

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B

### GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



#### ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Chairman Brian Turmail (3B05) opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Other Commissioners in attendance were Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded, and the Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the agenda as presented.

#### Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal of MPD Second District gave the crime statistics for ANC3B in the 30-day period, February 11-March 14: No violent crimes but 15 property crimes, up 1 from the same period last year (but down from 23 property crimes reported in the previous 30 days this year). The property crimes included 3 stolen vehicles, 4 thefts from autos, and 8 general thefts. That category includes package thefts from people's porches that are reported to MPD. The Commissioners mentioned that one neighbor at the March GPCA meeting reported seeing a car trailing a package delivery truck and taking the packages from porches as soon as they were delivered. The crime report did not appear to show a series of package thefts in any part of the neighborhood, indicating that residents had not reported all the thefts to the police. Lt. Neal urged residents to report package thefts as well as any other crimes, regardless of how small they might seem, so MPD can be aware of the location and patterns of crimes and use that information to assign more patrols. Residents should call 311 if a crime has occurred, or 911 if they are reporting a crime in progress. It is also possible to text 50411 to alert a watch commander in the Second District.

#### DDOT Status Update and Discussion of Service Requests in ANC 3B

Three DDOT representatives presented information on transportation-related service requests in the ANC area. John Thomas, DDOT Chief Performance Officer, gave a presentation on the 311-service request system. He said that DDOT received about 150,000 service requests last year, including 14,000 in Ward 3, and DDOT took the 311 cases took an average of 22 days to "close" the service request. On questioning from Commissioners Young and Blumenthal, he explained that when a case is listed as "closed, DDOT sends notification to the individual who placed the request indicating that work will be done, but that is not a statement that the work has been completed, only that DDOT staff has determined that service is needed. At that point, a request is sent to an operations office to order and/or carry out the actual work. He reported that it may take 3 years for DDOT to get to a request for sidewalk repairs.

Commissioner Young noted that a sidewalk in need of repair at the corner of Cathedral Avenue and Idaho Avenue in her Single Member District has been the subject of repeated 311 requests to DDOT over the past 3 years and the sidewalk is continuing to deteriorate, the ground is eroding because of water and runoff in that area, and a nearby sign post is now leaning at an angle because the land under it is falling away. There is also a steel plate near that sidewalk, which covers an opening to DC Water pipes under the ground. She underlined the need for immediate attention to that area.

Several residents living at 4100 Cathedral Avenue raised other questions related to DDOT service in their area:

- Residents calling the 311 system have found the operators did not know where that address is. Mr. Thomas said he would check on that.
- Trees along Cathedral Avenue hang over the street and sidewalk and branches fall on the sidewalks where people walk, including inside Glover-Archbold Park, but neither the city nor the National Park Service (NPS) take responsibility for managing the trees to prevent risks to pedestrians. Mr. Thomas said that the Urban Forestry staff in DDOT will tend to trees but the jurisdiction is a question in the park. Urban Forestry will not go into those woods to do any work, but DDOT tries to coordinate with NPS.

Commissioner Blumenthal said a large part of residents' frustration with DDOT could be alleviated through better communication from DDOT. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that DDOT no longer responds to ANC resolutions requesting service, but she wondered if 311 requests made by an ANC get special weight.

Mr. Thomas agreed the 311 process needs improvement and DDOT has heard many complaints about it from ANCs and others over the years. He reported:

