

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of March 4, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

Timestamp	Agenda Items
0:00:00	Call to Order
0:00:45	Approval of Agenda
	Police Report (Not discussed)
0:02:04	Old Business
0:02:04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning Variance Request, 3929 Fulton St
0:21:19	New Business
0:21:19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution Opposing WMATA's Threatened Cuts to Bus and Metro Lines
0:27:28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution in Support of Funding for the District's Village Programs
0:32:41	Updates and Information
0:34:03	Open Forum
0:34:03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashlee Mercer, Ward 3 Councilmember Frumin's Office
0:38:09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other Community Concerns
0:44:04	Administrative Matters

Call to Order [0:00:00]

Blumenthal: Okay, it's 7 o'clock. Welcome to the meeting of ANC 3B that is scheduled at a different time because we want to make a deadline for tomorrow. We have noticed the neighborhood a week in advance about this change of time, and hope it has not inconvenienced anyone.

Approval of Agenda [0:00:45]

Blumenthal: I need to have an approval of the agenda.

Carroll: So moved.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Oh, actually, I have to back up. I have to say that we-- Commissioner Lane, Commissioner Carroll, Commissioner Lavezzo, Commissioner Bergmann, and me, Commissioner Blumenthal, are all here. Commissioner Howie is unable to attend tonight. However, four people constitutes a quorum, so we have a quorum to do our business. Now I will take Kevin's motion to approve the agenda. Do I have a--

Lane: Second.

Blumenthal: Melissa seconds. All in favor? Okay, the agenda is approved. Our next thing is usually our police report, but do we have Lieutenant Johnson here, or anyone?

Lane: No, not yet.

Blumenthal: All right, well if he shows up we'll interrupt and allow him to come in. But it may be the change of date has him off. The first-- Let me remind everyone to mute your microphones, and do not put your cameras on until you're called on, so that the only people we should see on the screen are the commissioners. Thank you.

Old Business [0:02:04]

Zoning Variance Request, 3929 Fulton St [0:02:04]

Blumenthal: The first order of business is postponed from last month, and it's a zoning variance request. Commissioner Carroll, do you want to see if these people are here?

Carroll: He is here. Bert, I haven't met in the flesh, but he's on. Bert Meekins is representing the property on Fulton Street. Why don't you tell us what you're up to over there, and what it is that you want out of the Zoning Board, and we'll go from there.

Meekins: Yeah, thank you. Bert Meekins, I work for R. Michael Cross Design Group. I'm the project designer for 3929 Fulton. We're in a kind of a different situation on this corner, where we are trying to provide parking for a proposed two-unit building, from a conversion from a single family. We are working with DDOT to try and get a curb cut to provide the two spaces off of, not Fulton, but the street behind it. However, if that falls through, the only way to keep this project moving is to get BZA relief from parking altogether because of the condition of the site. So in

any case, both of those apps require us to notify the ANCs, and so that's why we're here, hopefully to garnish your support.

Carroll: So a couple of questions. I walked the property the other day, and it's currently, based on the electrical provided to it, it's actually a four-unit building. I think it's probably four ones, four one-bedrooms. But, you know, I've never been in the building. It's been vacant for a while. As a general matter, I think at the risk of speaking for my fellows, we'd rather have buildings with people in them than not. Would rather provide housing than not. There's been some confusion about the actual zoning for it, between both people who have commented to me, but I think it's actually rental housing is permitted there. I mean, multi-family housing is permitted there. So I don't think it requires a variance for the number of units that you want.

Meekins: That's right.

Carroll: It would actually be a decrease in the number of units. And having looked at the property, I agree with you that a curb cut would be like right abutting the alley, which would be a little bit odd, so it would be problematic. But, you know, we have not yet heard from the Zoning Board as the ANC through our official notification process. So we're just trying to get a sense of what you're doing there. There is a process that they have for notifying neighbors, I think is required. As it turns out, what you're doing is right outside my bedroom window. Just so you know.

Meekins: Yeah. Yeah, I think you had notified me of that. And just to clear things up a little bit, the reason that we have not-- We're hoping to get the curb cut from Watson Place, and so I think that our client is pushing that agenda first. Parking is good for the client and the future residents, and just for the neighborhood in general. So if that falls through, I believe that their plan of action is then to, like, we have an application number for the BZA. We're ready to go with everything. They just haven't made their payment to then proceed with the neighbor notification process, and all of that stuff moving forward. So I guess we're really here tonight on behalf of the Public Space Community application.

