



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 - John Higgins, Treasurer
3/4G-03 - Randy Speck, Vice Chair 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Connie K. N. Chang
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Secretary 3/4G-07 - Charles Cadwell

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
October 24, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 10:08 pm
[Meeting Link](#)

[00:00:00](#) **Introduction of 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) and Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06). Commissioner Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07) was absent. Gore declared a quorum (being four commissioners present).

[00:03:22](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures and Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Gore described the Commission’s virtual meeting procedures, then asked whether there were any changes to the proposed agenda. Commissioner Chang asked that the agenda be amended to include a brief update by a Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officer about an Oct. 24, 2022 car chase that ended in a crash and arrest at the intersection of Military Road NW and 32nd Street NW. With the change, the agenda was adopted on a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

[00:06:08](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Vice Chair Speck

Lead Service Lines — DC Water is currently replacing or will soon replace water mains on Kanawha Street and Nevada Avenue. At the same time, they will be replacing any lead service lines for individual customers at no charge. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Commissioner Speck at 202-669-3246 or at 3G03@anc.dc.gov.

Carnegie Neighborhood Lecture — Carnegie’s Earth and Planets Laboratory will present its first fall neighborhood lecture on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The topic will be “In Pursuit of Light: Building The Giant Magellan Telescope,” presented by Dr. Rebecca Bernstein, a Staff Scientist at Carnegie and the Chief Scientist for Giant Magellan Telescope. Dr. Bernstein plays a leading role in ensuring that the observatory and its instruments will enable scientists to meet the project’s scientific goals. This telescope — currently being built at Carnegie’s Las Campanas Observatory in Chile — will be one of the largest, most sophisticated earth-based telescopes in the world. The lecture will be both in person at Carnegie’s Broad Branch Campus and on Zoom. More information on registration is available [here](#).

Spooktacular — The Chevy Chase Citizens Association is once again sponsoring “Spooktacular” on Monday, October 31, 2022, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Chevy Chase Main Street will be a co-sponsor this year, along with many of the businesses along Connecticut Avenue. Put on your costumes, bring the kids, and celebrate Halloween trick-or-treat with the community.

Commissioner Gosselin

Another Accident at a Bad Intersection – On Oct. 19, 2022, there was another accident at the corner of Military Road NW and Chevy Chase Parkway NW. After several years of effort, the Commission and the neighbors succeeded in getting safety improvements at the intersection in late 2021 and, although some accidents subsequently occurred, they did not follow the pattern of a southbound vehicle on Chevy Chase Parkway colliding with a Military Rd vehicle. But the latest accident returned to type. Commissioner Gosselin said he has asked the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to initiate a new traffic safety investigation (TSI). He said the Commission may have to request that the block from Military to Chevy Chase Parkway be made one way northbound. Commissioner Chang said that, short of the one-way solution, DDOT should consider pavement markings to stop blocking of the intersection by vehicles on Military traveling from east to west, which

creates sightline problems. Commissioner Speck said DDOT opposed any markings on the pavement.

Commissioner Chang

DDOT Bike Lanes Plans for Connecticut Avenue -- The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) held three walk-throughs on October 3, 11, and 17, 2022. DDOT project manager Edward Stollof will come to the Commission's November 14, 2022 public meeting to discuss concerns raised during the walk-throughs and how DDOT's designs for revamping Connecticut Avenue will address those concerns. Commissioner Chang joined the Oct 17th walk-through, pointing out, for example, that the staff at the Montessori School of Chevy Chase located on Jenifer St. and Connecticut Ave., NW have had problems parking in the neighborhood and raising other concerns with the DDOT representatives and DDOT contractors about pedestrian safety at certain intersections on Connecticut between Nebraska and Legation.

Chevy Chase Main Street – The organization is providing to the Commission monthly reports. Its most recent report included information about its First Friday events at the PNC parking lot in September and October. Commissioner Chang has uploaded the report to the Meeting Information page for this meeting, and will find an appropriate place on the Commission's website for all monthly reports so that the community can easily locate them.

Chair Gore

DDOT's Notification Process for Transportation Safety Investigations (TSI)

On October 16, 2022, Chair Gore and Christian Piñero, DDOT's Community Engagement Specialist for Ward 3, attended a meeting with residents along Barnaby Street regarding the installation of speed humps. Community members had a robust conversation and were very concerned about the lack of neighborhood advanced notification. Gore and other commissioners discussed the ANC further collaborating with DDOT on the TSI process, particularly the community notification process.

