

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021

Chairman Brian Turmail called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm, after the Commissioners shared a corrected link for the Zoom meeting. 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

While the problem with the Zoom link was being worked out, Commissioner Mladinov read the crime statistics for ANC3B for the previous 30 days. There were no violent crimes reported in ANC3B. There were 20 property crimes compared to 10 in 2020: 2 stolen autos compared to 1 in 2020, 9 thefts from auto compared to 3 in 2020, and 9 general thefts compared to 4 in 2020. Lt. Paul Johnson joined the meeting at that point. The new Captain for the Police Sector or part of 2D that includes ANC3B, Captain Steve Andelman, had also hoped to participate but was not able to join the meeting. Lt. Johnson cautioned that thefts generally increase at the holidays and urged residents to retrieve any packages delivered to the porch as quickly as possible and not leave any packages or other things of value visible in a car.

Lt. Johnson also noted there had been two robberies over the past month in the 4200 block of Massachusetts Avenue, one involving a group that entered an apartment building and the other involving a group that robbed a person on the sidewalk. In the 4000 block of Massachusetts, MPD also recovered a firearm in reference to a search for narcotics.

In relation to an earlier robbery at CVS, Chairman Turmail asked how MPD determines where MPD officers can be present in a retail establishment. Lt. Johnson explained that MPD has to be invited in order to be on patrol in a private business.

Chairman Turmail also asked what MPD is doing to reduce crime, in line with Mayor Bowser’s announcement the previous week about a new anti-crime initiative in the District. Lt. Johnson said that MPD has a lot of extra patrols on duty and is giving extra attention to areas that have been sites of increased incidents.

Presentation of Request for Zoning Variances for Building Residential Flats at 2405 37th Street

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced architect Stephen DuPont, Jr., representing the owners of the two lots at 2405 37th Street, who have applied for zoning approval in BZA Case 20542 to replace the existing single family residence with three residential structures designed to look like row homes, each with two principal units, served by an underground garage for 9 vehicles and potentially roof decks for the top-floor units if they are allowed. Mr. duPont presented plans and a video “tour” of the proposed project. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that previous proposals to redevelop the property had not gotten through zoning standards for the R-3 rowhouse zone, but the owners hoped the current project would be acceptable. Mr. duPont said the current proposal would meet the zoning requirements for height, setbacks and lot occupancy, and should be within the Zoning Administrator’s authority to approve for lot width, so the main request was for a variance to allow “flats” (two nearly equal size residences in the same structure, as opposed to one principal unit and one accessory dwelling unit). At the end of his presentation, Mr. duPont took questions from the Commissioners and other participants.

Commissioner Blumenthal noted that the ANC had received letters of support for the project from several abutting or nearby neighbors, but residents at a condominium building down the block had submitted several concerns. Some questions dealt with the plans for parking and roof decks but most related to whether the units would be offered for sale or rent. Some residents expressed concern about having renters in the residences. Mr. duPont responded that he did not know, but that was not an issue in requesting a variance and did not have to be determined before the project was approved and built. Mr. duPont said he would be glad to get additional questions and would return to the ANC meeting on December 9, before the BZA hearing on the case, which was scheduled for December 15. Commissioner Blumenthal said the Commission would not take a position during this meeting but planned to consider a resolution at the December meeting.

Resolution on DDOT Project to Add Protected Bike Lanes on New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Corridor

At the October meeting, representatives of the DDOT Bike Program urged the Commission to prepare an official statement about what proposals for bike lanes the ANC would or would not support on the New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Street corridor, on the segments south of Calvert or on the segments north of Calvert, before DDOT could go ahead with preparing additional designs. Chairman Turmail read a one-page proposed resolution responding to DDOT’s request, including that the ANC:

- would not support a two-way protected bike lane on the corridor south of Calvert
- would not support a protected bike lane on the north/east side of Tunlaw north of Calvert because of safety issues;
- could support two-way bike lanes in protected form as possible within the roadway north of Calvert, while also preserving existing parking where that is feasible;
- would not be able to take a position on any specific proposals for bike lanes until DDOT had more detailed plans and graphics showing the proposed bike lanes, traffic lanes, and parking, had shared that information with the community, and allowed for public feedback;
- requested that DDOT prepare renderings or other graphics of one specific alternative DDOT is considering for the corridor in ANC3B north of Calvert, including a two-way protected bike lane on the south/west side of Tunlaw, parking on the north/east side of Tunlaw from Calvert to 3850 Tunlaw, and parking on the south/west side of Tunlaw from 3850 Tunlaw to 39th Street. The ANC also asked DDOT to illustrate how it would work to add parking on the north side of Tunlaw from 39th to 42nd Street;
- urged the DDOT team to return to the ANC and community with more detailed designs for options that would respond to their comments and gather feedback on the options from the ANC and residents before issuing a formal Notice of Intent and opening a Public Comment Period on an official proposal.