Blumenthal: And the public space application is related to the curb cut?

Meekins: Correct, yes. And that curb cut is technically from-- Well, the one that we're looking at is from Watson Place, although the property is on Fulton.

Blumenthal: And what is it that you want us to do tonight?

Meekins: We're hoping that you would be able to support the project.

Blumenthal: The curb cut, or the whole thing?

Meekins: The curb cut. I don't think we have the ability to ask you to support a project that doesn't have a BZA application yet. But, yeah, so we're here for the PSC tonight.

Blumenthal: Okay, because I think we've been a little confused on what we're supposed to be doing. How much parking would the curb cut allow you to have?

Meekins: One space per unit, so two full spaces total.

Blumenthal: So you're going to have four units in there?

Meekins: So we're proposing a two-unit building.

Blumenthal: Oh, two units, sorry.

Meekins: Yeah. I think there's some confusion about whether it's currently a four-unit or a single-family. I think that maybe at one point it was split into four units, but I think--

Cross: I can speak to that. Sorry, Michael Cross. I'm actually an architect on this team. And this building is currently four units, and we are converting it to two units. Which is sort of ironic in that, by that conversion we actually increase our parking requirement based on how the regulations are written. The apartment house use doesn't require parking for the first four units. Only after the first four units do they require parking at a ratio of one to three. But in this particular case, when we convert it to these two units, we increase our parking because of the way the code's written for flats. It then needs one, at least one space for flats. We're proposing to provide two. And we'd be proposing to provide two with the curb cut. If we're unable to get the curb cut, then we are prepared to seek a relief for that one parking space. And, you know, as Bert mentioned, we are here tonight for the Public Space Committee application for the curb cut. But obviously would appreciate your support for the project as a whole for this and future presentations to you, if we need to come back for the BZA.

Blumenthal: Well, I don't think we can give you our approval for things we don't know what we're being asked to approve. And with regard to the curb cut, our experience has been that neighbors are happy for you to put parking on your property, because it keeps cars off the street and they don't have to compete if they don't have their own parking availability. So that, in my view, would be my plus for the curb cut. I just don't know exactly where the curb cut would be, and that's something Kevin, that Commissioner Carroll could speak to that.

Carroll: I was wondering if Michael or Bert had a plat that we could look at. I mean, my sense of it, in just a quick visual, was that any curb cut would likely come quite close to the mouth of the existing alley because of the strange configuration of Watson Place. And so I think that you may run into trouble from the Department of Transportation's perspective, as to whether or not they're going to allow you a curb cut that close to the mouth of the alley. I honestly don't know what the rules are, but I'm just, you know my gut says that they may have a problem. And of course any curb cut is usually about the length of one car, so you're really only gaining one parking space. It's a minimum of one. So do you have a plat or something you can show us? Share the screen?

Vilsack: Jackie, I'm a neighbor. May I ask for clarification on something?

Blumenthal: Sure, while he's looking for the plat, go ahead.

Vilsack: My name is Carol Vilsack. I'm a local neighbor to 3929. I'm just, I'm confused, sir, as to what exactly is the ask? Is the ask for relief from a curb cut? Or to request a curb cut? Because I do think that there is-- That 3929 is sort of on a triangular piece, so I think you are on Fulton, but the curb cut would be off the alley on Watson. And I think there already is parking.

Meekins: Yeah, so I think showing this will help.

Vilsack: Okay.

Meekins: I think, yeah, showing this-- If I can share my screen real quick, that would be most helpful for this.

Vilsack: But please clarify, sir, just to level set, are you asking for relief? Or are you asking this ANC commission to approve the curb cut? I'm unclear as to what exactly the ask is.

Cross: We're looking for support for a curb cut.

Blumenthal: Carol, they want the curb cut. They want us to approve it.

Cross: Or to support it.

Blumenthal: Support it, sorry.

Meekins: Can you see my screen here?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Meekins: The plan on the left is the existing, and this preliminary site plan on the right is our current proposal for a curb cut. So you can see that it is perpendicular to Watson Place Northwest, and that allows future residents to be able to pull in and access both of these spaces here.

