

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020

Chairman Brian Turmail called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, The meeting was held by “Zoom” technology rather than in-person, as allowed under the District’s Emergency Legislation of March 17, as well as the Commission’s vote at its March 12 to amend the ANC3B by-laws to allow Commissioners to meet, hold official votes, and be counted for a quorum.

All Commissioners were participating: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), Mary Young (3B04) and Brian Turmail (3B05).

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

Police Report. MPD Captain Brian Bray, who oversees Police Service Area (PSA) 204 covering Glover Park and Cathedral Heights, gave a brief report on crime statistics in the area. He said the Second District had dealt with dozens of incidents from May 30 through June 1 and 2, 175 burglaries and about 30 arrests because of looting, including at Pearson’s and CVS in Glover Park. Reported crimes in ANC3B in the 30 days ending June 11 included one burglary as well as 4 thefts from auto, 2 stolen autos and 4 general thefts, which is slightly below the numbers for the same period in the preceding year. He spoke briefly about the provisions of the NEAR Act adopted by the DC Council in 2016, with any advances in policing practices and public safety, as well as the emergency legislation the Council adopted recently to reform local laws governing policing.

“Norton in the Neighborhood” with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton joined the meeting to talk about initiatives in Congress including her effort to get additional emergency funds for the District to make up for the \$750 million in federal funds that the District did not get because Congress categorized it as a territory, not as a state. She also announced that the House vote on DC Statehood would be taken on June 26, and it was expected to pass for the first time in history. She also spoke about the popular DC TAG (Tuition Assistance Grant) program which allows each DC resident in an undergraduate college program to get a grant of up to \$10,000 per year to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. DC TAG applies at all public colleges and universities around the United States, all public and private HBCUs, and all private college and universities in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Presentation on Ward 3 Mutual Aid Network

Glover Park resident Leah Ann Brown discussed the work of the Mutual Aid Network in Ward 3. Mutual Aid is an outgrowth of Black Lives Matter that has informal community-level networks in each ward of the District, with a hot line to take residents’ request for assistance during the COVID-19 emergency, and has been distributing food and supplies to people in need, offering volunteer assistance such as rides, and maintaining a support base for people across the city. Mutual Aid works entirely through volunteers and donations, and plans to continue taking referrals from the city and direct calls for help from people in need, especially in the face of widespread unemployment and loss of income caused by COVID-19.

Resolution urging DC Council to restore funding for Stoddert School expansion to FY2021 budget

Chairman Turmail observed that the Mayor's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, released in May, calling for redirecting the \$20.5 million the Stoddert Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) had fought for years to secure for expanding capacity at Stoddert, along with similar funds designated to expansion at Key Elementary School. The Mayor proposed to divert those funds to building a new Foxhall Elementary School on the land near Old Hardy School on Foxhall Road. The Commission had strongly supported the funding for expansion at Stoddert to deal with substantial overcrowding, and had heard from the Stoddert PTO that it would be asking Councilmember Mary Cheh to restore the funds for the construction at Stoddert and Key over the next two years and defer funding for completing a new elementary school until after the Lab School contract to use the Old Hardy School has come to an end. Chairman Turmail made a motion to take a vote on sending a letter to the DC Council requesting restoration of the funds for the addition at Stoddert School. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter.

Presentation on Special Exception for Uncontested Rear Deck Addition at 2414 Observatory Place

Neil Shaut and Kwasi Hemeng of Case Design, working with Charles and Eliza Wood of 2414 Observatory Place, presented plans to build a 10' x 16' rear deck addition on the house, which requires a Special Exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Mr. Shaut had letters from close to 20 nearby neighbors who said they would not contest the proposed deck. Chairman Turmail asked for questions, and also explained that the Commission would generally not support a zoning request for a new deck if it did not have the support of the neighbors. Not hearing any objections, he then made a motion to vote on sending a letter to the BZA in support of the project. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Discussion of Zoning Case #20214 Special Exception for Rear Deck Addition at 2211 38th Street

Chairman Turmail introduced the case, a zoning application for a Special Exception for a rear deck at 2211 38th Street NW, and noted that the case was unusual because, though a Special Exception was required, the rear deck was built in 2016 without zoning approval, which was required because the deck did not meet the 20-foot rear setback under zoning for that property. The Applicants made a presentation about the application by former property owners at 2211 38th Street Chad and Erika Dudley, current owners Jason Harris and Jenna Stark, and lawyer Martin Sullivan. Then the adjoining neighbors Mark and Alyssia Burke of 2209 38th Street and Jon and Kate Gillespie of 2213 38th Street presented their reasons for opposing the Special Exception for the existing deck. The formal hearing about the case before the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment is scheduled for July 29. Chairman Turmail noted that at its public meeting in March, at the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, the Commission had voted to weigh in against the zoning application and ask for a delay in the hearing, then scheduled for April 1, because the case was contested but not all parties had yet gotten a chance to speak at an ANC3B public meeting. Chairman Turmail then opened the floor for questions about the presentations and took comments from participants. Chairman Turmail then explained that the Commission would not take a vote at the meeting but would decide if any additional statement was needed by the Commission and if so, the Commission could take action at its July meeting. He committed to notifying the Applicants and the other parties involved.

Open Forum

Chris Taylor of Pepco made a quick announcement of the new Reduce Energy Use DC program, a joint effort by Pepco, DC Department of Energy and the Environment, and others to help customers reduce their energy use and save money, especially in a time when households are facing the challenges of COVID-19 as well as global climate change. Any resident 18 and over can participate, take an energy reduction pledge, collect and submit weekly usage reports, and be eligible for cash prizes.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Young reported that she and Commissioner Mladinov had been participating in weekly citywide Monday evening conference calls for ANC Commissioners around the District. Initially the group was formed to share information on data and services dealing with COVID-19, but in recent weeks had shifted focus to organizing a series of "Commissioner Conversations" about racism, after the death of George Floyd.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared the minutes for the April meeting. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Mary Young read the ANC3B monthly financial report for April and May:

April 2020 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$ 5,603.81

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 2,232.29 Check #1316 Grant to the DC Food Project to assist Stoddert students and their families in need during the crisis

Total Outgoing: \$ 2,232.29

CLOSING BALANCE: \$ 3,280.52

May 2020 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$ 3,280.52

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 168.00 Check #1317 USPS for ANC3B P.O. Box Rental

Total Outgoing: \$ 168.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$ 3,112.52

Chairman Turmail announced that the next public meeting of ANC3B was scheduled for Thursday, July 9

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.