



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne  
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<http://www.anc3g.org> | YouTube: ANC3G

**COMMISSIONERS**

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman, Secretary, 3/4G-03 - James Nash, 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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**Regular ANC 3/4G Meeting**  
**Chevy Chase Community Center and Online**  
**September 23, 2024**  
**Minutes**

**00:00:07: Meeting Called to Order.**

Commission Vice Chair Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Also present at the Chevy Chase Community Center were Commissioners Bruce Sherman (3/4G-02), Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04), Jim Nash (3/4G-03), and Peter Lynch (3/4G-05). Commissioners Zachary Ferguson (3/4G-07), attended virtually. Vice Chair Gosselin declared a quorum (being four commissioners present).

**00:02:35: Meeting Procedures and Adoption of the Agenda:**

Vice Chair Gosselin described the Commission's meeting procedures, including comments are limited to two minutes with one-minute follow-up for Commissioners and the public alike. Changes to the agenda - Commissioner Gosselin wishes to add a statement on the sanctity of campaign signs. Commissioner Nash wants to add time for Safety Survey update. On a motion from Commissioner Gosselin, the Commission unanimously adopted the agenda (6-0).

**00:04:22: Consent Agenda Approval.**

July meeting minutes approved provisionally. Gosselin reports hotspot cost: \$266.93. On a motion from Commissioner Gosselin, the Commission unanimously adopted the Consent Agenda (6-0).

**00:06:18: Commissioner Gosselin Statement.**

Commission deplores the removal or defacing of campaign signs. Commissioner voice informal support. On a motion from Commissioner Gosselin, the Commission unanimously adopted the statement (6-0).

**00:07:37: Resident Forum.**

One constituent, noting the ninth anniversary of the death of civil rights icon Julian Bond asked the ANC to consider a resolution he will draft with his ANC Commissioner Bruce Sherman to preserve and maintain the bench honoring Bond at the Chevy Chase Civic Core. Commissioner Zeldin notes Councilmember Frumin is considering renaming the Livingston ball field after Bonds, others note Bonds opposed the lighting at that field.

**00:11:35: Announcements.**

Commissioner Lynch wants to institute an ANC annual grant for arts initiatives. Asks any constituents who are interested in working with him to get in touch. Commissioner Sherman supports the initiative – he has several artists in his SMD who might like to get involved. Commissioner Sherman notes that the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) have recently ruled on the legality of ANC's entering into legal agreements and he would like this issue on the agenda for the October meeting. Commissioner Gosselin agrees, noting with the Civic Core redevelopment coming up people will want the ANC to enter into some kind of agreement on behalf of the community. He has posted the related correspondence on the ANC website. Commissioner Sherman notes the importance of every government body operating within statutory authority. Commissioner Zeldin wants the OANC and OAG to be present. Commissioner Sherman agrees that would be ideal while noting the two agencies are not in agreement on the issue. Commissioner Ferguson calls attention to the Week Without Driving Challenge. He will participate and encourages others to do so. He notes 38% of DC residents do not have a car.

**00:19:05: Commissioner Nash - Transportation Committee Report.**

The Safety Working Group held a survey on traffic safety concerns. They received 129 responses. Of these, 102 said they walked every day, suggesting a preference that neighborhoods be walkable. The number one complaint was about Connecticut Avenue and Chevy Chase Circle. Intersections with Connecticut were of greatest concern. Drivers turning left or right without looking was a major issue, especially at Connecticut and McKinley and Connecticut and Chevy Chase Parkway. Sidewalks were also an issue – but Commissioner Nash ran out of time. He will report further at the next meeting.

**00:22:38: Discussion and Possible Vote on Resolution Regarding DMPED's Proposal for the Disposition of the Civic Core Site.**

Commissioner Gosselin notes the broad range of opinion on housing at the site. Something all can agree on is that the community should have a strong voice in what happens. This did not occur with the Small Area Plan (SAP.) This is the first time the community will have visuals for what the city is proposing, so it is a critical moment. Commissioner Gosselin reads the latest iteration of the proposed resolution, which calls for greater DMPED collaboration with the ANC, a timeline, expanded role for the community with public feedback mechanism, district-funded tools for engagement, and multiple DMPED meetings with different formats, and easy-to-understand visuals. Recognizing the significance of the project, the resolution also asks that all seven commissioners be included in all communication with DMPED although Commissioners Gore, Lynch, and Gosselin will be listed as official points of contact.