Blumenthal: Where's that alley people were talking about?

Meekins: So the alley is actually not part of this property. You can see that there's an existing walkway that kind of has some stairs that steps up this way. And you can't see it here, but it's going to be right in this space that I'm kind of highlighting over here. So that's not quite an option for us, unfortunately.

Blumenthal: So the curb cut, the only thing the curb cut will do is cut into potential parking space in front of the property there? Is that correct?

Meekins: It might. Yeah, I actually don't know what the parking situation on Watson Place is off the top of my head.

Carroll: It's standard zone two restriction, I think.

Meekins: Okay.

Carroll: So you would lose one parking space, at least. Again, the alley, I think the end of those stairs is about where the alley is. You know, I'm doing this from memory, but there is parking behind the building shown to the right here, which is 3925, 26, whatever. 25, 27, something like that.

Blumenthal: All right, so my thought is you might be doing this backwards, but you need to tell us if it's part of your timing problem. Because we generally have not had to deal with the parking issue and the curb cut until-- Unless this is a, you know, there's no need for variances or anything for the entire project and you'll never need to come back to us again, is that true?

Cross: If the curb cut is approved by DDOT at the Public Space Committee level, the rest of the project is matter of right.

Blumenthal: Matter of right, that's what I thought. Okay. All right. All right, I'm fine on this. Do other commissioners have questions?

Carroll: Yeah, I don't have any questions. I don't think that we've been contacted by DDOT for an opinion on this.

Meekins: Yeah, go ahead.

Blumenthal: No, you speak.

Meekins: We're pushing forward with the application, so I'm not sure exactly when they reach out to you guys about it. We do have an application number, and have been working with them.

Cross: Bert, can we provide that application number here, and then we'll confirm that they're assigned in the reviews offline?

Meekins: Certainly, yep, I can do that right now. If you guys are okay with it, I'm going to stop sharing my screen.

Blumenthal: Okay, okay. I want to know if there are any other questions from commissioners? Carol, are you fine now with your answers? Do you have your answers?

Vilsack: No, I'm more confused than I was at the start, but that's okay. Because if you understand, that's fine. But, sir, I just want to ask the architect, is the ask for a curb cut to come in, I assume it's where the garbage cans are right now for that property? So that entire triangular piece of property belongs to 3929? I was mistaken. I thought part of that belonged to the city, but that entire, it looks like the plat shows that entire piece belongs to the new owners, which is fine. But I'm not understanding why the parking does not come in off of the alley, that you're asking for a curb cut to come in off the street. It seems to me to be confusing. That's my confusion, sir. That's all I'm trying to clear up.

Cross: It is not surprising that you're confused, because we've actually had to work with the owner to try to explain this situation. This alley does not actually-- Sorry, this property does not actually abut the alley. I'm going to try to share-- I'm gonna try to share--

Vilsack: Okay, I'll go back again. Okay, I believe you. But if you're asking for a curb cut to come in off the street, I do believe that-- Okay, then let's wait for that DDOT and then-- Okay, thank you so much. As a citizen, I'm fine I think. Are you adding a story to this building for private families? This is private ownership? Are you adding a third story? Because I couldn't find the--

Meekins: We are currently proposing a third story. That's not the full footprint. It does set back a little bit.

Blumenthal: But Carol, all of that is matter of right so we will have no say on that.

Vilsack: Understood. I'm just trying to-- Understood, I'm just trying to understand how this parking spot is coming in. Thank you so much. I appreciate this.

Carroll: Michael? If you want to share screen, Bert's got to stop.

Meekins: Mine is not responding. I'm really not sure what's going on. Are you-- I'm gonna rejoin the meeting. I just want to say one thing really quick. So it does say that you guys have been contacted.

Blumenthal: Oh, there you go. He'll come back. He'll come back in. He said he was going to rejoin. But we have not received any contacts from DDOT, which doesn't necessarily mean anything, since DDOT's not the greatest agency to deal with.

Lane: But it would show us a specific ask with pictures and things, so we know exactly what we're--

Blumenthal: What's your time frame on this? When is DDOT taking this up?

Cross: I believe, unfortunately, that's part of the information that he had pulled up just then. I can probably pull it up here as well.

Blumenthal: Melissa, has he come back yet?

Lane: He's here.

