

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2022

Chairman Brian Turmail called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All five of the Commissioners were participating: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), Elizabeth Elson (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05), which made a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Chairman

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

Police Report

Lt. Paul Johnson presented the statistics on crime reported in Police Service Area 204 for the previous 30 days: 3 burglaries, 1 stolen auto, 7 thefts from auto, and 17 general thefts, down slightly from the previous year. The number of reported crimes was far lower in ANC3B. Lt. Johnson reported on one specific crime in ANC3B, an armed robbery with a gun around 2 or 3 pm on July 1 at the gas station at 2450 Wisconsin Avenue. The incident was captured by a security camera, showing a man with dreadlocks carrying a long gun. Lt. Johnson explained that the perpetrator was wearing a coat which allowed him to conceal the weapon. The suspect was not apprehended. That is the same location where an earlier armed robbery occurred on February 19, also by a man with dreadlocks and a long gun who was photographed by the security cameras but was not apprehended.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mladinov, Lt. Johnson also reported that MPD has a traffic officer, Officer Bryan, who would look into the areas the Commissioner had mentioned on Garfield Street in ANC3B01, Cathedral Heights, where residents are concerned about traffic safety and traffic speeds. Lt. Johnson offered that he could get Officer Bryan posted there to observe and issue citations for traffic violations in that area. He also said that if MPD has an available portable device to gauge vehicle speed (“Your Speed Is . . .”), he would try to get one assigned to those blocks. He said that both the devices are in high demand, and so is the safety officer, particularly when school starts, but he would speak to Commander Bedlion about arranging that.

Discussion with MPD 2D Commander Bedlion about Illegal Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Streets

At the June meeting when Chairman Turmail asked about a large group of off-road vehicles, including all terrain vehicles (ATVs), that he saw illegally driving down Wisconsin Avenue with impunity, doing risky maneuvers in the street, going through red lights, and creating risks for the riders and everyone in the vicinity. After that meeting, he was in touch with Commander Bedlion of the MPD Second District who also has been urging more attention to this challenge and offered to come to the next ANC meeting to discuss it. Commander Bedlion explained the limitations on MPD pursuits of ATVs or other vehicles on the road, and options for confiscating illegal vehicles where they are stored. He also suggested that penalties could be increased for use of off-road vehicles on public streets.

The Commissioners asked about how various programs have worked to discourage dangerous use of illegal off-road vehicles, and what current penalties are compared to penalties for dangerous use of other vehicles on public streets. Chairman Turmail proposed a resolution to the Council urging them to consider increasing penalties for dangerous use of off-road vehicles on public streets and developing other programs to prevent operation of these vehicles in ways that threaten the health and safety of riders and others; explore ways to make it easier to destroy ATVs and other off-road vehicles impounded after their users were apprehended operating them in a dangerous manner on the District's streets; and work with the Mayor to identify a suitable space for a facility where ATVs and other off-road vehicles could be operated safely, separate from public streets. He made a motion to take a vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution and send it to the Council. Commander Bedlion also suggested that the ANC send the resolution to the District Commission on Criminal Justice Reform.

Discussion with WMATA and DDOT about improved Metrobus service to ANC3B area

This was rescheduled from the previous public meeting in June. WMATA was represented by Kristine March of the Office of Bus Planning and Stacey Weisfeld who is working on the Bus Transformation Process. They spoke about the continuing restoration of Metrobus lines to pre-COVID-19, including establishing the Frequent Service Network in September 2021 to assure buses at least every 12 minutes on lines like Wisconsin Avenue and other heavily used routes, and restoring the D2 to weekday service on May 29, and making minor changes in the N2, N4 and 33 schedules, but said WMATA is still monitoring demand on other lines, especially lines that operated only in peak hours such as the D1 and 37. Those routes remain suspended, as travel patterns in the WMATA service area still show far lower peak demand than pre-COVID. other routes. Ms. Marsh said that WMATA currently does not have a plan to restore the D1 but is continuing to monitor ridership on D2 to see if there is sufficient demand to require additional capacity in peak hours. Ridership on the D2 line was 1,700 per day but dropped to about 300 during COVID and has been building back to close to 900 per day from June to mid-July. As those numbers get closer to pre-COVID levels, WMATA will be looking for opportunities to build back the D1. Other challenges include bus operator shortages which limit ability to increase services.

