

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

Chairman Brian Turmail called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 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. Lt. Paul Johnson, 2D, reported on crime in ANC3B during the past 30-day period. He said the month had been fairly quiet but noted the two violent crimes in the area: a carjacking of a delivery driver’s vehicle in the 2300 block of Wisconsin Avenue by two men with guns, which MPD was still investigating, and an assault with a deadly weapon near 4000 Massachusetts Avenue. Chairman Turmail asked about reports of the sound of a gunshot and pursuit of an individual on the 2800 block of 39th Street NW the previous night, September 8, 2021. Lt. Johnson said that he had checked the MPD system and didn’t find anything, but thought it might have involved another public safety service. He said that after the carjacking, he had put out patrols in the Wisconsin Avenue commercial area from Idaho Avenue down to Glover Park from 4-9 pm. A resident asked how the MPD is dealing with violent crime. Lt. Johnson said that MPD Chief Robert Contee had put up mobile squads to go to “hot spots” and try to apprehend suspects. Lt. Johnson also advised residents to try not to go to ATMs alone at night when no one else is around and to follow other safe practices.

Lt. Johnson also described preparations for Saturday, September 18, when demonstrations remembering January 6 were planned on the National Mall between the White House and the Capitol. He said that MPD was fully activated along with police from Arlington, Fairfax and Prince George’s County, training together and ensuring they were much more prepared than in January.

Vote on request from Laliguras at 2332 Wisconsin for an entertainment endorsement and change in hours

Commissioner Blumenthal reported an application by Laliguras restaurant to extend its hours and add an entertainment endorsement to its liquor license to allow karaoke, which no other business in Glover Park offers. She noted that Laliguras had opened just before COVID-19, then suffered damage from the March 2021 fire at Domino’s and was hoping to restart with several changes including entertainment and hours beyond the previous times, which ended at 11 pm Sunday through Thursday and 12 midnight Friday and Saturday.

Laliguras recently asked to stay open and serve alcohol until 3 am, which is the maximum allowed in the District. Commissioner Blumenthal subsequently negotiated a settlement agreement between ANC3B and Laliguras that would allow music until 1 am Sunday through Thursday and until 2 am Friday and Saturday, and allow hours of operation and alcohol service one hour longer, like other restaurants and bars in the area. Laliguras had also agreed to confine the sound within the premises. In exchange, the restaurant was asking for a stipulated license, to go into effect immediately after the license changes were approved by the ABC Board. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on a resolution to approve the settlement agreement and also support the live entertainment endorsement and a stipulated license. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Resolution supporting Clean Decisions to continue as “Clean Team” on Wisconsin Avenue commercial strip

Commissioner Blumenthal reported that the speaker Will Avila of Clean Decisions would not be able to participate but they were again applying for a grant from the District’s Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to receive a grant once again to provide the Glover Park Clean Team services for another year. The Clean Team works every day except Wednesday and Sunday to pick up trash, weed tree boxes, remove graffiti, and keep the sidewalks and public spaces clean in the Wisconsin Avenue commercial district. Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a resolution to support Clean Decisions’ application. She made a motion to vote on the resolution and the motion was seconded. Commissioner Lane asked if the Clean Team would be asked to extend its services south on Wisconsin beyond Whitehaven Parkway along the commercial businesses in Burleith, which might require additional staff. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that area is in Ward 2 so she didn’t know if that would be allowed, but in any case, the Clean Decisions’ bid was the best option for getting a Clean Team in Glover Park. The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

DDOT Proposals for Bike Lanes on New Mexico/Tunlaw/37th Street Corridor

The Commissioners provided an update on the potential DDOT project to install bike lanes on the corridor from Nebraska Avenue to Reservoir Road, through ANC3B, ANC3D in Wesley Heights, and ANC2E in Burleith, to improve bike facilities and safety in general on the corridor. Chairman Turmail noted that DDOT had come to the January ANC meeting to present two options for installing separated or protected bike lanes on the corridor, and returned in July with a new presentation including several other alternatives. He then asked for questions and comments. Several individuals spoke in support or opposition to various options for bike lanes. Before the July meeting, the ANC also requested public comments from local residents and business and had received nearly 200 responses. The Commissioners reported that DDOT was considering the comments but would not be prepared to return to the ANC to present any further options or details about the alternatives until October.