Blumenthal: Okay, put him in.

Meekins: Sorry about that.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Meekins: Did you hear any of that? I just was trying to update you on the status of the DDOT application.

Blumenthal: We heard you say that it says that we got it, but we didn't.

Meekins: Okay, so I have-- So the things I said after that hopefully were more helpful. I have the tracking number for you guys to work with, and then I can let them know tomorrow that you haven't been contacted.

Blumenthal: What is the time frame, Bert? Like, do we have to decide tonight in order to--

Meekins: So I believe that our Public Space Committee meeting is towards the end of April. I don't have that exact date off the top of my head.

Blumenthal: Okay, I think it might make sense if we just bring this up in April once we see the DDOT thing. And you don't necessarily need to come back unless we have a problem. We can let you know about that.

Meekins: Understood. Okay, yep, it's on the 25th here.

Blumenthal: Okay, does that make sense to everybody on the commission?

Lane: Yes.

Blumenthal: Okay, so that's what we will do. We will track the DDOT application, we will share it among each other. We will talk about it. We've already had our public hearing allowing the public to participate in this conversation, so we know people's concerns. And we will be able to make a decision in April, at our April meeting.

Meekins: Thank you. Sorry for all of the initial confusion there.

Blumenthal: That's all right. Sorry, some of it's ours too. All right, but thank you very much for coming and explaining this to us.

Meekins: Of course.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Cross: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you.

New Business [0:21:29]

Resolution Opposing WMATA's Threatened Cuts to Bus and Metro Lines [0:21:29]

Blumenthal: The next issue we're taking up is a resolution opposing the drastic cuts threatened by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration, fiscal year '25, 2025 budget. And we have a resolution that makes the case that we have been making now for several years, that our bus system is essential to this neighborhood, to Cathedral Heights. To Glover Park, Cathedral Heights, and Wesley Heights. We have no Metro access. We need our buses, and they continually try to cut our buses, and we are standing up for, not only the same bus service, but better bus service if possible. This is a difficult situation, because a lot of it has to do with increasing the budget put up by the District, Virginia and Maryland. The District has offered I think an extra 200 million dollars above its subsidy. Virginia today got a step closer to ensuring that they will increase their subsidy as well. And I think Maryland may have already done that. So it is our hope that WMATA will go back and revisit the drastic cuts that did away with almost every bus that we depend on in this neighborhood, and reconsider that. The comment period for WMATA ends tomorrow, close of business, which is why we're having this meeting tonight. And the resolution basically urges WMATA to restore the bus routes, improve them if possible, particularly in terms of reliability and frequency. And we're also endorsing a letter that was sent to WMATA from Mayor Bowser and Council Chairman Mendelson that urges WMATA to handle its budget better, and to be short about it. One of our concerns is that there's, in order to meet the budget needs, there are fare raises proposed. But there aren't similar raises proposed for parking at Metro. And this is a very unprogressive approach to raising money. So we are endorsing a more fair and equitable approach to increasing revenues and supporting the attempt by the Mayor and the Council to have WMATA pay more attention to its budget, in terms of serving people and not expanding its service unnecessarily where it shouldn't be. So that's my statement, but I think other commissioners should make statements as well if they would like to. Commissioner Carroll, your hand is up.

Carroll: Yes, thank you. I certainly would like to move that we approve the resolution as we drafted and discussed. And I appreciate our Chairperson's drafting and editing services in that regard. And I think it really--Commissioner Blumenthal actually summarized it pretty well, I think

that that summarizes our concerns. We want better bus service, and despite the fact that they talked about their plan being better bus service, it doesn't seem that that's the direction that we're headed in. I think the only other point that I would make is that the Mayor and the Council have underscored that this is really in some ways a temporary fix. And we, you know, would really like to get a better system of funding WMATA overall as part of the long-run goal. This will fix it for this year, but we're going to continue to visit these problems until we have a better funding formula.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Any other commissioners want to make a comment?

Lavezzo: Just real quick, I put a link to the budget survey in the chat. So if you haven't done so yet, please pop on there and put your input in that way as well.

