

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of October 10, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

Timestamp	Agenda Items
0:00:00	Call to Order
0:00:00	Approval of Agenda
0:00:14	Police Report
0:02:50	Old Business
0:02:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote regarding liquor license and operating hours for Bonjon Rumi
0:05:06	New Business
0:05:06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant request from Hardy School
0:10:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of resolution regarding the proposed Bottle Deposit Law
	Updates and Information
0:20:35	Open Forum
0:20:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)
0:23:35	Administrative Matters

Call to Order [0:00:00]

Approval of Agenda [0:00:00]

Blumenthal: So let me just say, since we started the recording late, that a quorum is present, and the agenda has been approved by a 6-0 vote.

Police Report [0:00:14]

Blumenthal: Okay. Now, Lieutenant Johnson, you can take the floor

Johnson: Hey, good evening, everybody. This is Lieutenant Paul Johnson with the Second District. I'm going to give the police report for the Glover Park area. This month we have 11 crimes to report. We had a good month. We had six theft from autos. Again, we ask everybody to hide your items, lock your doors, and park in well-lit areas if you can. We've had an issue with tires being stolen lately. They've been taking all four tires. This is happening all over the District, not just in Glover Park. Might have had one in our area, but mainly up in Woodley Park, Cathedral Heights, areas like that. They've been taking, at night, four tires. We're working on trying to solve this case. But if you can, get wheel locks for your tires. The tires that have been taken has been newer model vehicles like Hondas and Toyotas. They'll be taking all four, and none of them had wheel locks on them. If you see a van at night working on cars, please let us know. We had three thefts. One sex abuse, that was a domestic. It's probably going to be a closed case between, you know, two known individuals. And we had one burglary to report, the same one we reported last month of the Pearson Liquors, when we had the social unrest. They came, rioters came in and broke into the store, and took some items. Other than that, that's the 11 crimes I have to report this month. Anyone have anything or further reports to the police department?

Blumenthal: Any commissioners have anything for Lieutenant Johnson? Anyone in the audience would have a question for Lieutenant Johnson or want to report anything? Okay, that was short and sweet, Lieutenant Johnson. Thank you very much.

Johnson: Oh, I have one more thing to say. We're going to have a community walk. We're going to start off at 38th and Garfield Street Northwest at 6:30 p.m. on October 23rd. I'll put it in the group chat for everyone, whoever wants to show up. We're going to walk around the community, talk about crime. We'll have people from different agencies show up, too, and walk with us.

Carroll: And what time is that, Lieutenant?

Johnson: It's going to be at 6:30 p.m. on October 23rd. And the location, we are going to meet at 38th and Garfield Street Northwest. I'm going to put it in the group chat. I'm getting ready to type it in right now.

Blumenthal: Okay, thank you very much.

Old Business [0:02:50]

Vote regarding liquor license and operating hours for Bonjon Rumi [0:02:50]

Blumenthal: We will move to old business. Last month we had a presentation from Bonjon Rumi, a new Afghan restaurant that's opening up in the space that used to be occupied by Mario's. They are applying for a liquor license, and had sought full hours, both inside and outside, on their roof deck. There was concern from near neighbors, since they abut a residential neighborhood, about having the roof deck open until 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., weeknights and weekends. And so the restaurant negotiated with ANC 3B, and we agreed to file a request to amend the hours by a settlement agreement that will close the roof deck at midnight every night of the week, all seven nights. And to prohibit music on the roof deck and sound from any TVs at all. The restaurant also agreed to provide a phone number that residents can call if there is disturbance that bothers them from the roof deck. And they have promised to address any noise issues promptly. So that settlement agreement is on the table. We have a resolution regarding submitting that resolution to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, which we need to do before the end of this month. So everybody on the commission has read both the resolution and the settlement agreement. And I will move that we vote to approve the resolution, which submits the settlement agreement to ABCA. Second, Commissioner Lane. All in favor? Okay, motion carries 6-0.

New Business [0:05:06]

Grant request from Hardy School [0:05:06]

Blumenthal: Moving on to new business, we have a grant request from Hardy School. Whoever is here from Hardy school who would like to talk about this should please-- Troy and Anna Johnson, excellent. Why don't one of the two of you take over from here and tell us what you need the money for?

