

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

September 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) (who arrived late, in the middle of the discussion of the Wisconsin Ave. streetscape), Blumenthal (02); Fulwood (03), and Thielen (01).

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE REPORT

One resident inquired if the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) can install temporary stop signs at Calvert and Tunlaw after power outages. After the September 8, 2012 outage, there were a lot of vehicles and pedestrians who had trouble with that intersection. In response to this, Lt. Nealsaid that MPD can put out flares or use other temporary measures following a power outage. Commissioner Blumenthal noted that after previous outages, it has been necessary to contact Councilmember Cheh and the Mayor's office to get prompt action. MPD was thanked for monitoring the stop sign at Tunlaw and Benton.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor's Ward 3 liaison: Tom Smith from the Mayor's office announced that he was resigning. Tom Smith also noted that Vince Gray is holding an ANC Chair meeting on September 24 and said that Commissioner Cohen can assign a designee.

Wisconsin Avenue streetscape improvements: Paul Hoffman noted that the Wisconsin Avenue streetscape improvements are 78% completed and, depending on the work being done by Washington Gas, should be finished by October 31. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) wants to have new pavement by the end of 2012.

Some neighbors noted that the new streetlights on Wisconsin Avenue are too bright. Paul Hoffman of DDOT said that decisions had to be made at the beginning of the project whether to use streetlights specific to residential or commercial areas, but that since the area north of Calvert is mostly residential DDOT will change bulbs to 150 watts from 250 watts.. 40 poles (80 lights) will be changed and the switch should take about two months. Paul Holder from Town Hall noted that DDOT uses orange industrial lights and these are not as attractive as yellow lights or the white lights that the federal government uses. Another resident had question about whether light will still be reflected into his 9th floor apartment and Paul Hoffman said that DDOT expects about a 40% reduction in the brightness. He also said the orange lights will not be changed.

There was a community meeting in August to discuss improvements, based on the Glover Park Transportation Study, for Tunlaw Road and 37th Street. Commissioner Cohen noted that the

ANC has received many comments regarding the loss of parking that these improvements will require.

Chris Finnegan inquired about the island proposed in front of his house on Tunlaw Road. He noted that this is an important space for his house and predicted that installation of the island would negatively affect his property values. Paul Hoffman responded that the bump-outs are a necessary part of the pedestrian safety improvements for 37th Street and Tunlaw Road. Commissioner Blumenthal said that DDOT and the ANC would work to try to accommodate the spaces and access that will be lost. J.P. Montalvan, a Glover Park resident, responded that he has not found a single study suggesting that property values decrease because of pedestrian safety improvements.

Several neighbors had questions about the proposed low-impact development that will be combined into the curb extensions. A resident questioned whether DDOT will maintain these spaces. Paul Hoffman answered that these are biofilters that can accommodate 1 ½ feet of water. Mr. Hoffman encouraged residents to view a recently completed low-impact development on Georgia Avenue and Upshur Sts. Sue Baum remarked that with the bump-outs, she'd like to see more greenspace, not more concrete and asked for more modest incremental improvements.

Paul Hoffman requested that neighbors email him their questions and comments for the 37th Street and Tunlaw Road improvements. He also noted that the northbound side of Tunlaw Road would be closed to traffic for several weeks during the intersection project.

Commissioner Thielen inquired about obtaining bike racks for Wisconsin Avenue. Paul Hoffman noted that there are space requirements for bike racks. Commissioner Blumenthal is making a survey of potential spots for bike racks along with the designated DDOT bike rack installer. Mr. Hoffman added that DDOT has tried to get some of the fire hydrants replaced on Wisconsin Avenue but so far, only one has been replaced. DDOT is also working with businesses to identify loading zones on Wisconsin Avenue. Commissioner Cohen asked whether the Wisconsin Avenue project engineers are working with DDOT's Urban Forestry division. Related to this, a resident noted that the small island north of the gas station at the Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert intersection has incurred a lot of damage during the streetscape construction.

JP's Nightclub: Commissioner Blumenthal reported that the JP's license has been kept in safekeeping since the 2008 fire and that there currently is much confusion about who is the actual owner of the nude dancing license. For example, at the May 2012 ANC meeting, Paul Kadlick presented himself as the owner of 90% of the stock in the company that owns the license, but he has now filed an affidavit with ABRA declaring that he has no stakeholder or shareholder interest in any entity associated with the license and that his role is only as agent and representative of the group controlling the business.

Mr. Kadlick informed the ANC that he expects the club to be open by the late fall 2012 and that the parties involved have consummated the sale of the license. He introduced the new corporate owners as Jason Daniel, a former venue promoter, Philip Mathew, also a venue promoter, and Lawrence Wilson, who runs a trucking company. Also in attendance were Jake Akkus of The

Vice Club LLC and Brian Petruska of Wisconsin Ventures LLC, to whom ABRA transferred the JP's license last May.

The prospective owners presented their plans for parking and security. The Vice Group has entered into a long-term contract with U Street Parking and acquired use of a parking garage at 2241 Wisconsin Avenue.

One resident inquired about the hours of operation for the club. According to Paul Kadlick, the current hours are from 11 AM – 2 AM five days per week and from 11 AM to 3 AM two days per week. Paul Kadlick said there will be no nude dancing before 5 PM, a change won by a joint ANC, GPCA, community protest in 2011. He said JP's may not even be open before 5 p.m.

Security will be present every hour the club is open, with 3-4 officers present on weekdays and five on weekends. A resident inquired about how many patrons can be allowed in the building at any one time. According to Paul Kadlick, the occupancy is 99.

Commissioner Blumenthal noted that the ANC and community have no idea who owns the license right now.. Mr. Kadlick was unable to provide the community with a simple and clear explanation of the ownership structure of JPs and was unable to provide an answer as to which individual(s) would ultimately be fiscally or legally responsible in the event of problems at the club.

Commissioner Blumenthal introduced a resolution asking ABRA to hold a public hearing on the proposed JP's license transfer because, as the Resolution begins: "The change of ownership is a matter of great concern to Glover Park residents because the disruptive effects of a nude dancing establishment on the community can only be reduced by responsible and responsive management of good character." The resolution was approved by a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning exemption: Stuart and Mary Farrell, owners of 2432 39th Place appeared at the ANC meeting to obtain ANC support for a zoning exemption for a deck extension. The residents seeking this exemption received 25 signatures from their neighbors. The ANC heard no objections about this project, and unanimously approved a motion to support this exemption.

Sunday use of Stoddert gym: Mitch Dubensky, Director of First Touch Soccer, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization appeared at the ANC meeting to seek ANC support to allow Sunday use of the Stoddert gym. Mr. Dubensky has been trying to work with the District Department of Parks & Recreation to get a permit to use the gym on Sundays, and has offered to pay all costs of opening on Sunday, but has been told that DPR policy will not allow opening of the gym on Sundays. The ANC voted unanimously to send a letter in support of First Touch using the gym on Sunday's to the District Department of Parks & Recreation.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Cohen gave the financial reports for July and August 2012, each of which was unanimously approved. The annual budget for FY 2013 was also approved.

Approval of the July meeting minutes was delayed until the October 2012 meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:15 PM.