- He and the Director and other top DDOT officials have been meeting weekly about how to reform the 311 system so it works more efficiently and effectively. They hope to issue recommendations this spring.
- DDOT has introduced an on-line interactive map as part of the Mayor's new "PaveDC" program, which shows all streets, alleys, and sidewalks and allows users to "pin" an address that needs repairs. This allows crews to find the locations more quickly and easily and get requested repairs made.
- DDOT plans to use PaveDC to report to ANCs on street/sidewalk conditions and repairs it has done.
- DDOT sends out inspectors regularly to assess condition of streets and sidewalks and does not wait or rely on residents to report problems.
- After streets are repaved, DDOT follows up to ensure the contractor has done quality work and it holds up.
- DDOT gives attention to all 311 requests but if a request represents a large group of people, such as an ANC, DDOT gives it greater weight as long as the request is submitted from the group's official address.
- If multiple residents submit 311 requests for the same repair or service, that helps DDOT attention.
- DDOT assigns priority to work based on number of requests, repeat requests, age of requests, and factors that increase risks at a location such as high traffic or frequent use by seniors or people with disabilities.
- DDOT has a new Rapid Response team that is dispatched to go out to take care of problems in any ward, so they don't disrupt the work already scheduled in a particular area.
- Now that the winter snow season is coming to an end, DDOT trucks are gradually being shifted from doing snow plowing to other work on the roads.

A resident asked about increasing use of for-hire scooters on streets and sidewalks, sometimes violating laws.

Mr. Van Houten noted that bicycles can be used on sidewalks outside the downtown core. That rule now applies to e-scooters as well. They are not supposed to be used to ride in the wrong direction on a city street. The scooter program is new in the District and the Director and others are still evaluating how best to go forward with permitting and regulating for-hire scooters and other vehicles.

Donise Jackson, Ward 3 liaison from the DDOT Community Engagement Office who has been working with the ANC for the past year on service requests, also attended the meeting and shared information about progress on local requests for service, including: a) getting no parking signs along 3450 Observatory Lane which is a two-way street that is not supposed to have parked vehicles on either side; b) moving a parking space on W at Wisconsin to improve safety and c) getting the crosswalks striped at 4100 Cathedral. She said the crosswalks will be repainted as soon as the weather gets warm enough. Commissioner Young said that Donise Jackson had been instrumental in getting action on local service requests and called for special thanks to Donise for her work.

Ted Van Houten, DDOT Senior Planner for Ward 3 and Project Manager for DDOT's Livability Study project, spoke about the plans for the study just launched in the Rock Creek Far West area, including all of ANC3B, most of ANC3D, and a small part of ANC3C south of Massachusetts Avenue. He explained that the focus of the study is to identify areas for DDOT to make improvements to increase transportation safety. He reported that three community workshops for residents would be a key part of the study, including the initial workshop on February 26 at Palisades Library where participants had a chance to highlight local areas that present transportation safety concerns.

The second public workshop will be held at Stoddert Elementary School gymnasium from 11 am-1 pm on May 18 and Mr. Van Houten invited everyone to attend to see the initial draft recommendations for improvements in the area, which DDOT plans to issue at that event. He said the workshop will again be organized as an "open house" rather than just presentations and testimony, with multiple maps, display boards, and opportunities for one-on-one conversations with members of the DDOT team. Residents will be encouraged to submit additional suggestions at that session for areas that DDOT should consider for transportation safety improvements as part of the study. He said that DDOT will also have "pop-up" information booths at community events in coming months, including at Glover Park Day on June 1, to share information on the study and get residents' input.

The third workshop will be held in early September (location TBD) where DDOT will present revised "final recommendations" for comment and refinement before the end of the study on September 30, 2019. Mr. Van Houten explained that after the study phase, the livability team will continue working on plans for implementation, establishing priorities and developing more details on how the recommendations should be carried out. DDOT also has established a website for residents to learn more and submit suggestions and comments: <https://rockcreekfarwest.com>

#### **Letter to DDOT on Revised Draft Design Guidelines Small Cell Technology**

Commissioner Mladinov introduced a proposed letter to DDOT's Public Space Committee on its revisions to the guidelines for small cell technology for regulating poles and antennas associated with 5G telecommunications. The letter supports many of the changes accommodating comments from Councilmember Mary Cheh, ANC3B and other ANCs and community groups at the DDOT hearing on the original proposed design guidelines in the fall. The letter also expresses concern about some of the provisions limiting opportunities for public review and comment on small cell installations and called for clearer standards for the design of any new poles to hold small cell antennas, further evaluation of safety and health concerns, and more certainty about public participation when companies apply to install small cell antennas. assessing applications for small cell. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the letter so it could be sent to DDOT before the hearing. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter as presented.

