



**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

**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 Minutes**  
**Chevy Chase Community Center and Online**  
**September 9, 2024**

**00:00:23: Meeting Called to Order.**

Commission Chair Lisa Gore (3/4G-01) 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), and Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06). Commissioners Zachary Ferguson (3/4G-07), Jim Nash (3/4G-03), and Peter Lynch (3/4G-05) attended virtually. Chair Gore declared a quorum (being four commissioners present).

**00:02:09: Meeting Procedures and Adoption of the Agenda.**

Chair Gore described the Commission's meeting procedures. On a motion from Chair Gore, the Commission unanimously adopted the agenda.

**00:03:09: Discussion of the Consent Agenda.**

On a motion from Chair Gore, the Commission unanimously adopted the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- June 24 meeting minutes
- GoDaddy web domain fee of \$200
- RASE window project expenses of \$2,120

**00:03:45: Resident Forum.** Lee Mayer announced his candidacy for SMD 01. Liz Nagy announced her candidacy for SMD 07.

**00:05:43: Announcements.**

Ward 4 State Board of Education (SBOE) representative Frazier O'Leary reported that the new school, Dorothy Height Elementary, opened in Ward 4 and Truesdell Elementary is housed in Sharpe Health School for the coming year. There are no HVAC problems in Ward 4 schools for the first time in six years. The SBOE is working on a resolution to send to the Council to ensure every school has a nurse. O'Leary wants to institute sequestering student cell phones during school hours to address bullying and distraction issues. There is a new program to train pre-K and K teachers on teaching literacy. Each year O'Leary gets \$1,000 in discretionary funds which this year he used to buy supplies for students. O'Leary's book drive experienced a great response after his announcement at the last ANC meeting and he will distribute about 1,500 books in the next few weeks. DC teachers are still working without a contract and would benefit from community support.

Hope Cousin, Ward 3 Manager for MOCRs (Mayor's Office of Community Relations), introduced herself. (contact info: 202-341-7706, [Hope.Cousin1@dc.gov](mailto:Hope.Cousin1@dc.gov)). She confirmed former MOCR Matthew Barclay has moved to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation.

Barbara Rogers, Director of Community Engagement for Councilmember (CM) Janeese Lewis George. The CM will be focused on passing new legislation in the fall session. Ms. Rogers encouraged all to sign up for the weekly CM newsletter at [www.ward4news.com](http://www.ward4news.com) or by text to 202-286-5268. She noted the CM's office holds constituent services hours weekly on Wednesdays at the Fort Stevens Recreation Center from 12-1 PM and at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center from 1:30-2:30 PM.

Chair Gore noted Chevy Chase Day is September 21st.

Commissioner Lynch noted a Ward 3 Education Network Meeting on September 10th.

**00:20:30: Transportation Committee Update.**

Cal Simone presented the rest of his slide deck, continued from the ANC's last meeting, showing a graphic representation of the declining bus routes in 3/4G and increasing transportation desert. The E4, M4 and L2 will be affected and the L8 eliminated. WMATA's goal is to beef up service on major thoroughfares while eliminating service in neighborhoods.

Michaela Platzer reviewed past efforts by the Transportation Committee on the bus issue and asked for greater support from Commissioners as well as funds for raising awareness in the community and for a public records search. The search would be to learn how WMATA is using the 14,000 responses to their Better Bus survey. The funding issues behind the reduction in services are likely to continue, resulting in further reductions. She encouraged more neighbors to get involved.

Commissioner Nash lauded the community-building aspect of bus ridership, adding that to combat loneliness, provide access to DC schools, and address the climate crisis we need more bus service not less. The routes being curtailed run east to west, integrating us with communities on the other side of the park. Commissioner Nash called on WMATA to communicate with all public schools regarding any proposed changes in service. He asked for a letter of support from the ANC to provide extra weight in his work with the Council and Mayor on structural funding problems.

### **00:40:13: Comments on Transportation Committee Presentation.**

Commissioner Ferguson asked Commissioner Nash to provide greater notice of any requests for funding. A week is not sufficient. He noted in transportation changes funding is the issue, which makes the reduction in service a Council affair. Chair Gore decried WMATA's unwillingness to meet with ANC's, which ignores the ANC's statutory role. She suggested a sign-on letter might be the best process for Nash's efforts. Commissioner Sherman applauded the Committee's efforts and suggested demanding of WMATA what it would take to reinstate the E6. Michaela Platzer noted how difficult it is to communicate with WMATA and that only 17% of their budget comes from riders. Commissioner Lynch suggested involving Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton.

