

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



ANC3B Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02). Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Mary Young (3B04) and Brian Turmail (3B05) were also present, which constituted a quorum. (Three members make a quorum.) Newly elected Commissioner Melissa Lane (3B03) had to miss the meeting because of a prior commitment.

Chairman Blumenthal presented the proposed agenda, noting that the order of the two major items would be reversed because the mayor was running late and the DC Water Green Infrastructure team had arrived and was ready to make their presentation. No resolutions or votes on grant applications were included in the agenda.

Chairman Blumenthal moved to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted unanimously 4-0 to accept the agenda as presented.

Police Report

Commander Melvin Gresham of the MPD Second District presented a brief report on crime statistics for the previous 30 days compared to 2015 in PSA 204, which runs from the zoo in Woodley Park through Cleveland Park and south to Whitehaven Parkway in Glover Park. He noted there had been no increase in violent crimes in the area. The only change from 2015 was that there had been one assault, which was a domestic incident. Property crimes were down close to 30% overall, and in most categories. Commander Gresham summarized the property crimes in PSA 204, including one burglary and two more thefts from autos v. 2015 (-23%). Overall thefts were down 46% from 2015. Total crime was down 29%.

Presentation by DC Water Clean Rivers Project

Bethany Bezak and Caitlin Feehan, engineers with DC Water's Green Infrastructure Program, made a presentation on the types of "green infrastructure" (GI) that DC Water is proposing for the Glover Park area, using Powerpoint slides and providing paper copies as handouts to all participants. They showed a map of the areas where reducing stormwater run-off is essential to cut down the amount of post-storm overflow of water and sewage into the rivers from the Combined Sewer System that serves the eastern part of the neighborhood.

For the past few months, DC Water has been doing field investigations in the area, including looking at topography, tree and utility location, parking, soil types and percolation to determine where GI can be most useful. They are also looking for community input through an online survey, including an interactive map, that allows residents to help identify drainage problems as well as prospective areas for GI projects. The GI team is also planning to monitor over the year after the projects are installed to see if the expected benefits are actually being achieved.

Proposed GI projects in Glover Park include:

- bioretention areas in existing planter strips along the streets (green areas that can absorb water and let it seep into the ground rather than the storm drains)
- curb extensions that can be turned into additional bioretention areas such as in the parking lanes close to intersections in the neighborhoods, where parking isn't allowed
- permeable pavement in parking lanes and alleys, which provides a solid surface but has void spaces in the pavement material so water can trickle through.

DC Water expects to do some additional checking such as on the location of utility lines, and plans to come back with final designs for the GI projects after the summer of 2016.

Ms. Bezak suggested that DC Water would also work with any residents who have a downspout that currently carries water into a storm drain but can be disconnected and redirected so water goes into the groundwater or into a rain barrel. DC Water will be going door to door in Glover Park in the fall offering a free "stormwater audit" and interested residents in Glover Park who are served by a Combined Sewer System (carrying water and sanitary waste away in the same pipes) can receive a free rain barrel.

They opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Young asked if there are any examples of GI Projects in the area that are already in place. Ms. Bezak noted a DC Water installation on Irving Street and several DDOT installations through the River Smart program.

Commissioner Turmail noted the benefits of getting new alleys and new plantings, and also asked if the GI projects could be planned so all the work on a street could be done at one time to minimize construction disruption; all existing parking spaces could be retained; and streets with permeable pavement could get regular street sweeping to clear loose gravel.

Ms. Bezak said that since one of the biggest challenges of GI projects is long-term maintenance, DC Water is planning extensive maintenance of the practices installed in the area, creating new jobs for people who will be certified in Green Infrastructure so they are equipped to clean out underdrains built beneath the bioretention areas, remove trash and sediment that build up in the retention areas and other projects, and vacuum permeable pavement to clear streets and alleys of loose stones. As an essential part of the Consent Decree with the U.S. Department of Justice and EPA ordering the city to reduce sewage outflow into the rivers, the costs of the GI program are already built into residents' water rates.

Open Discussion with Mayor Muriel Bowser

Mayor Bowser presented a summary of her policy priorities, including public safety, trees, streets and alleys, and housing. She started from her proposed budget for the coming Fiscal Year 2017. She highlighted the additional \$75 million she is requesting for city school operations and \$220 million more for capital expenditures for schools. Since 2007, the city has spent \$4 billion on school modernization, but even with the current 6-year capital budget, there are still about \$400 million in improvements that will not have been made. The mayor acknowledged that part of the problem in Ward 3 is that the schools are so popular; she said she is hopeful that investments in programs and buildings in Wards 5 and 6 will help balance the demand better.

The mayor also mentioned she is calling for DC Statehood to be on the ballot again, has directed the city to put together a new draft Constitution for New Columbia, and would like people to sign up to participate in a Constitutional Convention over the summer.

The mayor noted that a big part of the FY17 budget is for affordable housing. She has directed \$100 million to that purpose, including \$50-55 million from the Housing Production Trust Fund. She also mentioned the challenge the city is facing to assist the increasing numbers of people experiencing homelessness, especially families.

The Commissioners asked questions about capacity challenges at Stoddert School and funding for Fillmore Arts Center; affordable housing and the squeeze rising rents are creating for seniors in particular; street repairs and improvements and the coordination of short- and long-term transportation and other planning in the neighborhood. Chairman Blumenthal underlined the importance of getting notice to ANCs about city policies and actions affecting the particularly neighborhood, and the number of agencies that do not seem to recognize the role of ANCs or respond to ANC resolutions and requests. The mayor recommended a clearinghouse for ANC resolutions so the executive and the public can see what the ANCs are asking for in one place.

Chairman Blumenthal then opened the forum for questions from the audience. One constituent asked about DC Water's plans for replacing the sewer pipes running down Glover-Archbold Park, which Bethany Bezak answered; DC Water is planning for an outreach meeting in September about the options for that project. Another resident asked about the difficulty of closing the income gap between rich and poor in the city. Several questions dealt with the speed of traffic on local streets and possibilities for improving pedestrian safety. The mayor also took 15 or more questions about her proposal for a short-term shelter for homeless families at Edmunds Street and Wisconsin Avenue, dealing with the costs, the design, the choice of sites, and the process for developing the proposal.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments offered.

Administrative Matters

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the ANC3B regular public meeting in June will be on Thursday, June 16 (the third Thursday of the month, rather than the usual second Thursday).

Chairman Blumenthal offered the minutes of the April meeting and moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for April.

ANC3B April 2016 Financial Report (Approved at May 2016 Meeting)

Checking Account

Opening Balance: \$11,832.38

Income: \$16.88 received 4/5/16 from Friendship Place for unused grant funds

Expenses: Check # 1255 for \$160.00 payable to USPS for ANC3B
 P.O. Box Renewal

Closing Balance: \$11,689.26

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to accept the April financial report as presented. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.