



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W. P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015

3G@anc.dc.gov | <http://www.anc3g.org> | YouTube: ANC3G | Office: 202.363.5803

**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 Meeting  
October 23, 2023  
7:00-10:00 pm

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

**00:02:00 Announcement of Meeting Procedures and Adoption of Agenda**

The meeting was virtual only and Commission Chair Gore explained the meeting's procedures. The meeting agenda was amended by Chair Gore, removing the presentation by Lafayette Elementary School. Commissioner Lynch asked that the discussion on the civic core survey and bio-retention pits be moved up in the agenda, and Commissioner Gore agreed to move the Soofa Sign grant proposal to after the EV presentation. Commissioner Sherman asked for an addition to the agenda to discuss the proposed Rock Creek Park golf course rehabilitation. This item was added after the EV presentation. The amended agenda was approved 6-0.

**00:06:00 Consent Agenda**

There were no items on the consent agenda.

**00:06:28 ANC 3/4G Resident Forum**

Ronald Kahn said there are missing elements on the website. He asked if the ANC could find someone to fill in the gaps. Commissioner Gore replied the ANC has no administrative assistant and no volunteers have offered to do this work.

### **00:09:35 Discussion on DMPED OurRFP Process**

Commissioner Gore said she and Commissioner Gosselin are working on a resolution that will capture the history and where the ANC wants to proceed with respect to the redevelopment of the civic core. Commissioner Gosselin said in order to influence the RFP the resolution must be completed by the next ANC meeting November 13. Commissioner Gore outlined the timeline of the process.

- The RFP will be released this autumn;
- RFP responses received in the winter of 2024;
- Public disposition hearings—RFP respondents present to the community spring of 2024;
- RFP respondents summer of 2024
- Surplus resolutions to the City Council autumn of 2024;
- Construction commences sometime in 2026.

Commissioner Sherman said 350 people participated in the recent public meetings on the civic core, while the ANC is a community of 15,000 people. Therefore, he believes the survey will be very important in the process.

Commissioner Gore suggested the ANC may want to hold a meeting after the survey closes in early November to develop a resolution prior to the Nov. 13 ANC meeting in order to influence the RFP. She added she definitely wants a resolution in response to the RFP. Commissioner Gosselin said he favors a resolution reflecting the ANC's interpretation of the survey results before the RFP is issued. That puts us on a very tight timeline, he added. Commissioner Gore said she thought everyone was in agreement with that.

### **00:28:36 Update on the ANC Civic Core Survey**

Commissioner Gore said the postcards are almost ready to go out. A couple of logistical problems delayed their release, including adding a live telephone number belonging to an ANC Commissioner for those with trouble completing the online survey. The cards should be mailed on Wednesday Oct. 25.

Commissioner Sherman said the survey launched October 13. There have been 1200 responses thus far with a 90 percent completion rate. The survey allows for written comments on matters it did not cover and 500 people have provided such comments. Participation has been even across the single member districts.

### **00:36:17 Discussion and update on the Street Light Installation Process**

Commissioner Gosselin introduced Laura Phinizy who has been involved in this process for two years. Ms. Phinizy outlined a number of irregularities with the contract.

The lights are very bright. They were supposed to be no more than 5500 lumens at the source. She said there are fixtures with 9000 lumens on her block. The lights can be dimmed but are not being dimmed.

A national safety organization (ASHTO) has determined appropriate light levels on the ground for different settings, measured in foot candles. The levels in this area should be between .3 and .4 foot candles. In many cases the levels are 1.5 to 4.0. Light levels are therefore several times more than what has been determined necessary for safety.

Many calls are going to the city complaining about the high light levels, and these are being closed out without resolution. The new lights are being installed without shields, in violation of the contract. The shields are not effective when they are installed.

The third major problem is the communication system was changed under the new system, and it is now dysfunctional.

Ms. Robyn Jackson, the DDOT official in charge of the program explained there was “miscommunication” concerning the installation of shields. The shield order was not placed at the time the when the fixtures were placed, resulting in delays. She promised the next shield order will arrive shortly. She acknowledged the shields are not always addressing residents’ concerns. DDOT is going out to assess these situations to see what more can be done.

Ms. Jackson said the new lights are actually very close to the national ASHTO standards. She said when requests come in for dimming the lights, they are instead addressing it with shields initially. She said the 311 requests that were closed will be addressed when the shields arrive in early November.

Ms. Phinzy disputed Ms. Jackson’s claim that current lighting is at ASHTO standards. Ms. Phinzy has her own light meter and has taken measurements showing current lighting far exceeds the standards. She does not understand why the lights are not being dimmed as currently the city is wasting energy and the high light levels are a hazard to human health.

Ms. Jackson did not respond to the request for dimming, and repeated her previous statement that DDOT will evaluate all 311 complaints and address them with shielding.

Ms. Phinzy asked Ms. Jackson if she could state the standard for foot candles lighting in a residential area. Ms. Jackson said she could not. Ms. Phinzy said she could: it is 0.4 and she has 1.4 outside her house.

