

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

July 2012 Minutes

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center. In attendance were: Commissioners Cohen (05), Blumenthal (02); Fulwood (03), Kreitzman (04), and Thielen (01).

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

Lieutenant Neal gave the Metropolitan Police Department's June 2012 report for the Second District. There were twenty thefts in June 2012, down slightly but thefts from autos remains a problem. Some of the locations where thefts from autos occurred were at 4000 Cathedral Avenue, 3806 Fulton Street, 3700 Fulton Street, and 2800 Bellevue Terrace. Commissioner Cohen inquired about concern on the list-serve regarding a possible sexual assault in the Brueggers/Chipotle parking lot on 37th Street. Lieutenant Neal noted that no assault in fact occurred and the person in question was only intoxicated.

NEW BUSINESS

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton: Representative Eleanor Holmes-Norton attended the July 2012 ANC 3B monthly meeting to answer questions from constituents. Representative Norton noted that she recently introduced legislation in Congress to rename the National Park Service trail in Glover Archbold Park after the conservationist Rachel Carson (http://www.norton.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3264&Itemid=88). Representative Norton noted that this year is the 50th anniversary of the publishing of "Silent Spring" and many of Ms. Carson's observations were from DC.

Representative Norton discussed a statement she earlier released about the revelations of campaign finance improprieties of Vince Gray.

Representative Norton discussed her effort in Congress to protect the World War I memorial for the District of Columbia. This memorial was built with one hundred percent DC funding after World War I.

Congresswoman Norton discussed the recently-enacted surface transportation bill. Norton noted that the bill is a very weak two-year bill but it is still important because it is the only jobs bill to be enacted in the 112th Congress. Norton noted that the transportation legislation included national subway safety standards following the Red Line accident a few years ago. The transportation bill will also provide DC's per capita funding for streets.

Representative Norton noted the Affordable Care Act. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee invited the CEO of Cape Air to testify on the healthcare legislation. He noted that in Massachusetts, the rate of premium increases has slowed after the Massachusetts law was enacted.

Commissioner Fulwood inquired about Pepco, following the June 2012 *Derecho* power-outage. Representative Norton noted that there is no federal jurisdiction over Pepco but she is partnering with Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to investigate the power outages.

Commissioner Thielen inquired about the disposal and reuse of un-used federal property. Representative Norton spoke about bipartisan legislation to create a civilian BRAC process but noted that there is not a significant amount of unused federal property in the District. Norton noted that she had House committee staff do an inventory of federal property that can be re-used, including the Old Post Office. Commissioner Thielen also inquired about the District's Height Act. Representative Norton said that she supports smart growth but want to study this issue more.

Another issue Representative Norton addressed was budget autonomy and Home Rule. There was a recent hearing where Representative Darrel Issa (R-CA) was in favor of DC budget autonomy by the end of the hearing because of the surplus the District enjoys. Currently, DC pays a premium when it borrows money because the District has to come before the United States Congress for budget issues, creating a great amount of uncertainty. Representative Norton also noted that Representative Cantor (R-VA) and Governor Bob McDonnell (R-VA) also support budget autonomy for the District, signifying that this issue enjoys bipartisan support. Norton said that in the Senate, Senators Lieberman (I-CT) and Collins (R-ME) also have budget autonomy legislation but Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) attached many amendments to this, complicating its passage.

Representative Norton spoke about the importance of the DC Tuition Access grants. According to Representative Norton, if a child graduates from a high school in DC, that student can get up to \$10,000 to go to any other public university in the United States. Norton noted that both Virginia and Maryland have good public universities with relatively affordable tuition and that this tuition assistance helps keeps families in the District and that this legislation has traditionally received bipartisan support.

Representative Norton addressed legislation introduced in the House of Representatives targeting the reproductive health of women in DC that would ban abortion after twenty weeks. Representative Norton noted that the witnesses at a recent hearing to discuss this legislation used completely bogus science.

A Glover Park resident asked about whether there is any possibility of indexing the \$5,000 DC first-time homebuyer tax credit for inflation.

Commissioner Kreitzman asked about the structural imbalance where schools, universities, and churches don't pay property taxes in the District of Columbia. Representative Norton noted that every city has this challenge but that DC has a structural deficit imposed by additional federal limitations.

A Ward 5 resident attending the meeting asked Congresswomen Norton about the proposal to park intercity buses at a school in Ward 5 and that the District Department of Transportation is moving forward with construction to bring these buses to her neighborhood. Congresswomen Norton expressed her confidence in Councilmember McDuffie to work on behalf of Ward 5 residents on this issue.

