



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

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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

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
December 12, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 9:15 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

[00:00:00](#) **Introductions and Remarks by Departing Commissioners**

Commission Chair Lisa Gore (3/4G-01) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Also present were Commissioners John Higgins (3/4G-02), Randy Speck (3/4G-03), Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04), Connie K.N. Chang (3/4G-05), Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06) and Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07). Gore declared a quorum (being four commissioners present).

Higgins, Speck, Chang and Cadwell leave the Commission at the end of the year. Each made remarks and were thanked by those who will remain on the ANC.

[00:08:03](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures and Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Gore described the Commission's virtual meeting procedures. The Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

[00:08:24](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Gore

My School DC Lottery -- For the upcoming school year, 2023-24, the My School DC lottery application opened December 12, 2022 Residents can apply at the following links:

English Application: <https://apply.myschooldc.dc.gov/login.aspx>

Spanish Application: <https://apply.myschooldc.dc.gov/sp/login.aspx>.

The application deadline will be February 2023 for Grades 9-12 and March 2023 for Pre-K through Grade 8.

WMATA Increases Bus Frequency – The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, (WMATA) [announced](#) that it will increase service starting December 11, 2022 on several key MetroBus routes across the region, including the E4 and L2 buses that serve the Chevy Chase community. Service frequency on the L2 will be restored to operate every 10 minutes instead of every 12-15 minutes during weekday rush hours.

Commissioner Gosselin

Chevy Chase Playground – Commissioner Gosselin said that he recently met with representatives of dog owners who use the facility's dog park, and pickleball players who are seeking more courts at the location. He told ANC colleagues that the Commission has its work cut out for it in helping to oversee the playground and park because there are so many demands put on the facility. The playground, which stretches from 41st Street, NW to Western Ave NW between Livingston and McKinley Sts., NW is being redistricted into the ANC's neighborhood.

Commissioner Zeldin

Lafayette-Pointer Park – Commissioner Zeldin said that he met recently with staff of Councilmember Janeese Lewis George to discuss addressing a wide range of problems at the park and playing fields for Lafayette Elementary School.

[00:12:43](#)

Community Announcements

James Lewis, constituent services, Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

[00:16:08](#)

Discussion, Broad Branch and Spring Valley Stormwater Retrofit Project and Alley Behind 5800 Nevada Ave., NW

Commissioner Chang introduced the subject. Morvarid Ganjalizadeh, a project manager with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), described a project to install new facilities for handling stormwater runoff in the Broad Branch Road and Spring Valley watershed area. See: <https://broadbranchandspringvalley.ddot.dc.gov/>. She said DDOT has conducted one public hearing on August 24, 2022 (see video recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I814QkS0Soo>) and expects to conduct at least one more, and agency officials are working on designs and hope to begin construction of the facilities in 2024. As part of the project at this 30% design stage to be completed in mid-January 2023, officials are planning on installing a “green alley” behind the 5800 block of Nevada Ave., NW, which has experienced a century of water issues.

Green alleys are made of pervious pavement with a v-shaped channel to redirect it away from personal property that allows water to soak through into the underlying soil or flow into a catch basin. The water is filtered through a pipe below ground to reduce pollutants, and the cleaner water goes into the sewer system and then to our rivers (i.e., improvement of water quality in the watershed areas is the goal). Vice Chair Speck mentioned that we have a green valley in our ANC behind Rittenhouse and the ECC field that’s worked exceedingly well, improving the drainage there significantly. The project team will hold another public hearing between the 30% and 65% design stage before a final design is submitted by Fall 2023 for final construction to begin by 2024.

Commissioner Chang emphasized the need for an additional catch basin to reduce/eliminate flooding on the north end of the alley behind the 5800 block of Nevada Ave., NW, which is located between Nevada and Chevy Chase Parkway, and Oliver and Patterson Streets, NW. Laura Bendernagel, Ganjalizadeh’s colleague who was on the call, noted that an additional catch basin will be considered only if the volume of water is too great for the existing catch basin that sits at the base of that alley to handle with a retrofit. Requests for alleys to be considered for this project should be sent to Ganjalizadeh (202-904-3863; morvarid.ganjalizadeh@dc.gov).

Commissioner Zeldin said it's necessary to vacuum green alleys in order to maintain their permeability. He said he believes the city has failed to do this and, as a result, the alleys allow stormwater to runoff as it did before the new facilities were installed. Vice Chair Speck said that the city is not maintaining another green facility, bio-retention basins. Ganjalizadeh acknowledged that the city has had problems with the contractor that it hired to do alley cleaning and basin maintenance and it has switched contractors. She said that in both cases the responsibility for cleaning and maintenance is not DDOT's, but two other city departments, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE).

00:43:54

Presentation on 2022 DC Election Results

Gary Thompson, a former ANC 3/4G commissioner and chair, and current Chair of the DC Board of Elections (BOE), briefed the Commission on D.C.'s 2022 election cycle. He said that 40.76 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, an increase from the two previous cycles. He attributed the increase largely to expanded availability of mail-in ballots. He said that two-thirds of voters voted by mail. The remaining one-third voted in person, either early or on election day. He praised BOE staff and said the agency "didn't have any major snafus" in this cycle. He said that, while some auditing remained to be done, the District's Fair Elections Law, which provides public financing of campaigns, was successfully used by most candidates.

Commissioner Gosselin said that a number of residents in his single member district received postcards from the BOE that told them they were in other districts. After he raised the issue, BOE sent another round of cards that again placed them in the wrong district before finally correcting the problem. Thompson acknowledged that the problem had occurred elsewhere as well. He traced the trouble to the fact that the Council received the results of the 2020 Census a year late and, while it had the option to delay redistricting of Wards and ANC districts until the 2024 election, decided to make the changes for the 2022 cycle. He said this meant that the BOE only received the resulting boundary changes a few months before the elections and therefore did not have time to troubleshoot initial results.

Chair Gore asked about the equitable distribution of ballot drop boxes across the city. Thompson said he believed the drop boxes and early voting sites were well distributed. Commissioner Cadwell asked about what BOE data showed about voting patterns. Thompson said that, surprisingly, turnout was about as high in the general election as in the primary and that participation was similarly strong across all wards. He said despite a substantial

number of mail-in ballots were sent out that proved to be undeliverable, “there actually was zero voter fraud.”

Commissioners also asked about the BOE board’s decisions in the case of former Councilmember Elissa Silverman, ranked-choice voting and mandatory voting.

01:20:02 **Vote on Compilation of Racism Task Force Recommendations**

Chair Gore summarized the history of the recommendations. The ANC established a Task Force on Racism in 2020 in the wake of George Floyd’s murder with three work groups, Community, Education and Mental Health, and Housing. The task force’s recommendations rolled over to the current Commission in early 2021. The panel tweaked and voted on them, but never produced a summary document. Gore said that her aim with the current proposal was to provide that summary to serve as a compilation of the three work groups’ recommendations.

Commissioner Higgins asked why Gore was proposing to handle the compilation as a resolution. He said he was concerned that the draft of the resolution suggested the Commission was voting on the substance of the recommendations, which it already has voted on. He said that re-voting would not properly reflect the original discussion and votes, some of which were not unanimous. To ensure that the record is not distorted by re-voting, Higgins proposed an amendment to Gore’s draft language that emphasized that the current document was simply reporting on previous actions. Commissioner Gosselin asked that Higgins slightly change his wording and that Gore accept Higgins’ modified proposal as a friendly amendment.

Vice Chair Speck emphasized that this process is no different than what we have done in the past of bringing a draft resolution forward for discussion at our public meeting, verbalizing amendments, taking a vote, and subsequent to the meeting finalizing the resolution. The only difference here is that it’s 1.5 years later. Memorializing the original votes is important and to have links to the minutes. Commissioner Chang stressed that the strength of compilation is that it provides a background even though she wanted to have individual resolutions to capture the votes on each work group’s recommendations. She also emphasized that it is important to have clarity that the three Task Force on Racism work groups brought forth their recommendations, that this Commission considered and deliberated on those recommendations and came to a vote which should have commissioner names associated for votes that were not 7-0, and for this summary resolution to have links to the video recordings (found in the Meeting Information page for each meeting) and to clearly state in the title that the Task Force was in 2020, our work was in 2021, and this compilation is end of 2022.

After further discussion the Commission accepted the amended proposal. The vote was 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

01:39:47

ANC Committee Updates

- **Zoning, Design and Development Standing Committee (ZDD)** – Commissioner Gosselin said he has put out a request for residents to volunteer to serve in two additional slots on the committee. (The number of slots was subsequently increased to four in order to bring the committee total up to nine.) He said the ANC would take up the matter of new members at its January 9, 2023 meeting.
- **Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee (RASE)** – Chair Gore said the committee is trying to set up a meeting with Councilmember Robert White to talk about legislation he is proposing to overhaul the city’s procedures for selling or leasing public land. She said that the panel has produced two documents – a summary of accomplishments for the past two years and recommendations for the coming two years, among them that the RASE chair not necessarily be a Commission member and that White committee members take anti-racism training. She said she has not yet finished work on a draft resolution endorsing recent research about the effects of historic districts that the RASE recommends the ANC adopt. She said she will raise this matter with the new Commission that will sit after the turn of the year.
- **Maret Project Task Force** – Commissioner Higgins said that the task force—formed to oversee Maret’s construction of athletic fields on property it has leased from the Episcopal Center for Children—conducted an organizational meeting. During the session, Abe Clayman, a former ANC commissioner and task force member, resigned and Marek Gootman, who lives in the community and has an excellent background and well versed in municipal affairs, stepped up to take his place. The task force appointed as co-chairs, Jenny Backus and Michael Osborne, and agreed that tree work at the site is an integral part of construction and within its purview. The Commission unanimously approved Gootman’s membership on the task force.

01:59:01

Commission Business

- **Minutes** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, who serves as secretary, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its October 20, 2022 and November 28, 2022 meetings.

- **Fiscal 2023 Budget** – On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, who serves as treasurer, the Commission approved a budget for the current fiscal year. The vote was 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. Higgins initially presented the budget at the ANC’s November 28, 2022 meeting, summarizing as follows:

“The fiscal year begins October 1, and ends September 30. Total funds for 2023 are \$54,704 with the carryover from 2022 plus DC OANC allotments. After expenses, we show an ending balance of \$12,704 going into fiscal 2024.

“Page one is the proposed budget. Page two is proposed expenses for budget 2023 versus actual 2022. Due to savings from personnel, we have a significant carryover from 2022 to 2023.

“For fiscal 2023, I projected a salary personnel expense of \$16,000 based on \$25/hour for 12 hours a week times 50 weeks plus required taxes with a total of \$16,000. That covers us if we use a salary position. I also put in \$7,500 for purchase of services to cover a contract service arrangement. If we use a contract situation we can exceed the budget for that category as we will have a much reduced or zero expense for the salary position – but I thought it prudent to put significant amounts for both and the Commission can choose among them. I put in \$7,500 for “Communication” which has been normal Verizon and Zoom but the additional funds can be used for whatever enhancements we use for outreach to residents. Even with a fairly hefty expense amount, we will still have \$12,000 left over at the end of fiscal 2023. The surplus will likely be even more because we will likely lean towards contract versus salary personnel...”

- **Payments** – On a motion by Higgins, the Commission unanimously approved the following payments:

- Reimbursement to former administrative assistant Stefanie Van Pelt for GoDaddy online computer services for \$107.88;
- Verizon for telephone service for \$162.60;
- Reimbursement to Vice Chair Speck for Zoom for \$222.58;
- Reimbursement to Chair Gore for Mailchimp email services for \$24.38;
- Reimbursement to Cal Simone for online service for \$240.

- **Possible Items for the ANC’s January**

- **9, 2023 Meeting** – Election of new officers, approval of by-laws, a 2023 Commission meeting schedule and possibly committee meeting schedule, approval of participation in the security fund and possible approval of an ANC code of conduct.

[02:14:56](#)

Adjourn

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 January 9, 2023, by a vote of **6** yes, **0** no, **0** abstentions.

Lisa R. Gore

Lisa R Gore, Chair

James Nash

James L. Nash, Secretary