In response to a question from Commissioner Gore about a walk around requested by the ANC, Ms. Phinzy said the constituent services person in Councilmember Lewis George’s office told Ms. Phinzy that DDOT did not want the ANC to come. “We were disinvited from the very walk-through we asked for. Only the Councilmember was allowed to go.”

Commissioner Nash asked Ms. Jackson why DDOT will not dim the lights that are too bright as that would allow us not to have to wait for the shields. In addition, the shields are not working

properly anyway. Ms. Jackson replied they are not refusing to dim them, but insisted on using the shields first. In many areas, she claimed, dimming would bring the lights below ASHTO standards. She also argued most complaints involved light “trespass,” not excessive light overall. Ms. Phinizy said she thought dimming should be the first step taken, because it is easier to do than installing a shield. She disagreed that the new system is anywhere under ASHTO standards.

Christian Pineiro of DDOT, Ms. Phinizy and Commissioner Gosselin agreed to do a walk-around at some point in November.

#### **01:24:40 Discussion on DDOT’s Bio-retention Cell Installation Process**

Commissioner Gosselin introduced the topic. The purpose of the project is to improve water quality in Rock Creek by reducing run off water from storms flowing into the sewer system and increasing water that will be purified by going into the ground. The ANC had been briefed on only a few of the pit locations. On September 15 the ANC suddenly received notice of the loss of 104 parking places in a variety of locations, including some very large pits. There was a very short comment period, but it has been extended to November 3.

Commissioner Nash said he had heard from a number of his constituents about problems they are having with the proposed bio-retention pits. Two of his constituents then spoke about their opposition to the proposed location of a large pit on 28<sup>th</sup> Street one block south of Military Road.

Mr. George Unhang, a resident of 5315 28<sup>th</sup> Street NW, spoke next. While he supported the goal of the program, he said under the current plan he would lose 100 percent of the parking in front of his own house. He argued that this creates an undue burden on seniors who wish to age in place. He also said that the pits would create traffic safety problems because of the narrowness of the street and the fact that 28<sup>th</sup> Street forms a T intersection with Jennifer Street. Ms. Lauren Howard then spoke and said placing a bio-retention pit on 28<sup>th</sup> Street violates DDOT’s own guidelines on locating the pits, as these guidelines call for placing them in streets that are wide and have plenty of on street parking. Neither condition applies to the 5300 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Street.

Commissioner Sherman said he had many bio-retention pits in his SMD and had heard quite a bit about maintenance problems of the pits. He said he had worked with residents and DOEE to improve maintenance in a pilot initiative, which he said was the number one issue in his SMD.

Other residents also spoke about the traffic and parking problems created by the location of the pits, such as on Chevy Chase Parkway near Military Road and Northampton Street. Residents also complained about the process, pointing out that even though the comment period has been extended, the design phase of the project is closed.

#### **01:56:45 Presentation on Electric Vehicle Curbside Charging Station Program**

Commissioner Ferguson introduced the presentation by DaiTechCorp. He said there is a DDOT program which makes it possible to bring a public EV charging station to our ANC neighborhood. He and other residents have found a local company founded by a DC resident that is prepared to explore this opportunity.

Jason Turner then spoke on behalf of the company and invited the community to engage in a curbside chat about a new public EV charging station in this area. The goal is to educate community members and local businesses about the government programs that support charging stations.

Commissioner Ferguson proposed a resolution that the ANC co-sponsor a curbside chat, at a time and place to be determined, with DaiTechCorp on bringing a public EV charging station to this area. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### **02:26:13 Rock Creek Golf Course Rehabilitation Program**

Commissioner Sherman proposed to draft a letter to the National Park Service asking them to extend the comment period on this program. No commissioner objected.

#### **02:26:46 Vote to Approve Chevy Chase Main Street Soofa Sign grant application**

At the Sept. 11 ANC meeting Chevy Chase Main Street presented their grant application. Commissioner Ferguson moved to approve the \$2000 grant application. The motion was approved 5-1-0, with Commissioner Gosselin voting against.

#### **02:35:22 ANC Committee and Task Force Reports**

The RASE Committee announced there will be a Nov. 2 community gathering at the Avenue from 5:30 until 7 pm.

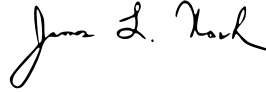
#### **02:37:11 Commission Business**

Treasurer's report: Commissioner Ferguson shared the quarterly financial report for fiscal year 2023 fourth quarter. The ANC received an allotment of about \$14,000. The Commission had a balance of over \$54,000; nearly \$1000 was spent, leaving a balance of around \$53,000. Most of the expenditures involved reimbursing commissioners for supplies they purchased for the ANC. The current balance is lower, as the ANC approved spending \$10,000 on the survey, not reflected in this report. Commissioner Ferguson moved to approve the fourth quarter fiscal year 2023 financial report. The motion was approved 6-0.

Commissioner Ferguson estimated the ANC has spent about \$8000 so far on the survey. This sum includes the online service of Survey Monkey, plus the printing and mailing costs involved in sending out postcards to all residents urging them to take the survey and what to do if they cannot take it online.

#### **02:50:50 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 December 6, 2023 by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 0, abstentions.



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**Lisa R. Gore, Chair**

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**James L. Nash, Secretary**