[00:25:13](#)

Community Announcements

Emir Gur-Ravantab, Ward Liaison, Ward 3, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)

Anthony Scerbo, Legislative Director for At-large Councilmember Anita Bonds

Declan Falls, Constituent Service for Council Chairman Phil Mendelson

Sgt. John Loveday, Metropolitan Police Department

Sgt. Loveday provided an update on events that led to the car chase, accident and arrest that occurred on Oct. 24, 2022, at the intersection of Military Rd NW and 32 St. NW. Loveday said that on Oct. 22, 2022, an armed robbery occurred in the 1800 block of Kalorama Rd NW during which a vehicle was stolen. On Oct. 24th, police located the vehicle with two occupants on Military Road. The occupants spotted police, tried to flee, drove through a front yard and up a sidewalk of a house on 32nd St until they collided with a brick wall. He said there was no chase. The passenger in the vehicle escaped. The driver was arrested. A firearm was found in the car, but, contrary to earlier reports, Loveday said no shots were fired. He said that helicopters and dogs were used to search for the passenger who escaped, but without success. Loveday assured the community that the person who fled is not believed to be an immediate threat, though MPD is unsure if the person has a firearm. Community members can call MPD for updates. The report number is: 22-154-571.

[00:46:12](#) **Special Zoning Exception, 3407 31st St. NW**

Sarah and John Dick are seeking a special exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to make three changes to their home at 3407 31st St. NW – turn a one-story attached garage into three story addition; convert a one-floor sun room at the rear into a two-story addition and add a rear deck. After commissioners asked questions, the ANC voted 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions to support the Dick's BZA application.

[00:57:21](#) **PEPCo Power Line Undergrounding Initiative (DC PLUG)**

Moneka Cunningham, a PEPCo public affairs manager, discussed the electric utility's \$400 million, six- to eight-year project to place up to 20 of the most vulnerable overhead electrical cables in the city underground. This includes electrical lines along the newly reconstructed Oregon Avenue. Gerald Atcherson, a PEPCo project manager, said that the final work on placing cable underground along Oregon Avenue from Western to Military Road started in July and is expected to be complete by the end of the year. He said the work is being done in three stages. He said that once the new cable is in place, PEPCo will briefly cut the power to homes along the Avenue as it shifts their service from the overhead lines to the underground ones. The infrastructure for the underground lines was all completed as a part of the Oregon Avenue reconstruction so that there will be no additional work on the street itself.

[01:19:26](#)

Bright Lights and Rollout of the City's New Streetlight System

Commissioner Gosselin said the city has signed a \$309 million contract to replace its entire street lighting system with LED lights. In the interim, the city's contractor for the new system has taken over the job of maintaining the existing sodium or incandescent-light system, including replacing burned-out bulbs. But the city has almost none of the old bulbs left so the contractor is replacing burn-outs with LED lights, and at least in some cases installing overly bright fixtures. Residents have begun complaining to commissioners and on local social media. Gosselin asked that city officials replace the overly bright bulbs and install samples of the new LED bulbs in various settings such as major thoroughfares, residential streets and alleys so residents can see their brightness, color etc.

DeVon Smith, a manager with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), said the city awarded the contract for the new system in June. It will convert all streetlights to LED and bring all poles and arms up to standards over two years beginning in January. He said that work will begin in Wards 5, 7 and 8. Work will begin in Wards 3 and 4 sometime in the summer or fall of 2023. Smith said that the city installed sample lights sometime in the past 18 months and notified ANC's. Current and former ANC 3/4G commissioners could turn up no record of such notification. Smith said all of the sample lights have been removed. He indicated the city has no intention of restoring them. He said the LED bulbs have been ordered and are being received.

Smith acknowledged that DDOT has received an increasing number of complaints in the past month. He attributed this largely to the new contractor mistakenly installing overly bright bulbs when it replaced burn-outs. He said that DDOT is working with the contractor to correct the problems. Responding to questions by commissioners, Smith said the LED lights that are being installed as replacements don't fairly represent those that will be installed as part of the new system. Smith said that as the system is rolled out, DDOT would notify ANC commissioners and residents where they can go to see examples that do fairly represent the brightness and color of the new permanent bulbs. He said that ANC's will be given 30-days notice before installation occurs in their communities.

