

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:00 - 9:00 pm

(This was a “hybrid” meeting—virtual on Teams and in-person in Room 109 at the National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW.)

Quorum: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Judy Havemann (3A02), Hans Miller (3A03), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were attending, making a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Jeremy Del Moral (3A04) arrived after the roll call and initial vote on the agenda.

Verification of Meeting Notice: Commissioners posted the meeting notice 7 days in advance of the meeting on the ANC 3A website, local listservs in Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, Glover Park, and McLean Gardens, and on the Nextdoor Neighborhood e-network, which met the notice requirement.

Agenda: The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

No Resolutions Approved

Votes on Administrative Matters

Minutes of March 21 Public Meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

Next monthly public meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Adjournment: The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

FULL SUMMARY

Chair Bradley-Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. He made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted to approve the agenda.

Community Report by MPD Second District Captain Tatjana Savoy

Captain Savoy reported that in response to requests at the April meeting about traffic violations, she had assigned traffic enforcement officers to the 3800 blocks of Garfield Street and also to the 3800-3900 blocks of Macomb Street (including the intersection of 38th and Macomb Street).

On Garfield, the officer had issued 17 citations including 14 for running stops signs, 2 for illegal U-turns, and one for failing to exhibit a current driver’s license. There were no citations for speeding during the officer’s time at that location.

On Macomb Street, the officer had issued 30 citations including 7 stop sign violations, 5 for parking in “No Parking Anytime” zones, 1 illegal U-turn, 8 speeds 20 mph above the speed limit, 3 speeds 15 mph above the speed limit, and 1 unreasonable speed, plus 1 distracted driving and 4 insurance violations (2 for not having insurance, 2 for failing to show insurance) which were secondary to another violation

Captain Savoy said traffic enforcement officers had not yet been able to get to the other street that residents had requested, on Cathedral Avenue between 39th Street and Glover-Archbold Park, but that would be a priority in coming weeks.

Presentation by DC School Chancellor Lewis Ferebee on Mayor’s Proposed Budget for FY2024

Chancellor Ferebee presented highlights of the District budget the Mayor issued on March 22. The Council was having hearings on the FY 2024 budget through April and would be marking it up and moving to the first vote in May and final vote in June on the budget that goes into effect September 30.

The Chancellor presented highlights of the budget and took questions, which focused particularly on schools, including:

- Funds for the 5 local DCPS elementary schools (proposed in February for 5.26% cuts from last year):

The Chancellor said for 2022-23 DCPS was able to provide 100% of the previous year’s funding and he wanted to do that for 2023-24 but with far fewer federal funds available after COVID-19, the Mayor’s budget only proposes 95% of this year’s funding. That will hit schools particularly hard if they got a lot of federal funds last year, even if they’ve gained a few students and will be getting more money as a result.

- Funds for local DCPS high schools (Jackson-Reed and the new high school opening on MacArthur):

The Mayor’s budget proposes Jackson-Reed would get \$3.2 million over this year, a 12.5% increase, as the largest high school in the District with a lot of out-of-boundary and at-risk students. The new high school on MacArthur is budgeted to get close to \$4.7 million for operating expenses in its first year.

- New Principal at Hearst Elementary School: Commissioner Hans Miller reported that the previous week the principal at Hearst announced she won’t be returning next fall. The Chancellor said DCPS usually appoints an interim principal while it organizes a selection committee to review candidates and make a recommendation, with input from the community.

- Enrollment changes: The Chancellor noted that many local schools are continuing to gain enrollment and lottery enrollment is also up. He urged that even families currently sending students to DCPS schools sign up again for next fall during the re-enrollment period in April, which helps schools greatly in planning and budgeting.

- School Safety and Security: The Chancellor said DCPS leaders are thinking about school security and student safety every day. School officials meet weekly with MPD and WMATA, conduct tabletop exercises, and check scanners and access controls to make sure they operate properly. The schools also play a role in sharing values and addressing the human side of resolving conflicts. Students generally say they feel safe at school.

- School Transportation: Chair Bradley-Lewis asked if the District budget has to pay for the costs of Kids Ride Free on WMATA, and how that would affect the cost of the Council’s proposed Free for All on buses. Chancellor Ferebee said that the District (not DCPS) pays a significant cost to WMATA for Kids Ride Free. The estimated cost of making buses free for all would be just the cost the District incurs beyond what it already would be paying for Kids Ride Free.