Commissioner Cohen inquired about accountability for Vincent Gray following the campaign finance improprieties. Representative Norton noted that she issued a statement that says the Mayor has an obligation to resolve this issue quickly but that she does not want to interfere in local issues.

Pepco resolution: Commissioner Fulwood introduced a resolution calling for an investigation of Pepco following the extended June 2012 power outage. Commissioner Cohen recused himself from the discussion. Dee Smith from Councilmember Cheh's office noted that the District Department of Transportation's Urban Forestry division wants DC residents to look at the tree canopy to see which trees are damaged or precarious. Commissioner Fulwood noted that we can't blame power outages on the tree canopy because there have been 'blue sky' outages in Glover Park, in addition to outages from severe weather.

One resident said that it is outrageous that Pepco can charge customers during the duration of the outage period. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that ANC 3E (Friendship Heights and Tenley) is considering a resolution to support burying the power lines but Commissioner Blumenthal noted that ANC 3B will be holding off on voting on this resolution to let the DC Council investigation play out. Commissioner Fulwood said that we're at a moment that can be a real opportunity but ANC 3B and residents have to force Pepco on burying lines and improving service.

A resident stated that another issue is that Pepco needs to establish a system that allows residents to get information easily and reliably when there is an outage. Another resident asked if Pepco can give Glover Park residents a copy of the electrical grid system for Glover Park. Similarly, a resident noted that any report should have graphics and maps in addition to data so it can be more easily accessible.

The resolution was approved 4-0, with Commissioner Cohen abstaining.

Grant request for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: Alex Sanders from the *Potomac Appalachian Trail Club* appeared at the July meeting to seek a grant for the maintenance and improvement of the Whitehaven trail (runs from W Street to Wisconsin Avenue) in Glover Park. Mr. Sanders noted this trail has a lot of erosion. The *Potomac Appalachian Trail Club* is seeking \$1957.92 for materials and sought a similar grant last year.

The grant request was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Grant request for *Healthy Living, Inc.* Juliette Tahar from *Healthy Living, Inc.* appeared at the July meeting to seek a grant for \$590 to cover the salary costs of an assistant. Ms. Tahar noted that this request does not cover the entire cost of the program.

The request was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Friends of Guy Mason: Dan Melman from Friends of Guy Mason appeared at the July meeting to seek a letter of support from the ANC to the DC Department of Parks & Recreation for the creation of an official dog park at Guy Mason. Mr. Melman noted that his group needs to renew the Friends of Guy Mason application. He also noted that there will be an upcoming ice cream social event at Guy Mason.

The request for a letter of support was approved by a vote of 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Wisconsin Avenue streetscape: As of the July meeting, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is on-time with the project. DDOT will reconfigure the 37th Street and Tunlaw Road intersection and the agency expects to have plans available as early as August. Commissioner Cohen noted that the ANC does not usually schedule an August monthly meeting but that it would be possible to convene a special meeting to discuss improvements to 37th Street and Tunlaw Road.

Paul Hoffman from DDOT noted that there will soon be a crosswalk at Tunlaw and Benton Street but two parking spaces are expected to be lost south of Benton Street on Tunlaw..

DDOT announced that it will install stop signs at the intersection of 39th Street and Fulton.

One resident noted that it was strange that DDOT ignored the section of 37th Street between Tunlaw and Whitehaven and suggested that DDOT might install a stop sign at W Place and 37th Street. Another resident noted that construction has made crossing Wisconsin Avenue hazardous, especially at the Whole Foods parking lot.

Massage Escape Spa: Commissioner Blumenthal noted that some neighbors had questions about this business but these concerns were resolved successfully, so there is no need for ANC3B to intervene in the zoning adjustment process.

Margarita's liquor license: Commissioner Blumenthal noted that if the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration revokes Margarita's dormant liquor license, it will not reduce the cap of 14 CR licenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Resignation of Commissioner Kreitzman. Commissioner Kreitzman announced his resignation, as of the end of the July 2012 ANC 3B meeting, due to an impending move to New York.

Notification of ANCs: A resolution regarding electronic notice (instead of paper notices) to ANC's by city agencies was passed by a vote of 4-0.

June 2012 Treasurer's Report: There was an opening balance of \$3,671.33 for June 2012. A reimbursement of \$54.74 was written to Commissioner Blumenthal (check #1195) and \$2500.00 for a grant to *DC Greens* (check #1197). There were deposits of \$1600 (quarterly ANC 3B allotment due in December 2011) and \$1285.79 (quarterly ANC 3B allotment due in December 2011). There was also a quarterly allotment of \$2888.09 for the current quarter. The closing balance was \$6,890.47

June Minutes: The June minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:30 PM.