mention of a route extending further up Wisconsin Avenue.

Commissioner Mladinov also mentioned that the Mayor's declaration of a Public Emergency for COVID-19 was extended through July 25. The greatest concern about lifting the emergency declaration was that it would start a countdown toward the date when utility disconnections and evictions would be allowed due to non-payment of utility bills or rent. The District's StayDC program, funded by hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government, was designed to help residents by covering 12 to 15 months of rent or utility bills, if

households apply in time. If not enough people sign up by the end of September, a large share of the funds will be lost and residents will lose their chance to get the assistance and avoid eviction.

Open Forum

A question in the Chat asked about whether ANCs would be able to hold “hybrid” (combined in-person and virtual) public meetings in the future. Chairman Turmail asked Tony Donaldson from the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations if the District was considering adopting a change in the law to allow that, because remote technology had helped residents and Commissioners be able to participate during the months of the COVID-19 emergency. Nothing had been announced yet though the Council could take up the issue. Commissioner Mladinov noted that the DC law covering ANCs only requires the Commissioners to be present in order to be counted for a quorum and cast votes; ANCs could allow residents to participate in “hybrid” meetings using virtual technology, without a change in the law. using “virtual” technology.

A resident asked if there had been a traffic study of the new Kindercare at the corner of Wisconsin and Calvert. Commissioner Blumenthal said the facility was not open yet, but Kindercare had proposed pick-ups and drop-offs using the small rear parking area.

Stephen Marencic of the DC Office of the People’s Counsel (OPC) announced that on June 4, the DC Public Service Commission had reached a vote in the Pepco rate case and approved Pepco’s request to adopt a Multiyear Rate Plan based on forecasts of costs instead of requiring Pepco to submit the costs it has incurred and get approval for increasing rates to cover its actual costs year by year. He said OPC was shocked because no one involved in the case other than Pepco had supported the request. (ANC3B had voted in July 2020 to oppose the adoption of a Multiyear Rate Plan, particularly during the COVID-19 emergency.)

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the May 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 May:

May 2021 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$14,282.77

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 1,475.00 Check for Grant to Stoddert Parent-Teacher Organization

\$ 2,500.00 Check for Grant to DC Food Project

Total Outgoing \$ 3,975.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$10,307.77

Chairman Turmail announced the next meeting would be on July 15, when the Commission would hear updates from DDOT on potential options for changes to bike facilities on the New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Street corridor.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.