Ms. Weisfeld spoke about WMATA's work on longer term bus system redesign, to respond to changes in the travel network and travel patterns. The staff and partners will be looking at the current bus and rail network, service hours and the whole experience of using WMATA transit. She said the process would include multiple rounds of public outreach.

Chairman Turmail shared a question about how WMATA dealt with needs for public transit to schools such as the D2 and 33, which are used by students at Hardy and Duke Ellington. Ms. Marsh said she had seen crowding on the D2 buses, and said WMATA could put on a special additional run where there is overcrowding. The planners can look at doing that, if equipment is available. She also said she is the contact with DCPS planning for the two new schools near Foxhall Road and MacArthur Boulevard. The D6 is the route that mostly closely serves that area, and WMATA will be working closely with DCPS to plan for transit service to those schools. Another question related to whether WMATA tracks the number of passengers who are not paying the fare. Ms. Marsch said that WMATA has both the fare box counts and an automatic passenger count of how many people board, so the system can monitor the difference between people boarding and people paying fares.

Presentation on Proposal for Converting Office Building to Residential Units at 3300 Whitehaven

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced the team making a preliminary presentation about the proposed redevelopment of the office buildings at the rear of 3300 Whitehaven, across the street from the Glover House, to create about 274 residences in that space. The same team had previously participated in the ANC3B meeting in May 2022 to present their plans for adding a gymnasium below ground level for the British International School in the building in that development that fronts on Wisconsin Avenue. That was considered a "Modification of Consequence" to the original Planned Unit Development (PUD) at that property and did not require a full hearing before the Zoning Commission or ANC comments. The ANC voted to approve a letter of support for that part of the redevelopment.

The new phase of the redevelopment is considered a Modification of Significance which will require full public notice and public hearing before the Zoning Commission, and negotiation with affected ANC's (ANC3B and ANC2E in Georgetown) over community amenities. Eddie Mansius of the development company Grosvenor and Gui Almeida, lead designer for the project with architecture firm Hickok Cole. They explained they wanted to update the ANC on the plans before they file a PUD application for a "Modification of Significance" to allow the redevelopment and conversion of the property to residential use. The residences will be across the existing plaza from the British International School and in a new building that will back up to the Safeway facing the plaza. The plan also will make improvements to the plaza, including decking over the existing loading dock that currently runs past the British International School, to allow installation of a small playground for the school. Mr. Mansius said that the process will involve a "set down," possibly in late September or October, followed by a hearing at the Zoning Commission, perhaps in early 2023, as well as a period for comments and a collaborative process working with the ANC's to consider community benefits for the nearby neighborhoods.

Commissioner Blumenthal mentioned that traffic on Whitehaven Street is difficult already, and a solid plan for traffic and parking would be essential. Mr. Mansius said the group looked at school transportation in May, a traffic consultant is doing a traffic study, and the group will give particular attention to the intersection of Whitehaven and Wisconsin Avenue. Currently the parking garage has 419 parking spaces below grade, not counting the approximately 160 spaces that will be used for constructing the gym. There were also questions about the environmental effects on the parts of Dumbarton Oaks Park behind the property including run-off. Mr. Mansius said the team is working with the park and the Commission on Fine Arts to mitigate any effects and the developers hope to help clean up the park. He committed to stay in touch with the ANC and community on that. He did not have a firm answer on whether a permit would be necessary from the National Park Service or other agencies.