Blumenthal: Yeah, because the most important thing is the number of comments they get. And since we have done this over and over again, we are sort of low on comments this time around. People are pretty burned out fighting for buses that they keep trying to take away from us. Any comments from participants in this meeting? Please raise your hand, and we will call on you. No? All right, someone want to move? Kevin, Commissioner Carroll, you already moved that we approve this, right? And then Commissioner Lane has seconded. All in favor? Okay, motion carries 5-0, with one absent. We will get this resolution to WMATA tomorrow before close of business.

Resolution in Support of Funding for the District's Village Programs [0:27:28]

Blumenthal: The next issue is a resolution in support of funding for the District's Village program. And we have Patricia Clark here from the program, who will just do a quick little summary of why you need the funding, and then we'll take it up. Pat?

Clark: Yeah, I don't know if you know about Villages, but we formed this about 14 years ago. It's managed by volunteers. There are 12 others in DC. We're one of three that's volunteer managed. And it's free, everything we do is free. So we provide services like taking people to doctor's appointments, having social events, or learning events so that people can get both mental stimulation and relieve their social isolation. Social isolation is one of the worst things that people can experience, and it cuts years off their lives. And we have people in the neighborhood who are volunteers who provide the services. But we've used the DACL grant to hire a couple of really very part-time people who have specialized skills so that we can solidify our internal workings and position ourselves to grow, which we are growing quite a bit lately. So does anyone have any questions about that?

Blumenthal: Well, let's talk about the grant. Do you expect that they will give you the grant? Or is it threatened with cuts? I know there's some budget issues going on in the District right now.

Clark: Yeah, nobody will tell us that.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Clark: We're hoping that they don't cut it, but there's just worry that they might. We were operating on a real shoestring up until we started getting grants from DACL. And the money is split equally amongst the 13 Villages, so each Village gets its own pot of an equal amount of money. Some of the other Villages are very large, and do a lot of fundraising, and get a lot of grants. And we give a lot of services, but we really depend on this grant to pay for the specialized help that we need to operate like a, you know, like a social service organization, which is kind of what we are.

Blumenthal: And do you know, do you have an approximate number about how many seniors you've been helping keep stay in their homes? I don't have a cumulative number, but at any given time we have from 75 to 100, or 120 people who've signed up with us. There comes a time in many people's lives where they need help, three different kinds of help, four or five times a week. And so we have a few of those people where we're just constantly taking them to the doctor, and getting them groceries, and getting their medications and all that stuff. But, you know, we have a lot of people. I don't know if any of you have come to our events. We have lots of events. One that was surprisingly very popular was Mitch Waldrup, who's a neighbor, and a writer, a science writer, has written a book about the start of the universe, the cosmos. And he did two lectures last fall, and we were just thrilled and amazed at the large number of people that came to hear those. But we have a lot, like we had a couple days ago we had Bob Levy from the old-- He used to be with the Washington Post, who gave a talk and that went very well. It was well attended. But we have a wide variety of subject matter that we have people-- And the people who talk for us, or give classes or whatever, are also volunteers.

Blumenthal: Okay, any commissioners have other questions for Pat? Any of the participants in the meeting want to ask a question, or make a comment? Raise your hand if you do. All right, well we have a resolution that we will send to the Department of Aging and Community Care in support of keeping your funding and possibly even increasing it, which we will get out as soon as we decide to pass it. I guess I need somebody to make a motion to approve our resolution.

Bergmann: I move to approve the resolution.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Commissioner Bergmann.

Carroll: I'll second Ben's motion.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor? Motion carries 5-0. Good Luck. We hope you get the grant. Please let us know when you do.

Clark: Okay, thank you.

Blumenthal: You're welcome.

Updates And Information [0:32:41]

Blumenthal: So I have one small update, and that is about dogs on Stoddert Field. There is a real problem with dog poop and kids shoes, and parents being very angry about it. Dogs are officially banned from the field. It's a Department of Public Recreations property, and they do not allow dogs on their properties except in approved dog parks, as we have over by Guy Mason. So I am just giving the word out that there will be more enforcement coming because of the problems on that field. And dog owners, at a minimum, if they're going to still use that field, better pick up their poop, because it's causing a huge problem. That's my update. Anybody else have something? Yes, Commissioner Lavezzo?

Lavezzo: Similar vein, the community garden is also NPS land. And, you know, often there are dogs down there running free and pooping, and the owners aren't picking it up, which is not as much of a problem as with Stoddert, because it's less used for that reason. But also worth mentioning that, you know, dog owners that are down there, that an animal has to be on a leash, and you need to clean up after your dog, please. Thank you.