Councilmember Frumin, participating in the meeting in-person, mentioned one concern about Murch Elementary School. The average class size is 28 in pre-K and kindergarten, which is higher than in most other local schools. Unlike other schools in Ward 3, Murch has a lot of students entering in mid-year and also has probably the highest share of at-risk students in the ward. That means that funding formulas based on expected enrollment at the beginning of the year do not provide adequately for the second semester. CM Frumin is asking for funding to pay for 2 more teachers at Murch as a top priority. Chancellor Ferebee said DCPS has an enrollment reserve, but he also noted that Murch has some capacity constraints and may have to reconfigure capacity, possibly with one less pre-K classroom.

CM Frumin also spoke about the need for a further addition at Stoddert Elementary School. He also noted that the proposed new DCPS elementary school in Foxhall Village now won’t be built for a half dozen

more years. The Chancellor said there would be some time there, and DCPS would have to look again at its plans. He indicated that the current DCPS study of elementary school boundaries could come to some different conclusions than might have been the case under the proposals for school construction that had been in the plan in recent years.

Presentation on Smart Street Lighting Project to Update the DC Streetlighting System

Patrice Brooks of the DC Smart Street Lighting Project Team and engineer Ana Hassegawa spoke about the District’s plans to modernize streetlights in the District by converting 75,000 street and alley lights to LED technology, including remote monitoring and “smart” control capabilities. She said that the LEDs are better at directing light onto the street, alley, sidewalk or walking path, which helps advance the District’s Vision Zero safety goals. The project also will reduce streetlight energy consumption by more than 50 percent, eliminating 38,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year; and will add 239 Wireless Access Points, expanding the District’s broadband Wi-Fi network to more areas of need.

Ms. Brooks presented the timetable for the work (preparation, community outreach and installation):

- 2023 (Quarters 1 – 4): rehabilitation work (light poles and fixtures)
- Current Quarter 2023 through May 2024: conversion of street and alley lights to LEDs District-wide
- September 2022 – May 2037: Asset management (streetlight maintenance and replacement)

Ward 3 is in the second group to receive new LEDs in the second half of 2023. The ward will be divided into 4 or 5 sections or “bundles” of addresses that will get LEDs within no more than 14 days. Each area will be informed 45 days in advance of the start of work. Homes and other properties will receive door hangers and information sheets 7 days in advance of work in their area. If parking will be affected, No Parking signs will be posted 72 hours in advance.

In response to questions, Ms. Hassegawa reported that the lights are designed to provide uniform light on a street or block. The specifications call for each fixture to send no more than 10% of the light upward. If there is a “hole” in the lighting on the street, it will be filled. New poles will be added if needed. The intensity can also be lower or higher depending on neighbors’ preferences. The lights can be 2700 Kelvin or 3000 Kelvin. The new LEDs are designed to provide a softer, warmer light than a cool white “surgery room” light. On request, a light can also have shielding to prevent shining light sideways into residences. Dimming can be done remotely, but shielding to change the angle of the light requires a technician to come to the location. Those requests should go to DC 311. The smart technology will alert system managers to any lights that are out, and the contract with the city gives the contractor 48 to 72 hours to replace an LED that is not working or the contractor will have to pay a penalty.

For more information see <http://streetlights.dc.gov> or contact info@dcsmartstreetlights.com or Twitter [#dcsmartstreetlights](https://twitter.com/dcsmartstreetlights)

Presentation of Application for Zoning Special Exception 3617 Newark Street NW (Case 20896)

The property owners have applied to the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for a Special Exception to add a second story to the existing historic barn, which is currently a one-story accessory structure in the back yard of a single family dwelling, near the rear property line. The current structure occupies 632 square feet of floor area, and the applicants require a Special Exception to be able to add a second story that would also be 632 square feet, because 450 square feet is the maximum allowed “by right” under zoning regulations for an accessory structure in the R-1-B zone. The proposal meets all other zoning standards for the property. The BZA had scheduled a hearing May 24 on this application. The property is in ANC3A03, the Single Member District of Commissioner Hans Miller.