### **00:54:12: Discussion and Possible Vote on a Resolution Regarding Natural Grass on District Playing Fields, Including by Maret School at the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC)**

Commissioner Sherman gave a summary of the issue, noting that the current iteration of the resolution was developed from earlier versions and in active discussion with fellow Commissioners ahead of the meeting. He noted the following factors, leading to the resolution: (a) the Chevy Chase community wants to safeguard the environment; (b) they also want safe, reliably playable fields; (c) St. John's, Blessed Sacrament, and others already have artificial turf fields; (d) Maret intends to use artificial turf at ECC; (e) mounting scientific evidence has raised questions about the safety of artificial turf; (f) opposition to artificial turf in Chevy Chase has led to two petitions signed by over 1200 people, three ANC prior resolutions, and emergency and temporary legislation sponsored by Councilmember Janeese Lewis George and approved by the DC Council; (g) the ANC recognizes its own limitations, owing to the nature of the ANC-MOU, and per OAG and OANC guidance may only ask not direct Maret to use grass; (h) problems regarding artificial, including PFAS, are city-wide issues; (i) the DC Council needs to hold hearings and review new legislation on the scientific evidence regarding the safety of artificial turf to protect citizens more broadly; (j) Councilmembers Lewis George and Frumin have pledged their support; (k) specifically, the existing Safe Fields and Playgrounds Act needs to be amended to extend to all fields, public and private; and (l) DC needs to provide better guidelines to protect users of existing fields from heat-associated risks.

### **01:00:46: Comments on the Draft Natural Grass Resolution.**

Commissioner Zeldin added that Shaw Sports Turf, the manufacturer of the artificial turf used by Maret, is now claiming their turf is not made with PFAS. This claim would need independent verification, which the ANC will pursue. Commissioner Gosselin noted that since July 22 he had been trying to educate himself on the issue and in fact PFAS is in MANY consumer products, not just artificial turf. He expressed his hope the Council would address this wider issue. A Chevy Chase Voice representative noted that the Synthetic Turf Council (the industry trade association) had admitted that currently artificial turf cannot be made without PFAS and that the environmental group, Earth Justice, was now involved and considering further action. Chair Gore observed that the Commission had always been concerned about PFAS and that unanimous or almost unanimous decisions by the ANC hold more weight with the District. Commissioner Nash commended Commissioners Sherman and Zeldin, noting his own views regarding "toxic turf." Commissioner Lynch hoped the interaction leading to a consensus on this issue might be carried into the next Commission.

**Commissioner Sherman moved that the Commission adopt the resolution and accepted a friendly amendment from Chair Gore to name Commissioners Sherman, Gore, and Gosselin as points of contact for this issue. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0-0), as amended.**

**01:13:05: Discussion of Next Steps of the Redevelopment of the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library with Representatives of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED).**

The new project lead, Daniel Lyon, introduced himself and explained the next step is a “disposition” hearing, open to the public, where bidders will present to the community for questions and comments to DMPED. Chair Gore asked how many proposals there were, but Lyon did not say. She questioned whether it was wise or even possible to handle both the presentations and the disposition in a single meeting. Commissioner Lynch asked if Lyon had the date. He said he did not but assured the Commission there would be ample notice. Commissioner Lynch then asked if funds would be made available to inform the public of the coming meeting. Lyon said he did not know. Commissioner Lynch followed up to ask if there would be a second meeting, offering a further chance for neighbors unable to make the first hearing. Lyon did not commit to a second meeting. Commissioner Sherman suggested the ANC engage in significant outreach, including a survey, noting the importance of having visual representations of the proposals to share with constituents. A constituent asked if the proposals would be made available online. Lyon said they would be posted on the project website. Later, however, when pressed by another constituent, Lyon admitted the proposals would not be shared in their entirety – only summaries will be provided. Lyon said he would like the ANC to render a decision on their support at the next regular meeting after the hearing is held. Several Commissioners suggested more time would be needed. A representative of Chevy Choice Voice asked if bidders had been made aware of their lawsuit against Zoning Commission Chair Anthony Hood regarding the classification of the necessary zoning changes that allow for the Civic Core project as “rulemaking” vs “contested?” Another constituent pressed Lyon on the details of how many proposals there were and what would be provided to the public. Again, Lyon did not share specifics.

**01:30:04: Committee and Task Force Reports.**

The Transportation Committee added to their earlier presentation by noting they would be reporting on the 130-140 replies to their safety survey at the next ANC meeting. Chair Gore asked that they include an update on their meeting with DDOT.

**01:32:10: Treasurer’s Report.**

Commissioner Ferguson noted that he anticipates the city would grant the ANC an additional \$19,000 next fiscal year. The ANC has about \$45,000 in the bank currently, he said. This included, he noted, the grant originally offered to Chevy Chase Main Street for their proposed electronic sign, which they were unable to get the necessary open-space permit to install. Commissioner Ferguson asked for reimbursement for \$236 paid for renewal of the ANC post office box and \$312.50 given to Luis Chica for expenses. Commissioner Lynch proposed an annual grant to arts groups from the ANC surplus. He encouraged others to join him. Commissioner Ferguson moved for the Commission to reimburse his expenditures. The motion was properly seconded and adopted 6-0-1 (Ferguson abstained).

**01:35:49: 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 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