Resolution Regarding Proposed Medical Marijuana Dispensary at Laliguras Location in Glover Park

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a resolution to oppose the application by Nature's Charm LLC to open a Medical Marijuana Dispensary (MMD) at the site now occupied by Laliguras restaurant at 2332 Wisconsin Avenue. The organization had made a presentation at the ANC3B April 14 meeting, and the ANC had held a 30-day comment period on the application which was competing for the one license that could be awarded for an MMD in Ward 3. The ANC and the applicant were awaiting notification from the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) on whether Nature's Charm had been selected as a finalist, which was supposed to be announced on July 22 but in recent weeks ABRA had moved the announcement date to July 15. Because that date would come a week after the ANC3B June meeting but the scheduled due date was August 22 for the Commission to take a position, before the ANC would hold its next regularly scheduled public meeting, the ANC would need to adopt a position at the July meeting, in case the MMD would be one of the finalists. Commissioner Blumenthal presented the comments that had been gathered from the public during the preceding 30 days and reported that there were close to equal numbers in favor or opposed. Most of the comments in favor said the MMD would be professional, clean, and safe, and would help bring more foot traffic to the neighborhood, while those opposed had more complex reasons:

- The location is near the recreation center and baseball field, as well as a small private child care center in the same block; next to residences, and proposing to use a parking area surrounded by residential buildings;
- The MMD would be across the street from the Good Guys nude dancing club that has also created increasing "nuisance" complaints related to crime and security.
- Medical marijuana is no longer based on prescriptions; the new Council legislation allows customers of an MMD to self-certify that they have a medical need for marijuana.
- Requirements for MMDs include a heavy degree of security, but outside the premises, responsibility for law enforcement would be up to MPD which has been lax about enforcing laws on marijuana use in public.

Commissioner Blumenthal asked for additional comments from Commissioners and residents. Commissioner Lane expressed support for the application for an MMD as a well-regulated and secure establishment that would provide an important service to patrons who have to go through a process to be certified.

Commissioner Mladinov noted that the only parking spaces serving the MMD would be in the lot behind the building which could only be reached by walking around the block or walking through other businesses,

because the MMD would not have a rear entrance, and the MMD would not be providing any security in the parking lot, which is already posing some problems with marijuana consumption.

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a resolution to oppose the application. Chairman Turmail made a motion to take a vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commissioners voted 4-1 to approve the resolution, with Commissioner Lane dissenting.

Discussion and Resolution on Bike Lanes and Other Safety Improvements on New Mexico/Tunlaw

ANC3B Chairman Brian Turmail had said at the ANC3B May meeting that the Commission would plan to adopt a resolution at the July 14 ANC meeting about DDOT's new designs for the corridor north of Calvert Street, after gathering public comments. DDOT initially presented the new designs at the April 14 ANC meeting and invited ANC and public feedback, as part of the Community Engagement process, before the agency could go forward with a definite proposal in a formal Notice of Intent (NOI) and 30-day public comment period. DDOT had been working on revising engineering designs to improve safety at crosswalks and intersections on the corridor and had committed to considering all comments on those improvements and other aspects of the plan. At the June public meeting, ANC3B had adopted a letter to DDOT asking that the agency maintain its commitment to get comments on the preliminary designs before developing its final proposal and issuing an NOI. Based on the comments Commissioner Mladinov

A group of constituents living at the Colonnade urged consideration of a proposal by their resident Iris Miller to place bike lanes along New Mexico Avenue in Glover Archold Park in the space currently occupied by lawn and trees next to the street ("tree box"), in order to preserve more parking spaces for use by visitors, health care aides, and contractors working at the Colonnade. Commissioner Elson commented that DDOT's plans include 29 parking spaces on New Mexico adjoining the Colonnade and 11 new parking spaces on Tunlaw Road in front of the Colonnade, which would total 40 spaces, and that was the number of spaces the Board at the Colonnade had asked DDOT to provide near their building, in their May letter. Several people from the apartment buildings at 2626-2634 Tunlaw Road expressed concerns about placing all the on-street parking near their building on the opposite side of the street, at the most dangerous point of the curve and the hill, which would require residents and visitors to cross two lanes of traffic at any hour of the night and day, without a crosswalk in order to get between their vehicles and the apartments. It would also be difficult for delivery vehicles to find a space to make drop-offs and pick-ups without blocking driving lanes. The building does not have a circular driveway. The driveways to the rear parking lot come straight out, with limited sight distance, and could create further danger as vehicles cross the bike lanes on the same side of the street.

