

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



ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022

Chairman Brian Turmail called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Four of the Commissioners were participating: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Brian Turmail (3B05), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Elizabeth Elson (3B04) was not able to participate.

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda.

Police Report

Lt. Paul Johnson presented the statistics on crime reported in ANC3B for the previous 3 weeks compared to the same period in 2021. That time period was chosen to avoid duplication with the data presented at the previous meeting. The meeting in May had been only 3 weeks before, because it was delayed one week from the usual second Thursday of the month because of scheduling conflicts.) Lt. Johnson reported there had been very little crime, with 1 stolen auto and a few general thefts, no violent crimes. (The total of 4 reported crimes in 2022 compared to 19 crimes in the same weeks of 2021.)

Lt. Johnson also provided details on several concerning incidents that had been noted on the local listservs:

- An assault at 2201 Wisconsin the night of June 7 was a domestic incident between a husband and wife.
- The barricade incident in the 4100 block of 41st Street on Sunday, June 5, involved an international student at AU who called DHS, spoke of a grievance over a case in China, and talked about blowing up the building. Officers were able to defuse the situation and transported the individual to a mental health center for observation.
- A stabbing on the 33 Metrobus in midafternoon Friday, June 3, involved 2 men who had an altercation. The suspect got off the bus at Newark and Wisconsin near the Giant Food, and was not apprehended. Both individuals survived. Police got witness statements that a behavioral health issue was involved.
- An altercation at the McDonald's on Wisconsin Avenue at Van Ness Street at 3 am Tuesday, June 7 broke out between two groups who had been at a party. One person fired four rounds into another car. The victim went to Suburban Hospital for treatment for non life-threatening injuries. The people involved did not cooperate with the police, and no arrests had been made.

Chairman Turmail asked about a large group of illegal off-road vehicles including all terrain vehicles (ATVs) that he saw driving down Wisconsin Avenue with impunity, doing maneuvers in the street. Lt. Johnson said MPD doesn't have much enforcement power and cannot chase the riders for traffic violations because the District and other nearby jurisdictions all have a "no chase" rule, in order to avoid causing potential crashes, injuries and deaths in the pursuit. Chairman Turmail expressed concern that someone could be killed if there were a crash with one of the vehicles and his conscience would not be clear if he didn't say the laws should be enforced against illegal vehicles and illegal activities on the public streets. He said he would follow up.

Presentation by Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Director Gabriel Robinson

Director Robinson spoke about current DMV services and initiatives:

- Services at DMV centers are 100% open for walk-ins except for those that required appointments before COVID-19 (and still do): road tests, Commercial Drivers Licenses, and hearings on moving violations.
- For in-person services, patrons and staff are still required to wear a face mask
- When you renew your vehicle registration and want to add an Residential Parking Permit (RPP), the fees for RPPs that used to be \$35 per vehicle are now charged on a graduated scale:
 - \$50 for the first vehicle (except for a senior citizen discount: \$35 for the first vehicle for one resident 65 years of age or older per household)
 - \$75 for the second vehicle
 - \$100 for the third vehicle
 - \$150 for every vehicle beyond the third vehicle
- Virtual hearings can now be requested for parking and photo enforcement tickets, as well as minor moving violations, permit suspensions and revocations, and reinstatement hearings.
- The District is now part of the National Motor Vehicle Information System so it is possible to verify a paper title from another state in real time and convert it to a DC title; or verify that the vehicle hasn't been stolen and there hasn't been any alteration in the title, such as changing the odometer reading or removing the word "Salvage" if the vehicle has been damaged in a flood, etc.
- All waivers have ended as of June 2021 for deferring registration or inspection because of COVID-19, so everyone should not be using licenses and paperwork that are up to date.
- The District has a DMV app so patrons can use it to replace or renew a license or ID or registration, pay a ticket or fee, cancel a tag. Search dcdmv.org and download the app at no cost.
- You can load your vehicle registration to Apple Wallet on your mobile phone to show to police.
- You can get a title and registration using a combination of online services and mail to receive the document.
- You can scan and email documents to DMV, and then mail the physical copy to them to verify.
- You can go online to submit the required documents and pay the fee to convert a provisional driver's license to a Full Driver's License (with conditions)/
- Requirements to use driver's licenses that are a REAL ID (Look for a black star at the top right) will go into full effect May 3, 2023, meaning anyone who wants to board a domestic flights or use an ID for a federal service will have to submit the necessary documents to get a REAL ID by that time. Usually DMV tries to issue a REAL ID when you are required to renew your license, but if your renewal doesn't come until after May 3, 2023, DMV will work with you to issue a REAL ID before that time.
- For owners of personal (not commercial) vehicles from model years 2005 or newer that have previously been inspected by DC DMV. it is no longer necessary to use the inspection station on Half Street SW. Instead, they can take the vehicle for emissions inspection at the 24/7 self-service kiosk at Takoma Rec Center at 300 Van Buren Street NW (open since November 2019 and very heavily used). DMV is looking to add one or two additional self-service inspection kiosks in 2023, including one east of the Anacostia.
- DMV's road test facility is now fully open. DMV has also re-introduced parallel parking to the road test. (You need to be able to parallel park to drive in Washington, DC!)
- DMV has purchased 6 Honda Civics that candidates for a license can use to take the road test at the Deanwood Road Test Center if they choose instead of using their own vehicle. The road test vehicles have a center hand brake accessible to the examiner, a dual foot brake, and full liability insurance.