Gosselin introduced Laura Phinizy, a resident of ANC 3/4G and a member of the citywide Citizens Streetlight Advisory Panel, which reviewed various brightnesses and light colors and provided the city with feedback as it prepared the contract for the new system. He said that he and Phinizy were volunteering to compile residents' questions and comments about the LED bulbs that are currently being installed and help people to file municipal 311 service requests to get overly bright ones replaced. Gosselin's email is: peter.gosselin@anc.dc.gov. Phinizy's is phinizyl@yahoo.com.

Phinizy did a short presentation about what information is needed to pursue a complaint about a particular light. This includes:

- A street address or nearby cross street;
- The DDOT pole number, which is the horizontal string of numbers affixed to a pole, which usually is black characters on a yellow background;
- If readable from the ground, wattage information from stickers on the light fixture;
- Residents' concern, whether about brightness, color or the direction where the light is shining.

Smith also did a short presentation. He emphasized that lights for the new system have been vetted for brightness and color. He said the city will have the ability to remotely monitor light, dim them and provide shields to keep them from shining in people's windows. Both Phinizy's and Smith's presentations can be found [here](#) on the Commission's website

Commissioner Chang expressed concern that Gosselin's and Phinizy's effort not deter people from filing 311 requests. Gosselin said that in every case where a resident contacted them about streetlight, he and Phinizy would not only catalog that resident's questions or concerns, but also help the resident to file 311 requests.

[02:14:24](#) **New Zoning, Design and Development Committee**

Commissioner Gosselin proposed that the Commission handle formation of the new ANC Standing Committee on Zoning, Design and Development (ZDD), first by letting commissioners question the two non-ANC candidates for the panel and then by debating the text of a resolution forming the committee.

Gosselin introduced community residents Renee Turner-Inman and Jamie Tilghman. Turner-Inman is a graduate of Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia Law School. She has worked in a number of senior positions in the District government and currently is manager of human resources for Integrity National Corp. Jamie Tilghman is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is a practicing architect and a clinical associate professor at the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

After discussion with Turner-Inman and Tilghman, commissioners turned to a Gosselin-drafted resolution forming the new ZDD. Chair Gore offered two friendly amendments, that the work of the ANC's Task Force on Racism, and particularly its Housing Workgroup, be referenced in the resolution and that the resolution recognize the overlap between zoning, design and development and other concerns, for example, transportation, pedestrian and bicycle safety. Gosselin accepted both.

Noting that the ZDD resolution incorporates procedural provisions of a previous resolution establishing the ANC's Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity (RASE), Commissioner Chang asked that wording be added to incorporate any future updates to the RASE resolution. Gosselin agreed to add language.

With these changes, the Commission voted 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions to approve the resolution.

[02:49:12](#)

Commission Business

- **Minutes** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, who serves as secretary, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its September 12, 2022 meeting.
- **Payments** – On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, who serves as treasurer, the Commission unanimously approved payments to Verizon of \$163.68, \$163.70 and \$163.70; two reimbursements of \$222.58 each to Vice Chair Speck for the Commission's Zoom account and a \$199.99 reimbursement to the ANC's former administrative assistant Stefanie Van Pelt for the Commission's Go Daddy account. Higgins said he is awaiting word from the Office of ANCs (OANC) whether we can use a debit card for these kinds of Commission-related purchases to carry out our responsibilities.
- **Quarterly Financial Statement** – On a motion by Higgins, the Commission approved its quarterly reporting for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2022. Higgins summarized the ANC's financial situation as follows: "Our ending balance for the 2022 fiscal fourth quarter was \$35,665.20 for our Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) account. OANC deposited an allotment to our bank account in early October, technically the first quarter of fiscal 2023, in the amount of \$4,719.60. Thus our cash in the bank as of Oct. 24, 2022 is \$40,384.80." The Commission unanimously approved the quarterly report as part of its vote on payments.
- **Possible Items for the ANC's Nov. 14, 2022 Meeting** – report on and discussion of the Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lanes and Multimodal Safety Project; .

[03:02:18](#)

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 Nov. 14, 2022, by a vote of **6** yes, **0** no, **0** abstentions.



Lisa R. Gore, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary