



**Government of the District of Columbia  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G**

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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**COMMISSIONERS**

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair      3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman

3/4G-03 - James Nash, Secretary      3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin      3/4G-05 - Peter Lynch

3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Vice Chair      3/4G-07 - Zachary Ferguson, Treasurer

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Minutes

ANC 3/4G Public Hybrid Meeting

December 11, 2023

**00:00:00 Call to Order and Commissioner Introductions**

Commission Chair Gore called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Also present at the meeting were Commissioners Lynch, Nash, Gosselin, Sherman and Ferguson. Commissioner Zeldin's mother was seriously ill and was not present; he indicated he would attempt to join later via telephone but was in the end unable to.

**00:02:05 Announcement of meeting procedures and adoption of agenda**

Commissioner Gosselin proposed taking up his resolution on the civic core along with Commissioner Gore's amendments and Commissioner Lynch's resolution first and afterwards Commissioner Sherman's separate resolution on the civic core. Commissioner Lynch proposed delaying the resident forum until after the civic core resolutions had been discussed. The two amendments to the agenda were approved 6-0.

**00:05:10 Consent agenda**

There were no items to approve on the consent agenda.

**00:05:31 Discussion and possible vote on alcoholic beverage license at the premises of 5712 Connecticut Avenue NW, Wine and Organics**

Commissioner Gosselin said this is a simple renewal of an existing liquor license. There have been no complaints. The motion to support the application passed 6-0.

**00:06:25 Discussion and possible vote on resolution on the civic core survey resolutions**

Commission Chair Gore explained Commissioner Gosselin's foundational resolution would be taken up first, followed by amendments to it and then Commissioner Sherman's different resolution.

Commissioner Gosselin said he needed to explain to the community why his resolution is the way to move forward and to his fellow commissioners why something like his resolution should be supported. He added that the version of his resolution on the website is no longer the one he was putting forward, due to last minute changes. The recent changes reflect conversations among commissioner seeking common ground.

His argument to the community for his resolution is that the community is a welcoming one, it has been asked to allow some affordable housing and it is the right thing to do. In addition, this is only the beginning of a long process of redevelopment in upper Chevy Chase and it behooves the community to try work with the city in order to retain more influence on future decisions.

Commissioner Gosselin's argument to his fellow commissioners was the resolution supports affordable housing but calls on the city to recognize and react to the community's concerns. The resolution identifies three areas of concern: height, preservation of green open space, and preservation of public ownership versus 'surplusing' the property. Commissioner Gosselin accepted most, but not all, of Commissioner Gore's friendly amendments. He also said in the search for common ground he had accepted changes from Commissioners Ferguson, Zeldin and Nash. Chair Gore wanted to remove the three specific areas of concern and Commissioner Gosselin opposed this change.

Some community members objected to Commissioner Gosselin's resolution because, they said, a majority of those taking the survey opposed housing and, they argued, commissioners are somehow compelled to follow whatever some believe a majority of survey takers want. Commissioner Gore replied that she had always maintained that she would not base her vote on listening to a single set of voices, such as those who completed the survey.

Other community members spoke in favor of affordable housing, arguing renting is becoming increasingly hard to afford.

One community member acknowledged commissioners must rely on a variety of perspectives to determine their final position, rather than using only a single source, such as the survey. He added that there is a 'trust deficit' and that commissioners need to explain why they reached their position. Commissioner Gore replied that she believes commissioners have done so, and she

added that the debate over the civic core has damaged community values in ways she had never seen since moving here in the 1970s. She explained her support for affordable housing on the civic core is based on her understanding of the housing shortage afflicting all of DC, leading to homelessness.

Commissioner Nash explained he supported Commissioner Gosselin's resolution, because he had worked hard to build a coalition in support of it and also because it highlights the preservation of open green space. Commissioner Lynch agreed and then offered a series of friendly amendments. His single member district includes the civic core. Commissioner Gosselin accepted most of the amendments. He initially rejected a suggestion from Commissioner Sherman to include a specific height limit of 60 feet because he said it would lose votes for his resolution on the commission. Eventually, he accepted the 60-foot height restriction as Commissioners Lynch and Gore said they could support it. Commissioner Ferguson noted the many amendments made the resolution resemble a "Christmas tree," and asked for an end to the discussion and a vote.

The resolution was eventually approved by a vote of 4-2, with Commissioners Sherman and Ferguson voting against it. Commissioner Lynch said he would submit a concurring opinion, Commissioner Sherman said he would offer a dissenting opinion.

Commissioner Sherman then offered his resolution. He explained that in his campaign he promised to represent their views, rather than his own. He said a commissioner's primary job is to be "the neighborhood voice," and he rejected Commissioner Gosselin's resolution because according to him, it does not reflect this "neighborhood voice." Commissioner Gosselin said he disagreed that commissioners, or any politician, can avoid making judgments about how to represent all his or her constituents by simply following the results of a single survey. Commissioner Nash rejected the notion that there is such a thing as a single "community voice," rather, he said, there are community voices, and it is the job of a commissioner to try to reconcile the different voices. Commissioner Sherman's resolution was defeated 1-4-1. Commissioner Sherman was the only commissioner to vote in favor of his resolution. Commissioner Lynch abstained.

Chair Gore moved that the bio-retention cell projects update and the Transportation Committee item be postponed until the next meeting, Jan. 8, 2024.

00:02:30 **Meeting adjourned**

**APPROVED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of four (4) of seven (7) members was present on XXXXXXXX by a vote of XX yes, XXX no, XXX, abstentions.**

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**Lisa R. Gore, Chair**  
**Secretary**

**James L. Nash,**