Chairman Tuirmail asked if the written test for a license is now available online. Mr. Robinson said yes, as of that very date, candidates can take the test online through one of its third party proctoring companies, or take the test in person. DMV was having a "soft launch" so the online option was not being widely publicized but you can see it on the DMV website as an option. The agency wants to see how it's working before putting the system into wider use.

Chairman Turmail also asked if DC DMV is making progress toward allowing use of a digital driver's license. Mr. Robinson said the Council just provided authorization in December 2021 and DMV is now in talks with Apple about developing a digital form of a DC driver's licenses. (He said Maryland has introduced digital credentials already, but only on Apple phones, and they are only accepted at National Airport, not at Dulles or BWI at this point.

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

One representative from DDOT, Faye Dastgheib, was on the Zoom session but the WMATA staff members were not participating because they had not gotten the link and the Commissioners were not able to reach them by phone or email. (Ms. Dastgheib is the Senior Policy Advisor advises the District WMATA Board members on budgetary and policy matters related to public transit, and acts as the liaison between DDOT, WMATA, and the Mayor's Office focusing on WMATA's operating and capital budget.) She had met with the WMATA and DDOT bus planning team in preparation for the ANC3B meeting but could not stand in for WMATA. She said she would be glad to take questions on bus shelters and cleanliness which are DDOT responsibilities, but she did not have any information on expectations for future Metrobus service. Chairman Turmail thanked her and said the ANC would reschedule the full discussion with WMATA and DDOT for the next meeting if possible.

Presentation about Wingo's application for entertainment endorsement at 2218 Wisconsin

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced Wingo's manager, Mike Arthur, to speak about the proposal to add some new terms to the entertainment endorsement attached to Wingo's liquor license. Mr. Arthur said that Wingo's has an entertainment endorsement but would like extend it to allow karaoke, saxophone music, and other limited events. The establishment would not be a nightclub but just have entertainment for customers there for food and beverages, to try to be competitive in a difficult market after COVID-19. Commissioner Blumenthal said that she had gotten neighbors' comments that they would not oppose as long as the activities were not too loud and did not go on to late. Mr. Arthur had agreed to end the entertainment at midnight, keep the sound within the premises, provide a phone number to reach him during all hours that Wingo's is open in case there were concerns, and immediately reduce the volume and the bass level and close the front windows of the establishment if anyone complained about the noise. Commissioner Blumenthal had incorporated those provisions into a resolution supporting the entertainment endorsement and also added them to the settlement agreement between Wingo's and the ANC, which she proposed to send to ABRA. Chairman Turmail made a motion to take a vote on the resolution and settlement agreement. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Announcement of Public Comment Period on Possible Medical Marijuana Dispensary in Glover Park

Commissioner Blumenthal announced that the ANC needed to open a public comment period on the proposal by Nature's Charm LLC to open a Medical Marijuana Dispensary (MMD) the site now occupied by Lalignuras restaurant at 2332 Wisconsin Avenue. The organization had made a presentation at the ANC3B April 14 meeting and had submitted a preliminary application to ABRA to compete for the one license that could be awarded for an MMD in Ward 3. The ANC and the applicant were awaiting notification of whether Nature's Charm had been selected as a potential awardee, which was supposed to be announced on June 17. Because that date would come a week after the ANC3B June meeting but the scheduled due date was August 8 for the Commission to take a position, Commissioner Blumenthal announced the launch of a four-week comment period so the ANC could gather comments before its regular monthly meeting on July 14 and vote at that time on a resolution to submit to ABRA by the deadline. She committed to putting the announcement on the listservs and asked for comments to go to anc3bmail@gmail.com

Follow-up Discussion of bike lane options and other safety improvements on New Mexico/Tunlaw

ANC3B Chairman Brian Turmail said at the ANC3B May meeting that the Commission was planning 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 goes forward with identifying a definite proposal to put forward in a formal Notice of Intent (NOI) and announce a public comment period. DDOT had said it was working on revising engineering designs to improve safety at crosswalks and intersections on the corridor, in part in response to concerns from the AMC and the public that the designs presented in April would create conflicts between some of the movements by vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles at that intersection. DDOT had committed to reviewing other comments that were submitted.