Open Forum [0:34:03]

Ashlee Mercer, Ward 3 Councilmember Frumin's Office [0:34:03]

Blumenthal: Thank you. Okay, if there are no other updates from us, is there anybody of the participants who wants to speak in open forum? Just raise-- Okay, Councilmember Frumin's Office?

Mercer: Hello, how are you guys doing?

Blumenthal: Fine, thank you. Please share your information.

Mercer: Sure, so we have the-- Save the date for Work Day in the Ward, and I put it in the chat as well. Thursday, March 28th at Compass Coffee in Spring Valley, from 8:00 to 5:00. Let's see. And stay tuned for more information related to budget oversight hearings, and more feedback following the mayor's transmission of the FY fiscal year '25 budget on March 20th. Councilmember Frumin's budget letter is forthcoming. It will be posted to our website and shared via our newsletter when available. And Wilson Pool, a statement from DGS and DPR. The Department of General Services, in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, is pleased to provide an update on the HVAC replacement project at the Wilson

Aquatic Center. This 2.5 million project is steadily progressing with all necessary HVAC components arriving, and construction beginning in January. The scope will include new rooftop units, fans, and duct work. DGS is also redesigning the HVAC system to allow for more efficient and timely maintenance and inspection. In addition to the HVAC replacement and redesign, DGS is evaluating additional repairs before a spring 2024 reopening. DGS and DPR will announce a planned reopening date as we get closer to completion, so please definitely look forward to our newsletter as we will be posting updates there as well. And if you have any issues or concerns, and are having trouble getting a response from the appropriate government agency, please reach out to our office and a member of our constituent services team can assist. And I posted it in the chat.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you. We always do reach out to your office, and your office always helps.

Mercer: Yes, did you-- Did Lauren reach out? I know this is off topic, but did Lauren reach back out to you about the graffiti, and who you could contact directly?

Blumenthal: Yeah, we went back and forth. We're having a bit of a problem with that because 311 is not that responsive.

Lane: They're not responding, yeah.

Mercer: Well, so all you need to do-- If the constituents are putting in a 311 request, make sure you keep that service request number. And I can send you the information of Aceba Broadus. She's, or he, I'm not sure if it's a she or he, but Aceba is in charge of the graffiti removal with DPW, and I've communicated with her, and she's aware of the issue. And she's also asking that we send photos. So if they're doing a 311 request, it's great if we have photos so they can identify that it is the hate speech, or the anti-semitic speech, and they will come and remove it as soon as possible. So I can send you her information via email so you can contact her directly.

Blumenthal: Okay, that would be extremely helpful. I will clarify that it's not hate speech or anti-semitic speech, it just looks that way.

Mercer: Okay, well if you-- Any of that, anything like that, please reach out to them, as I did earlier. I reached out about the benches at Stoddert, and they said they were going to be removing them, and removing the--

Blumenthal: Graffiti.

Mercer: The graffiti, and getting back to me as soon as possible when it was done.

Blumenthal: Okay, well we really appreciate your help on this matter.

Mercer: Sure, definitely. And they're aware that if anything comes from Ward 3, please go and

get it as soon as possible.

Other Community Concerns [0:38:09]

Blumenthal: Oh, that's good. Any other questions?

Lane: David White.

Blumenthal: David White, please speak.

White: Hi. Here, I'll turn myself on here. Hi, everybody. I had a question. I had a couple of times over the past few days to take the turn going up Wisconsin, and taking a left onto Fulton and I wondered if you all knew what the status was of that situation, where there was some proposal to put in or take away some parking on like the south side of it, and make some kind of bike corral, or something or other? And then there was also a proposal to take away some of the parking spaces on the north side, if you can imagine that, on Fulton. So cars could actually turn in, because right now there's parking on both sides. And ever since that was designated as, you know, like a turn in off of Wisconsin, it's extremely tight, and kind of dangerous. And I wonder, like, do you know of any updates? Are they decided on something? Oh, and the other thing is about it, there's a missing sign on the north side that normally, like where I live on Cathedral, before there's the end of the block there's like a little sign that'll say, "Okay, parking this way, but no parking that way." Well, there's no sign at all, so people just park the whole way, which really impedes the driving. So I'm curious if you've heard anything. And if not, then who should I reach out to about this sort of thing? Because I'm a little flummoxed about this. Thank you.

Blumenthal: Commissioner Carroll, is this something you want to talk about?

Carroll: I can answer some, or address some of the questions, but I think this is technically the other Kevin's district.

Blumenthal: That's what I thought.

Carroll: I will say that I saw that someone had actually pulled that sign out of the ground and thrown it under the shrubbery by the apartment building. It's actually a condominium building there at the corner. So that they got themselves an extra couple of parking spaces. But I agree with you, it's extraordinarily narrow. I believe what we requested from DDOT was that that whole section up to the alley be made no parking when they do finally put in the bike corral. But I'm not sure what the status of our request is. I'm going to refer to my colleague, Commissioner Lavezzo, to pick it up from there.

Lavezzo: I'm trying to look for an update on the notice of intent now. We did pass a resolution in support of installing the micro mobility corral, but also stressed to DDOT that the streetscape needs to be looked at in addition to that, to make turning a little safer and moving around easier

in that area. So give me a few minutes here. The DDOT NOI website is not the easiest to use, and we'll see if they actually issued another--

Carroll: I did put in a 311 request for the missing sign.

Blumenthal: Oh, that's good. All right, that's good. It may be, Kevin, that your request got put into the traffic safety investigations loop, which is a lost cause. It takes a really long time to get something out of there. So, in any case, we will check this out. We've seen that the barriers for the corral appear to be up.

White: Yeah, that's what I noticed. It's like they did that, but they kept all the parking right. And then the sign was removed, so there's even more parking than there really should be anyway.

Blumenthal: Well, I think the sign was illegally removed.

White: Well, either way, citizen action. But someone from the city must have gone out and put those white things in, so they're functioning somehow.

Lavezzo: Yeah, I'll write Christian Pineiro, who is the Ward 3 liaison with DDOT, and who I communicated with previously, to see if we can get an update for you on that. And if you could submit a 311 request next time you're over there for the sign, that's usually a pretty quick way to get the city out to do something. They're pretty slow with TSI requests these days because they're overwhelmed.

Mercer: I'm sorry, but this isn't a TSI request.

Lavezzo: Oh, there we go.

Mercer: It's not a TSI request. If the sign was already there. If the sign was already there, they just need to come and replace the sign, so it's not a TSI request. If there was never a sign there, that would be a TSI request because you would be requesting something, you know, that was never there.

Blumenthal: Well, we've also asked them to remove parking for traffic.

Mercer: That's a TSI request.

Blumenthal: That's the one I was referring to.

Mercer: Yeah, but just replacing the sign that someone took out, they should be able to do that a lot faster.

Blumenthal: Okay, great. Thank you very much.

Mercer: You're welcome.

Carroll: They don't even need to print the new sign. They just need to pull the one out from under the bushes.

Blumenthal: Well, let's make sure we tell them it's under the bushes, too. Any other questions from participants, or information participants want to share with the community?

Administrative Matters [0:44:04]

Blumenthal: Okay, in that case we are moving on to administrative matters. Commissioner Lane has circulated the February minutes. I move we approve them. Can I have a second, please? Second, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor of approving the minutes? Okay, motion carries 5-0. Minutes are approved. Commissioner Lavezzo, you want to act as treasurer, I guess you are treasurer. I will note for the record that we are having some difficulty with our bank getting our signature cards approved. It is a very time-consuming process, but we are close to the end of that, which will allow us to finally write checks again. And I will also note for the record that we finally have all of our paperwork for the ANC Security Fund, and that will be submitted this week, hopefully. Okay, Mr. Lavezzo. Commissioner Lavezzo.

Lavezzo: I don't have much to report, unfortunately. Like Commissioner Blumenthal has said, we've been having struggles with the bank, getting duties transferred from Commissioner Bergmann and myself. And they are just chronically slow with all of our requests. As a result we haven't been able to get a hold of our February statement yet, so I can't give a financial report for that month. And that's all I have to report at this point.

Blumenthal: Okay, any questions from anybody? Fine. Then our next meeting is Thursday, April 11th. And we will send out the agenda at least a week before. I move we adjourn. Commissioner Lane, second. All in favor? Motion carries, 5-0. Thank you all very much. See you next month.