Kravitz: Good evening, thank you for having us, and we welcome your consideration of this request. This is a request from the Hardy Middle School PTO. Hardy is the inbounds middle school for Stoddert and Mann communities. It serves a great number of families from the Glover Park area. The request is for \$2,210 to help support GeoPlunge and History Plunge materials. The plunges, the GeoPlunge and the History Plunge, are competitive competitions, for lack of a better word, that help students learn about US history and US geography. The request is for materials. Dry erase maps, the kits, the GeoPlunge kits, the History Plunge kits, and some assorted costs with hosting the competitions at Hardy Middle School. The competitions will include students from the feeder elementaries, and actually done in conjunction, I believe Stoddert has been participating in this in the past. And we're looking to bring the five feeder

elementary schools more integrated with Hardy through these competitions, in addition to learning about US history and US geography. I will note that you guys prudently forwarded the grant request to the OANC. It is wonderful to see that OANC is proactive in responding. Congratulations, that is much better. The OANC did deem the grant request permissible, and suggested splitting the request into two checks: one for January, and one for May. And I believe you guys asked us if that was fine with us. And, certainly. We want to work with you, and we will find a way. Thank you

Blumenthal: Great, that's terrific. Do you want to add anything else, Anna?

Johnson: Hi, Anna Johnson. I'm Hardy PTO co-president. I have a seventh grader there, a third grader at Mann. And, yeah, I'm new at this process, but thrilled to have the opportunity to kind of make our case. So we're really trying to elevate, I think, Hardy. In the neighborhood it, as you know, serves Stoddert in your feeder, and all the other surrounding areas. It's an opportunity, I think, to really bring all five of the feeder schools together for an academically focused series of competition. So, the GeoPlunge is yoked to the sixth grade social studies curriculum, and the History Plunge is yoked to the seventh grade history curriculum. And so it's really an opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of the content, but also bring some of the feeder elementary schools, including Stoddert and Mann, into their middle school before the students actually matriculate, so it kind of builds those strong feeder pattern connections. With an emphasis on academics, and I think like civic-minded academics in particular. So I think it's a great opportunity for ANC to support that. But we are seeking funding from the other ANCs as well, because we recognize that no one ANC can meet all of our needs. And we're seeking funding for other academic support and other academic competitions to try to really round out the profile of Hardy as a civic-minded neighborhood, by-right school that serves all of those elementaries in all of your neighborhoods and commissions.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you. Well, I for one think this is a great project. I wish we could give you more money. But any commissioners have questions? Anyone in the audience have a question, raise your hand? Okay, I will move that we approve the grant and deliver it in the two parts as discussed, which works better for our books, and will make life easier for Commissioner Lavezzo, our treasurer. Can I have a second for the motion?

Bergmann: Second.

Blumenthal: Commissioner Howie or whoever. All in favor? Motion carries, 6-0. Thank you, Troy and Anna, for coming. Good luck with this. Let us know when the competitions are. We'd be interested in that.

Johnson: Absolutely. So, the two installments works really well because January will be used for materials and prep, and then the actual event will happen in May. And we'd be happy to take pictures and feedback to you. Any type of information, along with, of course, like a careful accounting of how the funds are disbursed.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you very much.

Kravitz: Thank you guys very much. Have a good evening.

Johnson: Thank you.

Discussion of resolution regarding the proposed Bottle Deposit Law [0:10:05]

Blumenthal: Okay. We're moving on--

Lane: Do you want me to do this one

Blumenthal: Yeah, I was just gonna hand it off to you.

Lane: Okay, then I'll just take it. We were going to discuss a resolution for the bottle bill law that is being considered in front of council. However, I think we need to-- We've got some more questions on it that need to be answered. But in the meantime we have Anne deBuys here to give us an overview just of what the bill is. And then next month we can take up the resolution. Anne?

deBuys: Thank you, Melissa. And thank you, Chair Blumenthal and Commissioners, for making the time this evening. I think you have the resolution before you, but I'll just give a summary. And I'm going to start by asking when was the last time you took a walk, and you did not see a discarded plastic bottle or can on the ground? So, we have a problem in the District. The District is littered across all of the wards with these discarded containers that are littering our neighborhoods, parks, and waterways. The Anacostia is one of only three rivers in the United States that the EPA has deemed impaired by trash. And more than half of that trash that's floating in the Anacostia is made up by plastic bottles. This feels like a very easy win, in a way, to convince people. But I'm just going to go ahead and say the Sierra Club's DC chapter, the Anacostia Riverkeeper, Ward 8 Woods, DC Environmental Network, there about 20 organizations that have formed a coalition to propose a return, refund, recycle system to keep plastic bottles and other containers out of area waterways and out of our parks. So this coalition is called 3RC for DC. It's working to pass a deposit return law, affectionately called a bottle bill. And the way it works in DC is for a small container it's a 10-cent deposit. For a large container, it's a 15-cent deposit. For plastic, glass, or aluminum, excepting for dairy product containers. And that amount would be refunded when the container is returned. So consumers can take their empties back to a grocery store or a redemption center and get their money back. The deposit creates an incentive for people to avoid simply tossing a used container, which ends up as trash, as we all know. Unclaimed deposits would fund water filters for lead line replacement, lead service line replacement, and water refill stations with glass bottles. And then we're going back to collecting and returning empty beverage containers that used to happen here before single-use plastics came online, when the beverage companies used glass bottles that they