Chairman Turmail reported that a recent email from DDOT indicated the agency was hoping to issue an NOI for the bike lane project in the next several weeks, though the ANC was still receiving public comments and formulating its recommendations for a vote in July. Chairman Turmail introduced a proposed letter to DDOT asking that agency to maintain its commitment to waiting until it had heard comments on the preliminary designs from constituents and the ANC before developing its final proposal, issuing an NOI, and launching a formal public comment period on designs for bike lanes and other traffic safety improvements on New Mexico Avenue and on Tunlaw Road north of Calvert Street in ANC3B.

Several participants asked questions. One asked if the ANC had heard from the Russian embassy about changes in the proposed location of on-street parking on Tunlaw. Commissioner Lane said that normally the embassy works through the State Department, not directly through the ANC. Commissioner Blumenthal recalled that the embassy had weighed in previously about on-street parking, saying they did not want any parking next to the embassy complex. Commissioner Mladinov noted that the embassy currently has use of three on-street parking spaces designated for diplomatic vehicles, on the north/east side of Tunlaw just to the left (south) of the rear gate to the complex, which DDOT is proposing to keep as is in its newest designs for that street. designated for diplomatic vehicles.

Chairman Turmail said the ANC would like to hear any additional comments about DDOT's new designs, which are posted on the ANC3B home page www.anc3b.org under "Hot Topics." He made a motion to take a vote on the letter to DDOT asking them to wait for comments from ANC3B in July before moving to the next steps in the process. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the letter.

Updates and Information

Chairman Turmail reported that he had spoken to Julia Washburn, NPS superintendent for the Washington area, and found the explanation for why the field at Whitehaven and 37th Street and other NPS properties were so so overgrown. She explained that a mistake had been made in the NPS contract for mowing this summer. She said NPS is working it out and the mowing should start soon.

Chairman Turmail also reported that the Council had adopted the FY2023 budget and Stoddert Elementary School had not gotten the extra \$1.4 million funding the ANC and PTO had hoped for to allow the capital improvement project now being put together at the school to provide for permanent capacity of 546 students. The current funding will provide permanent capacity for 523 students, which is only slightly above the pre-COVID enrollment numbers. There is still hope to get the Request for Proposal to require the designs to allow for structural support sufficient to add another floor to the building in the future. DC DCPS and the Department of General Services have committed to doing that.

Commissioner Blumenthal reported that earlier in the week the Alcoholic Control Board had voted to extend the moratorium on new liquor licenses for taverns and nightclubs in Glover Park. She said she would check further to determine how long the extension would last, but the ANC had proposed 3 years.

Chairman Turmail reported that the Council had taken a second and final vote on June 7 to approve the Redistricting map for ANCs and Single Member District (SMDs) for the next 10 years, 2023-2032. The changes are supposed to accommodate the change in population since the previous Census in 2010. The Council essentially accepted what the Ward 3 Task Force had recommended for ANC3B, which will mean addition to the Commission area of 3 blocks located west of Glover Archbold Park on New Mexico Avenue, including a sixth SMD representing residents north of Cathedral Avenue up to Sutton Place. At the same time, the three blocks of Cathedral Heights in ANC3B01 where Commissioner Mladinov lives will be removed from ANC3B. (Those blocks will be part of a new ANC3A serving "Middle Wisconsin," which runs north to Van Ness Street). The SMD boundaries will also be significantly changed within Glover Park.

Petitions will be available from the DC Board of Elections starting July 20 for candidates who want to run for ANC for 2023-2024 within the new boundaries. Each candidate is required to collect 25 signatures of residents within the SMD, which must be submitted by August.10. The official map of the new ANC and SMD boundaries compared to the current boundaries will be posted on the ANC website.

The DC primary vote is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, with Early Voting in person from June 10-19. Drop boxes are located at libraries and other public buildings to allow voters to return mail-in ballots.

Open Forum

Residents were invited to share additional comments and questions, but there were none.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared the minutes for the May meeting. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes.

Chairman Turmail read the monthly financial report for May, from the bank balances provided by Treasurer Elizabeth Elson:

May 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

Chairman Turmail 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 July 14 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 4-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.