#### **Proposed Resolution on Wingo's Request to Extend Weekend Hours at 2218 Wisconsin Avenue**

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced Mike Arthur, the owner of Wingo's, who has requested an amendment to the Voluntary Agreement with the ANC to change the closing time from 2 am to 3 am on Fridays and Saturdays. He made a brief presentation explaining that he needs the change to remain competitive with other businesses on the Wisconsin Avenue commercial strip, which already have permission to stay open until 3 am. Commissioner Blumenthal had spoken with nearby residents and shared their concerns about noise, illegal parking in the alley, noise, odors, and smoking in back of the property. Mr. Arthur reported on the steps he has taken to address those concerns. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution supporting the requested change in hours. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

### **Proposed Resolution Regarding Liquor License Application at 2300 Wisconsin Avenue**

Commissioner Blumenthal reported that the owner of the property at 2300 Wisconsin where Starbucks will be closing after March 22 had applied for a liquor license for the property as a potential incentive to a prospective lessee. Commissioner Blumenthal had prepared a resolution providing that if a new restaurant or café does become the new tenant and wants to use the liquor license, the license should be transferred to the new tenant, after which the ANC could negotiate any specific requirements about hours or other details with the tenant. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on approving the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

### **Letter of Support for Glover Park Day on Saturday, June 1**

Commissioner Lane introduced a letter to the District's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) supporting Glover Park Day to be held at Guy Mason Recreation Center on June 1, for its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on approving the letter and sending it to DPR. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter as presented.

### **Letter of Support for Shredding and Recycling Day on Saturday, April 27**

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a letter to DPR expressing the Commission's support for a shredding and recycling event in the parking lot at Guy Mason Recreation Center, to be sponsored by Lenore Rubino of Washington Fine Properties. Commissioner made a motion to approve the letter and send it to DPR. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter as presented.

### **Updates and Information**

Commissioner Blumenthal gave a summary of the Forum on Homelessness in Ward 3 on March 11 at UDC, hosted by Councilmember Mary Cheh and moderated by Councilmember Brienne Nadeau, Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Human Services. Commissioner Blumenthal reported that the forum provided a useful overview of available city and private/non-profit programs to work with individuals facing homelessness and their progress in linking individuals to housing, jobs, training, health and other services. The forum raised questions about future funding and did not get to how the city will meet needs for emergency shelter, daytime activities, and mental health treatment, especially for homeless individuals.

Commissioner Mladinov announced that Friendship Place will be holding a longer symposium on how the city is going on eliminating homelessness for families and individuals by the target year of 2020.

Commissioner Mladinov also reported that the District's 311 system is soon going to be accepting requests for repairs to DC schools and recreation centers.

Councilmember Cheh's Legislative Counsel Cole Wogoman also provided updates on several developments. He reported that the DC driving manual now includes "Dutch reach" – opening the driver's side door by reaching across the body and using the right hand on the door handle, making it easier to look back to see if anyone on a bicycle is approaching alongside the vehicle.

### **Open Forum**

Nadine Boston of Pepco introduced herself and shared brochures on how to save money on energy bills.

Resident Terry Snead distributed flyers on the coming District Senior Games May 4-17.

**Administrative Matters**

Commissioner Mladinov presented the minutes of the Commission's February meeting. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to take a vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the February minutes as presented.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for February:

**February 2019 Financial Report**

**OPENING BALANCE:     \$11,454.40**

**Income:             \$ 0.00**

**Total Income:    \$ 0.00**

**Outgoing:         \$ 25.00     Check #1301 ANC3B Participation in ANC Security  
Fund for 2019**

**\$ 36.88     Check #1302 Reimbursement to Mary Young for  
Office Supplies for Scanning Q1 FY2019 Report**

**Total Outgoing:  \$61.88**

**CLOSING BALANCE:  \$11,392.52**

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the February financial report as presented.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next ANC3B meeting will be Thursday, April 11.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.