considered an asset. But now that we have plastic, it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to break down in a landfill, and it's shedding microplastic particles as it degrades. We know that those are getting, and nanoplastics are getting, into our food stream and everywhere else. So we'd like to get rid of these. We'd like to get rid of the plastic bottles, for one thing. 75% of bottles and cans in the US get trashed, burned, or buried. So, I'll say a beverage container deposit return program also results in better recycling. A strong bottle bill would enable the District to triple its beverage container recycling rates. Bottle bills have been very successful, nationally and internationally. Ten US states so far, with 90 million residents, have programs in place. Maryland, Virginia, and Illinois are about to legislate bottle bills. Well-run 3R systems consistently collect more than 80% of bottles and cans that are sold. You know, I'm going to point to the example of DC's 5-cent tax on disposable bags, which has worked well. It's been effective in reducing the use of plastic bags here. So these kinds of legislations can work. It's time to expand further and include single-use beverage containers. So, the petition, I'm sorry, the resolution you have before you. I'm happy to answer any questions. There's also an electronic petition you can sign. And if you can, maybe I'll ask Melissa to put this in the minutes, because it seems like only commissioners are here at this point. Is that right, or do we have much audience participation? I can't tell. It looks like nine participants, so three of us who aren't commissioners, I guess. Anyway, Gupi, you have your hand up. Is that a question coming? Yes?

Howie: Okay, I guess I put them in the chat, but I just don't want to forget them.

deBuys: Oh, I'm sorry.

Howie: So just to clarify-- Dairy products, so milk gallons and like yogurt containers are not going to be included?

deBuys: Apparently not, and I don't know why that is. If you would like to know, I will find out for you. And will, question, dented aluminum cans be accepted? I will try to find out both, the answer to both of those questions. I'm not as familiar with this bill as some others are. But I'll get any questions answered for you, and get those responses. I think another question that had come in is, who on the council is introducing this legislation? I would guess it's somebody on the Committee for Transportation and the Environment, but let me see. I will find out.

Howie: Yeah, I just asked that question because I know Maine does a bottle deposit, but they will not accept crushed or dented aluminum cans.

deBuys: Okay, let me find out. Because, you know, a lot of the stuff we see has been there for quite a while. And I mean, I did a walk after the big rains the other day and picked up, you know, ten kind of grody plastic bags and cans. I don't know if-- I think you can return the plastic bottles, no matter what the condition. But let me find out for you.

Howie: And where would be-- Sorry, where would the collection centers be located?

deBuys: I think the idea with this legislation is to make it really easy. Grocery stores would have

collection centers, and there'd also be other established sort of like kiosks. This website that I'm going to put in the chat has a lot of information in terms of the return. I mean, this is all hypothetical until the legislation passes, but I think it's well thought out in terms of the collection.

Lane: And can we clarify whether or not this bill is only for plastic bottles, or if it includes aluminum cans and glass bottles as well? Because that's really not clear to me at this point.

deBuys: Okay, they're calling it a bottle bill, but when I read through this information, it's talking--

Lane: It sounds like it's only plastic.

deBuys: It's talking about aluminum cans as well. So I'm going to direct us to this website that I'm putting in the chat, 3rcfordc.org, that has a lot of information about this. My understanding is it's more than just plastic bottles.

Lane: Okay, thank you.

deBuys: Thank you so much for your interest. Any other questions? Well, I hope this resolution passes--

Lane: Oh, Kevin Carroll has a question.

Carroll: I just have a-- I kind of spied a typo, I think. It doesn't seem to--

Lane: Yeah, there's a problem with the fifth paragraph, but we'll work on that this month.

Carroll: "Whereas" has--

deBuys: Oh, the fifth "whereas"? Yeah.

Lane: Yeah, that's been changed, actually, completely. But we'll work on that in the next month.

deBuys: Yeah, I think-- Is that the "whereas" that talks about environmental justice, Melissa? I can't remember. Let me look.

Lane: It's environmental and human health. And, yes, I've changed that.

deBuys: Oh, great. Okay. Right. Okay, I'm going to put this link in the chat, and then I'll put my email address in the chat also, if anybody has follow-up questions. Or you can reach me through Melissa. I live in Melissa's building, I'm here. I'm a fellow resident

Lane: I should own that building.

deBuys: I'm sorry? Yeah, you should own that building. All right, thank you. Thank you for your time.