Based on the comments in writing and at meetings, the ANC summarized their recommendations:

- supporting two-way protected bike lanes on Mexico and Tunlaw north of Calvert Street in ANC3B;
- supporting adequate parking for residents and visitors, workers and service vehicles on New Mexico;
- asking DDOT to identify 20 additional parking spaces along Tunlaw Road to be used by residents;
- asking DDOT to work with the ANC to identify other locations for at least 20 parking spaces to be used by workers in the Glover Park commercial area on Wisconsin Avenue during their shifts, to replace the current unregulated parking spaces on the north/east side of Tunlaw Road;
- calling for reexamining assignment of RRP or unregulated parking along the corridor in ANC3B
- supporting pedestrian safety improvements at the intersections on Tunlaw (including with Calvert, Davis, Fulton, and 42nd Street)
- providing added suggestions to deal with resident concerns if the above recommendations can't be met

In his summary Chairman Turmail noted that the ANC doesn't make any final decisions on bike lanes; that is DDOT's responsibility. The ANC is an advisory body. He emphasized that the Commissioners have tried to listen to all comments and consider all points of view in making their recommendations. In addition, there would still be multiple opportunities, including comments to DDOT during the formal public comment period still to be announced. He made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail mentioned that in June he had reported a problem with the National Park Service (NPS) lawn mowing contract, leaving many parks in Glover Park with overgrown grass for several weeks. After his conversation with NPS, they had moved on working out the contract and had gotten the parks mowed.

Commissioner Mladinov reported that DDOT had emailed several ANC Commissioners in mid-June that DDOT had completed its initial investigation of a 311 request for a Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) for the 3800 blocks of Garfield Street. The email announced that the blocks are eligible for speed humps so DDOT would be proceeding with installing speed humps. Under DDOT's new process for TSIs involving traffic calming, after that initial notice, the area ANC Commissioners are allowed 10 business days to gather comments from affected residents, and if there is any opposition, DDOT has to carry out additional analysis, gathering data on whether there is traffic speeding on those blocks. Prior to that, DDOT has not gathered any new data on traffic or motorist behavior at the location in question. Unfortunately, Christian Piñeiro had only sent the email to the Commissioners in ANC3C, which adjoins the blocks on the north side of the street. Commissioner Mladinov whose Single Member District borders those blocks on the south side of Garfield was not included in the email, though some of her constituents had participated in filing the service requests and she was the one who had contacted Christian Piñeiro and connected him to the residents to explain the 311 process. By the time she heard about the email, the 10-day period allowed for Commissioners to gather public comment was nearly past.

The ANC had expressed concern to DDOT about the proposed TSI process for traffic calming when it was first announced, and this experience reinforced their concerns. Commissioner Mladinov proposed a letter to DDOT describing the problems with the TSI process, illustrated by the experience with the 311 case on Garfield Street, and making detailed recommendations about making improvements to the process, which DDOT has indicated it will be reviewing and revising. She made a motion to vote on the letter, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter.

Open Forum

Residents were invited to share additional comments and questions. A representative of the Marlyn Apartments at 3901 Cathedral Avenue mentioned that he had heard that his building and block would be reassigned to the new ANC3A under the 2022 Redistricting Plan. Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that the Council had adopted the new map in June and it was going into effect, in spite of efforts by Councilmember Mendelson and the ANC and a strong Neighborhood Voices group to make some changes to the boundaries, including in that area.

Administrative Matters

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

Treasurer Elizabeth Elson read the monthly financial report for June, from the bank balances provided by

June Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE:	\$15,260.63
Incoming	\$ 0.00
Total Incoming	\$0.00
Outgoing	\$ 0.00
Total Outgoing:	\$ 0.00
CLOSING BALANCE:	\$15,260.63

Commissioner Elson reported that the data needed to complete the ANC3B Quarterly Report for the Third Quarter of FY 2022 were not yet available from the Office of ANCs so the Commission would have to wait till the next meeting to approve that report.

She also repeated the reminder that the Commission has funds available and will be glad to get applications for grants from non-profit organizations in the area, to support projects that benefit the community.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next meeting would be on September 8 at 7 pm, again as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.