Chairman Turmail introduced a letter to DDOT, and noted a draft was also posted on the ANC website. He outlined the contents of the letter, including general principles to guide DDOT decisions on safety improvements in the corridor, as well as a summary of residents’ requests to ensure safety and mobility, and several specific recommendations from the ANC. The letter also stated that ANC 3B had not seen any proposals for bike lanes on the Tunlaw/37th corridor south of Calvert that appear practical or feasible. In addition, the letter noted residents’ calls for improving safety for bicyclists, especially on Tunlaw north of Calvert, as well as for preserving parking and space for deliveries; encouraged measures to better protect pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections; recommended better signage alerting people to the presence of bike facilities north and south of Calvert Street; and strongly urged DDOT to come back to the ANC with options that respond to comments from the community, before the agency comes to a decision on a design to put forward as an official proposal. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter.

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail reported on recent discussions of the Stop Sign Camera on 37th Street at Whitehaven Parkway, which was reactivated in March. As soon as concerns were reported about citations from the camera in the spring, ANC Commissioners had been in touch with Councilmember Cheh, DDOT, and MPD about the increasing number of \$100 citations and residents’ concerns that the camera might not be correctly calibrated. Again in July and August, residents began reporting they had suddenly received a large number of citations.

The Commissioners were said they were staying in touch on the issue, and supporting better signage to alert drivers of the camera checking stops at the next intersection. They also urged drivers to come to a complete stop at a stop sign, before their tires touch the Stop Line.

Commissioner Mladinov reported that WMATA had instituted a series of service changes on September 5, including on Metrobus routes serving ANC3B. The N2 and N4 were returned to weekday service on the routes serving Cathedral Heights and Massachusetts Avenue as well as the Friendship Heights and Tenleytown Metro stations, and added runs had been added to the 31 and 33 buses on Wisconsin Avenue from Friendship Heights to downtown, but the 30N and 30S cross-town buses had been discontinued, the D2 had not seen any schedule changes, and the D1 and 37 weekday rush hour services remained suspended. She observed that students going to Hardy Middle School, Duke Ellington High School, and other local schools are reporting long gaps between buses (over 40 minutes between buses in the morning peak) and sometimes skipped buses, making it difficult to count on the bus to get to school. Residents have noted that D2 buses do not run frequently enough, especially during morning peak times, to be trusted for transportation to work.

Commissioner Mladinov proposed sending a letter to WMATA expressing concerns about the infrequent rush hour bus service on the D2 and elimination of the long-standing 30S and 30N cross-town bus routes that many local residents and workers have relied on. The letter also asked for a meeting with WMATA and DDOT bus planners to discuss future plans for bus service to the ANC3B community. Chairman Turmail made a motion to take a vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Open Forum

A question was raised about whether the District Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) had extended open hours of the Glover Park Community Center beyond 6:30 pm. Commissioner Turmail said he would check.

Another question was raised about whether WMATA planned on moving the bus stop at the Southeast corner of Wisconsin and Calvert, after the opening of Kindercare. Commissioner Blumenthal said that question had not come to her before, and the Commissioners did not have an answer.

Stephen Marencic of the DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) announced that on June 4, the DC Public Service Commission (PSC) had reached a vote in the latest Pepco rate case. The decision approved a rate increase lower than Pepco requested but also Pepco's request to adopt a Multiyear Rate Plan based on forecasts of costs instead of submitting the costs it has incurred and getting approval for increasing rates to cover its actual costs year by year. He said OPC was shocked at the PSC decision because no one involved in the case other than Pepco had supported the request. (ANC3B had voted in July 2020 to oppose the rate increase and adoption of a Multiyear Rate Plan, particularly during the COVID-19 emergency.)

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the July 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 Elizabeth Elson read the ANC3B monthly financial report for July and August:

July-August 2021 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$ 7,621.02

Income: \$ 0.00

Total Income: \$ 0.00

Outgoing: \$ 0.00

Total Outgoing \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$ 7,621.02

Treasurer Elizabeth Elson also presented the ANC3B Quarterly Report for the Third Quarter of FY2021. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the quarterly report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the quarterly report.

Treasurer Elson also introduced the proposed budget for the ANC3B in FY2022, beginning October 1, including the same amount of the District allotment for the approaching year as for the past year at \$13,820 for all four quarters and a \$1,000 increase for grant making in FY2022. She asked for feedback, and said the final proposed budget would be voted on at the October ANC3B meeting.

Commissioner Blumenthal announced the next meeting would be on October 14.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.