Blumenthal: Thank you very much. So we will discuss this. We will learn more. We will bring it back up again next month, and hopefully vote on something that we agree on that we can present to the council as our opinion from ANC 3B. We encourage anyone who reads our minutes, or listens to our meeting, to let us know their thoughts on bottle bills. It would be helpful for us to hear from you. And that's the end of that one.

deBuys: Thank you so much, Chair Blumenthal.

Howie: Melissa, I was just reading the website, and it says the District council would pass a law requiring consumers to pay a deposit on plastic, glass, or aluminum beverage containers.

Lane: It says "or"? Okay

Howie: Yeah, I guess it says "or."

Lane: Okay, well, we'll straighten that out in the next month.

Open Forum [0:20:35]

Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) [0:20:35]

Blumenthal: All right, do we have-- Are there any updates or information that the commissioners want to share before I ask for people from the audience? No. Is there anyone here who wants to add anything in open forum? So, we don't have a MOCR here?

Cousin: Hi, this is Hope. I'm sorry, I was trying to find the raise hand. I'm here. I apologize.

Blumenthal: Sorry, I was staring right at your picture, too. I'm sorry.

Cousin: No, it's okay. Super quick, you may or may not know, but I like to run through it anyway, with 311, the importance. I always encourage people, enter those service requests, because it really is the one-stop shop, if you will, the way to hold the agencies accountable. You get a service request number and all that other good stuff. And the other reason I'm bringing it up, leaf season is here. Leaf season starts officially on the 28th of this month and runs through February the 8th. If you haven't already, you should have received a brochure or a door knocker. DPW did share that they are in the mail as we speak. Also, another way to track where they're going, whether or not they've been, all that other good stuff, go to dpw.dc.gov/leaf. And I'll drop that in the chat so everyone will have that, and will be able to share that. You can also follow it on their

social media, their Twitter, their Instagram. If you haven't already, I highly encourage you to download their MyDPW app. Also, they have a newsletter. And, of course, items will be on Nextdoor. And just as an FYI, there will be two full passes, Mondays through Saturdays. And if you have trouble with your leaf collection, and you've entered the service request and it's outside of the SLA, please please please let me know, and I'll be happy to assist with that. And, again, I'll put that info in the chat.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you very much.

Cousin: Thank you.

Howie: What does SLA mean?

Cousin: Service Level Agreement.

Lane: Yeah, I'll be calling you about that.

Cousin: That's okay. Look, I used to work in DPW. I ran the clearing house for all eight wards. I'm very familiar with Ward 3 leaf collection. That's why I wanted to make sure that everyone knew. So, please share it with everyone, and I am here to assist.

Lane: Thank you.

Cousin: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Any other person want to speak in the open forum?

Administrative Matters [0:23:35]

Blumenthal: Okay, we will move to administrative matters now. We've all seen the September minutes. I move that we approve them. Could I have a second? Commissioner Lavezzo seconds. All in favor of approving the September minutes? 6-0, motion carries. Commissioner Lavezzo, as our treasurer, do you want to take it from here, please?

Lavezzo: Absolutely. So, I will start off with the September financial report. We had a beginning balance of \$45,017.95. We had an ending balance of \$42,517.95, which was accounting for one \$2,500 debit due to a grant. We had no deposits for the month of September. The next item is our budget for fiscal year 2025. It's been up on our website for the last month, and nothing has changed. I don't believe we've received any questions or comments. And I can run through that again really quick, where we are expecting a forward balance of \$42,518. Next year we expect to get \$15,940 across four quarters from the DC government for our allotment. And we have budgeted \$0 for personnel, \$5,000 for direct office costs, \$5,000 for communications. Nothing

for office supplies, equipment or printing. \$15,000 for grants. Zero for transportation. \$10,000 for purchase of services. And \$50 for other. And those costs are spread evenly across all four quarters. We expect to have \$35,000 worth of disbursements. And do we have any questions about the budget?

Blumenthal: Yeah, I have one. We can change it anytime we want, right?

Lavezzo: Yes.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Lavezzo: So it's not permanent for now.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Lavezzo: Right. And if there are no other questions, I'd like to move that we vote to approve the fiscal year 2025 budget, as proposed. Do I have a second?

Bergmann: Second.

Lavezzo: All right. I'll choose somebody. Commissioner Bergmann, we haven't chosen you in a while, so seconded by Commissioner Bergmann. And all in favor? All right. Six in favor, zero against. Thanks, everybody.

Blumenthal: Thank you all. Okay, our next meeting is Thursday, November 14th. And it will be the second-to-last meeting of this commission, which will change after the election. All right, I move that we adjourn. Commissioner Lavezzo seconds. All in favor? 6-0, motion carries. Good night, everyone. Thank you very much for a short meeting.

Lavezzo: Good night.

Lane: Good night, thank you.