**Community Discussion:**

One constituent asks that in whatever form residents are surveyed they be given the option to vote "none of the above." She also asks that only residents of the ANC be involved, as those people outside the ANC who become engaged generally do so through an advocacy group, which would skew any survey results. Another constituent notes the site has not yet been declared surplus. He believes no part of the

site actually is surplus, and that this should be an option in any request for community feedback. Another constituent asks how the city will use any feedback? Will they listen, or just continue to ignore community sentiment? The DMPED process has not been transparent. Commissioner Gosselin notes that if they are to pursue the use of a community engagement tool, they need to have a firmer schedule from the city. One constituent notes that the existing lawsuit against the zoning commission might push back any DMPED action as this is unlikely to be resolved before January, 2025. Another constituent asks that a specific request be added to the resolution calling on the city to use ARC-GIS, which gives a better, more understandable representation of how the proposals would be experienced by neighbors. She also notes DC law calls for two separate hearings: one on surplussing and a second for disposition. The Council needs to weigh the surplus question. Another constituent asks the Commission to think of more creative ways to engage the community. She feels families are discouraged from attending contentious ANC meetings. Commissioner Sherman welcomes additional outreach but notes that with the Civic Core survey 805 families with children under age 18 participated. A survey is actually a good way to engage neighbors who might not be able to attend a meeting. Commissioner Ferguson agrees mailing the Civic Core survey to every voter was essential, although more could be done to encourage greater participation. Another constituent asks that the requests for greater outreach in the proposed resolution be more specific. Commissioner Lynch notes this outreach is the city's responsibility – they are not doing their job. Another constituent shares her interaction with the city, who questioned the definition of “meaningful input.” She emphasizes the importance of establishing how the city will use the data the ANC gathers about community sentiment. Commissioner Nash suggests perhaps the vote should be delayed.

**Commissioner Gosselin wishes to proceed, and suggests three friendly amendments based on discussion.**

1. Urge DMPED to delay their hearing(s) to next year
2. Ask them to use ARC-GIS
3. Ask for two hearings: surplus and disposition

Commissioner Lynch asks for further refinement of the first point; if the goal is to demand sufficient time for community feedback a simple delay to the new year is not the best way to accomplish that. They are likely to be delayed to that time anyway.

After further discussion commissioners agree to change the wording of #1 to instead demand sufficient time for the community to consider DMPED's proposals. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, the **Resolution passes, as amended, 6-0.**

**01:11:45: Commissioner Gosselin Reports on a Meeting he and Commissioner Gore had with ANC 3D on Community Engagement Software.**

They described two possibilities: District Engage and Go Vocal. They have used it to assess opinion on bio-retention, traffic safety and other issues and the results are impressive. ANC 3D uses District Engage, we would probably want Go Vocal. It's expensive and it would be best to share the cost with other ANC's. This would only be possible in the new year – another reason to prefer a delay in the DMPED process. If DMPED acts soon, we will need to act as well. Commissioner Sherman was unable to make the meeting but watched the recording and totally supports the idea.

One constituent, delayed from commenting during the resolution discussion, notes that ARC-GIS is not necessary – neighbors need only visit Van Ness and other areas to get the feel of what the redeveloped Civic Core would feel like.

**01:19:07: Committee/Task Force and Officer Reports.**

Karrenthya Simmons reports the upcoming unveiling of RASE's (Race and Social Equity) window project. In his Treasurer's report, Commissioner Ferguson suggests funds currently allotted to personnel be redesignated to contracts.

**01:21:30: Possible Agenda Items for October Meeting.**

Commissioner Nash would like ten minutes for the Safety Survey. Commissioner Sherman would like the ANC authority issue addressed. Commissioner Ferguson will be offering three resolutions on traffic and safety issues. Commissioner Lynch notes DC Auditor Cathy Patterson will be presenting.

**01:23:32: Meeting Adjourned.**

(Last few minutes on the recording are barely audible.)

**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 9, 2024 by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 0, abstentions (Commissioner Ferguson absent).**



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Lisa R. Gore, Chair



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Bruce Sherman, Secretary