

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B

GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 13, 2019

Chairman Brian Turmail (3B05) opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Other Commissioners in attendance were Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Allen (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded, and the Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the agenda as presented.

Police Report

Lt. Ralph Neal of MPD Second District gave a brief report on crime in the area in the previous 30 days. The statistics from May 14-June 13 showed 12 crimes in ANC3B: two violent crimes (a robbery with a gun on Calvert Street near Tunlaw and a robbery without a gun on Garfield Street near Wisconsin) and 10 property crimes including 1 stolen auto, 1 theft from autos and 8 other thefts. That compared to 14 crimes in the comparable period in 2018, but none of those were violent crimes. Lt. Neal reported that total crime for the year to date in Police Service Area 204 which includes Glover Park and part of Cathedral Heights was up 17% compared to the same period in 2018: 206 v. 176 last year. (The number of violent crimes is down 30% but property crimes are up, especially in the categories of thefts from auto and general thefts.)

Commissioner Young mentioned that there are several buildings in her Single Member District (3B04) that are in PSA 205, so crimes reported at those locations are included in the statistics for ANC3B but not for PSA 204.

Chairman Turmail reminded residents that if they are going to be out of town, they can notify the MPD and ask for police to give special attention to their address while they are away.

Presentation on requested changes to liquor license for Bourbon/Rosebud at 2348 Wisconsin Avenue

Owner Bill Thomas presented his plans for rebuilding the structure where Bourbon used to be and open roof decks on the front and back of both the first and second floors as well as a roof deck to accommodate restaurant and bar service, with blending and vatting but not distilling of whiskey in a portion of the second floor. He is requesting "substantial changes" in the liquor license, including provisions for outside alcohol service and entertainment until the 9 pm closing for meal service on the front and rear on both the first floor and second floor, as well as on a rooftop bar/eating area in good weather. He said the plan was to have no loud music or subwoofers, but there would be walls around the decks and a stairwell providing a barrier to escaping sound to the west and north. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that generally the ANC only takes action on a liquor license request when the neighbors are concerned, so she would have further discussions with nearby residents, see if they requested adopting any formal settlement terms with Mr. Thomas and Bourbon, and come back to the ANC if needed.

Presentation on Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) case for special exception at 3764 Benton Street

Architect Elizabeth Shepard presented the request for approval of a rear deck addition from property owners Peter Roushdy and Kelly Franklin at 3764 Benton Street. They applied to BZA in Case 20070 requesting a special exception to construct a deck extending 11.7 feet from the back of the house, which would mean total "lot occupancy" of 48.9%, which is above the maximum 40% allowed as a matter of right in an R-3 zone.

The architect shared the detailed plans for the deck, as well as letters from the nearest neighbors expressing their support for the project. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion for the Commission to vote on giving its approval to the project. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to file a statement of support with the BZA for the proposed deck project.

Vote on letter of support for renewing city grant to Glover Park Clean Team for FY2020

Will Avila and Charlie Curtis of Clean Decisions spoke about their work as the Glover Park Clean Team for the past two years, cleaning sidewalks, maintaining tree boxes, and clearing snow in the commercial area on Wisconsin Avenue. They have also been voluntarily cleaning the portion of Hall Place along the CVS. They employ returning citizens to do that work under a grant from the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD). The Clean Team representatives took questions from residents and the Commissioners, who expressed thanks for the service including the cleaning they have been doing on the. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to vote on a letter to DSLBD expressing support for them to continue as the local Clean Team for another year and officially extend the area to include the section of Hall Place they have also been cleaning. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the letter.

Grant request from Glover Park Alliance for \$2,500 to support Main Street application

Chris Wainwright presented the request from the new local non-profit organization Glover Park Alliance that has been formed to support creation of a Main Street program in the commercial area on Wisconsin Avenue to promote improvements and attract and retain businesses. The Alliance applied to the ANC for a grant to help pay a consultant to train volunteers in fundraising and outreach skills and guide the Alliance through the process of applying to the city for a grant from the city to create and manage a new Main Street organization in the area in the coming year. Because Commissioners Blumenthal and Lane had been part of getting the Main Street effort started, Chairman Turmail announced that they had offered to recuse themselves from voting on the ANC3B grant in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the grant.

Updates and Information

Commissioner Mladinov summarized the preliminary recommendations made for transportation safety improvements in ANC3B at DDOT's May 18 community workshop at Stoddert School as part of for its Livability Study in Rock Creek Far West (including all of ANC3B). Everyone is invited to read the study materials to date on the project website <https://rockcreekfarwest.com/> and provide comments and suggestions for other areas to be considered for traffic safety improvements, using the website or email.