Chairman Turmail asked for feedback from residents, and several participants offered comments, some supporting the ANC’s proposed resolution and some advocating for more emphasis or less emphasis on protected bike lanes. The Commissioners explained that the resolution was only a first step and was not a

definitive position on any specific proposals for installing new bike facilities on the corridor north of Calvert. They also noted that the ANC does not make the final decision; that is up to DDOT. DDOT had committed to listening to public comments, and indicated it would continue to work on possible designs for Tunlaw north of Calvert, but was highly likely to end the project at Calvert Street. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Resolution on DDOT’s Proposed Fast-Tracking of “Vision Zero” project including traffic calming

Commissioner Mladinov outlined the changes that DDOT Interim Director Everett Lott had announced in his October 8, 2021, letter to ANCs about expediting traffic safety improvements, through adjustments in the way DDOT handles service requests, required documentation, and expectations of ANCs. ANCs have been particularly concerned about the proposed changes in ANC responsibilities and obligations when residents request speed humps. In previous years, before assessing a request for traffic calming, DDOT required that residents complete a Traffic Calming Questionnaire and also submit a petition with signatures from 75% of the residential property owners on the blocks in question, on both sides of the street. After that, DDOT would gather data on traffic speeds, conduct a traffic analysis, and make recommendations of what type of traffic calming it would recommend, if any.

The new DDOT proposal for dealing with speed humps calls for a request from a resident and endorsement from the ANC, but DDOT would not conduct any analysis or provide the ANC with any data or other information on which to base a decision. Several nearby ANCs had already submitted resolutions urging DDOT not to go ahead with that change, on the basis that it would place an undue and unjustified burden on the ANCs for making judgments on traffic and encourage piecemeal projects without considering the overall effects on safety and other conditions on the local street network.

Commissioner Mladinov proposed a resolution asking DDOT to suspend that change until it consulted with the ANCs, and also requesting that DDOT ensure that DDOT consider comments gathered during Community Engagement process and make needed revisions, and allow sufficient time for ANCs to submit comments when DDOT issues a Notice of Intent for a new project or policy proposal. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail announced that DC DPW’s first Fall Leaf Collection in the ANC3B area was scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving, though it might be delayed if the crews got behind during previous weeks.

Chairman Turmail also announced that Declan Falls, a new Community Outreach Specialist in DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson’s office, would be acting as a liaison to ANC3B.

Chairman Turmail introduced Ariel Ardura who will be the new contact in Councilmember Mary Cheh’s office. She is a Legislative Counsel on CM Cheh’s staff, whose portfolio includes health, food, and waste policies and programs.

Commissioner Mladinov reported that DDOT was working on an alternative to printing parking permits in hard copy, through the new online ParkDC permit system that currently requires residents to request and print a new parking permit for each visitor, identifying the specific vehicle and the dates involved. She also reported that the ANC is watching for WMATA to schedule a meeting with ANC3B and with DDOT about future plans for bus service to the ANC3B area.

Open Forum

Victoria Zuckerman raised a concern about steel plates on Cathedral Avenue near Idaho Avenue, where DC Water and DDOT had both been working for several days. DDOT had not blocked the street so cars and even trucks were turning into the condominium parking lot to U-turn when they couldn't get through. The steel plates were still there, and neither agency seemed to be able to fix the problem. Commissioners suggested contacting liaisons in DDOT, DC Water, and CM Cheh's office. They also noted that the same section of Cathedral Avenue has been the subject of ANC3B requests for more attention from DDOT for traffic safety improvements for the past 5 years and further follow-up was needed with DDOT.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the October 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 October:

October 2021 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$ 14,531.12

Income: \$ 3,455.05 District allotment for 4th Quarter of FY2021

Total Income: \$ 3,455.05

Outgoing: \$ 0.00

Total Outgoing \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$ 17,986.17

Chairman Turmail introduced the draft ANC3B Annual Report to the community for December 1, 2020-November 30, 2021, to be posted by December 1. He made a motion to vote on the annual report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the annual report, with the addition of activities at the November meeting.

Chairman Turmail announced the next meeting would be on December 9.

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 8:30 pm.