Cole Wogoman, Legislative Counsel to Councilmember Mary Cheh and liaison to ANC3B, provided updates on several matters. He reported that the Mayor and Council were negotiating over final issues to get to an agreement on a city budget for FY2020. He also mentioned three transportation-related bills:

- Mandatory Protected Bike Lane bill (B23-0257) proposed in CM Cheh's committee as a safety measure, to require the city to construct a protected bicycle lane on any route that was identified in the MoveDC plan in 2015, if DDOT was working on road reconstruction, major repair, curb or gutter work on that street, unless DDOT determined the bike lane would be impractical.
- Vision Zero Omnibus Act (B23-0288) proposed by CM Charles Allen, which would adopt four-way stop signs as the standard at residential intersections, ban right-on-red at all intersections, establish a 25 mph speed limit on arterials and 20 mph on local streets; require a written test to get a new or renewed driver's license; and the most controversial provision, a pilot for a Citizens Enforcement squad that would be empowered to issue parking tickets in some situations. He noted that provision was not well-received by Councilmembers including CM Cheh and would probably be cut from the bill if it goes forward.
- CM Cheh's proposals to improve parking enforcement, including in bike lanes. CM Cheh has also proposed to allow the city to raise the fee for parking violations after 3 tickets, to prevent food trucks from leaving vehicles in spots they want to use near the Mall, treating repeated tickets as a cost of business.

He also noted that last year the Mayor accepted CM Cheh's proposal allowing DDOT to mail parking tickets if it can't put a ticket on the vehicle if the motorist drives away before the ticket is issued.

Mr. Wogoman mentioned that the Council proposed in the FY2020 budget that the city should raise the fee for a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) from \$35 to \$50 for the first vehicle in a household, with higher fees for additional vehicles: \$75 for the second vehicle, \$100 for the third, and \$150 for the fourth, with a \$15 discount for senior citizens. City data indicate that 70% of households have one RPP but 100 households have more than 7 vehicles. Several residents recommended further analysis of the effects of that tiered fee structure if a group is sharing a home or apartment.

Commissioner Mladinov reported on the Office of Planning efforts to move forward on Mayor's 2018 draft amendments to the city Comprehensive Plan Framework Element, including a "values" survey online and briefing to ANC members in May. In the mean time, Council Chair Phil Mendelson had directed preparation of a revised proposed draft Framework Element, adopting changes recommended by numerous witnesses at the march 2018 hearing related to maintaining the role and strength of the Comp Plan in zoning decisions and also giving stronger support to affordable housing.

Commissioner Young reported on several meetings on housing, including a city-sponsored workshop on fair housing on May 6, where residents agreed that there can be no discrimination in housing. There were further discussions about the rights to privacy for residents using housing vouchers as well as the rights of every tenant under their lease to the peaceful enjoyment of their home. Commissioner Young mentioned the proposed On-Site Services Act that has been introduced in the DC Council to require an apartment building to provide on-site social services if it has 20 or more units and at least 30% are occupied by residents receiving housing assistance.

Open Forum

Local resident Lauren Javins introduced herself and the group she works with, Community Mediation DC, which provides volunteers at no cost to help facilitate discussions between neighbors, agencies, businesses, and others. She asked if she could have time on the ANC3B agenda at the July meeting to make a presentation on the free services they offer.

David Lange introduced himself as the new manager of the Glover Park-Burleith Farmers' Market held in the parking lot of Hardy Middle School from May through November.

Rich Harrington, Ward 3 liaison from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, announced the Mayor's ribbon cutting the next day at 4900 Brandywine for the DC PLUG (Power Line Undergrounding) project involving Pepco and DDDOT, which will include placing several major Pepco trunk lines underground that have been subject to repeated outages in past storms.

Mr. Harrington also said that the Mayor and CM Cheh met about the continued closure of the Glover Park Whole Foods and agreed to contact the landlord. Commissioner Blumenthal reported that the Whole Foods lawsuit and countersuit with the landlord are continuing in court; there are many steps ahead, and even after the court case is settled, the structure still has to be renovated which would take at least 6 months.

Other announcements included the planned opening of Trader Joe's July 18 on the former site of the Holiday Inn at 2101 Wisconsin Avenue.

A resident asked if there were any updates on the status of DC Water's plans for the sewer rehabilitation project in Glover Archbold Park, now that the Draft Environmental Assessment has been released for the Soapstone Valley sewer project. Commissioner Young said that ANC3B had been told that the Glover Archbold project would not be launched until after the National Park Service has completed work on the Soapstone project is done, so the sewer rehabilitation work in our area could take until 2025.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov presented the minutes of the Commission's May meeting. Chairman Turmail made a motion to take a vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the May minutes as presented.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for May:

May 2019 Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE: \$7,219.52

Income: \$ 2,930.71 DC Government Quarterly Allotment

Total Income: \$ 2,930.71

Outgoing: \$ 0.00

Total Outgoing: \$ 0.00

CLOSING BALANCE: \$ 10,150.23

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the May financial report as presented.

Chairman Turmail announced that the next ANC3B meeting will be Thursday, July 11.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.