Commissioner Miller noted that the Historic Preservation Review Board had approved the project when it reviewed a similar plan in Fall 2022, and ANC 3C adopted a resolution of support, when it had jurisdiction over that address. (Criteria for HPRB approval are not the same as for a Special Exception.) Project architect Eric Teran presented the architectural plans showing the interior layout, the footprint, and the results of a “sun study” showing areas of shade in the neighboring yard to the north, based on a 450 square foot second floor and a 632 square foot second floor. He then responded to questions from Commissioners and other members of the community. Questions included the intended use of the accessory structure, parking along the alley, plans for an outdoor patio behind the structure, and a potential barbecue/outdoor kitchen in the yard. Neighbors mentioned an idea for renting the rooms for Airbnb. Mr. Teran said he understood the structure could be used for guest bedrooms for visitors. He noted it would not be an ADU because there would not be a complete kitchen in the structure. (The property already has an ADU in the basement of the principal dwelling.) Those were outside the range of the application to the BZA. Commissioner Miller said the Commission would take public comments on the Special Exception request through the time of the May meeting, review the comments and take up the matter for deliberation at that time, when it could vote on a position to submit to the BZA.

Presentation on Programs and Services of the DC Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA)

Cristobal Puig-Monsen, Manager at OTA, an independent education and advocacy agency working with tenants, spoke about services the office offers, including Tenant Tutorials on housing code violations, evictions, mold in rental housing, and other tenant rights questions. The legal branch can provide representation or assistance to individuals who are or are not representing themselves, and can also provide mediation of lease-related questions, security deposits, tenant rights, and TOPA. (Tenant Opportunity to Purchase). He encouraged DC residents with questions about any of these services or tenant rights in rental units to contact him at 202-719-6560.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Mladinov reported WMATA is holding an information session at Tenleytown Metro May 18 3-7 pm and requests comments by June 5 on a preliminary draft of a “Better Bus Visionary Network” for Metrobus services <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/Share-Your-Input.cfm>

Commissioner Del Moral reported on a visit by DDOT Community Engagement specialist Christian Piñeiro to Ward Circle and the block of Massachusetts Avenue in ANC3A04, to review concerns about traffic safety and speeding. He was expecting Mr. Piñeiro to come back for another visit in May.

Community Announcements

Erik Metzroth shared photos of a recent DDOT installation of white poles in the curb lane on the south side of Fulton Street near Wisconsin Avenue. He had spoken with a worker at the installation and understood that area was intended to be a scooter corral. He expressed concern that the poles are blocking the only area available for vehicles to pull to the side of that street to make a right turn, or to make room for vehicles entering Fulton from Wisconsin, where the current configuration does not provide a wide enough space for two vehicles to pass easily. Mr. Metzroth suggested locations at other corners where a scooter corral would not create traffic safety concerns. Commissioner Mladinov represents that part of Fulton Street and had worked with neighbors there on a 311 request filed in early 2022 asking DDOT to remove several parking spaces on the north side of Fulton to create more room for westbound vehicles entering the street from Wisconsin. She committed to contacting DDOT to find out more about the scooter corral and working to address the full set of safety concerns and find a safer solution.

Open Forum

A new resident on Wisconsin Avenue at Lowell Street asked about possible safety improvements at that intersection, which has no traffic control devices. She reported seeing vehicles going too fast through the intersection and not stopping for pedestrians trying to cross Wisconsin, who are hard to see because of

parked cars. Commissioner Havemann expressed concern about safety for pedestrians in that area, particularly seniors, and offered to work with the residents on getting safety improvements there. Several options were raised, including potential for a HAWK or other devices to assist pedestrians to cross more safely. Commissioner Havemann mentioned the orange flags that residents provided at crossings on Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, before DDOT installed a HAWK in that area. Chair Bradley-Lewis suggested coordinating with Christian Piñero, documenting safety problems, taking photos and making a 311 request. He mentioned that DDOT has several hundred 311 requests for traffic safety improvements in Ward 3 which the current DDOT system “TSI 2.0” has not yet addressed. (Since January 1, DDOT has only selected between 10 and 20 locations in Ward 3 to investigate each quarter for traffic safety improvements.) Commissioner Mladinov suggested that if Christian Piñero visits ANC 3A to look at safety issues on Massachusetts Avenue, he could also visit the intersection of Wisconsin and Lowell Street, and the intersection of Wisconsin and Fulton Street.

Administrative Matters

1. Minutes of March 21 Public Meeting

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes that were circulated for the ANC 3A March public meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

2. March Monthly Financial Report

Treasurer Del Moral reported that the Commission had not yet received its first allotment of District funds so there was no money in the ANC bank account and there were no expenditures from the account. The first allotments were received early in April and would be reported at the next meeting.

3. Procedures for forming committees or task forces in ANC 3A

The Commission had hoped to discuss potential standard operating practices for organizing and administering committees or task forces. The ANC 3A bylaws approved at the January 2023 meeting allow the Commission to establish standing committees or special committees but there are no details for the processes to follow, and most ANCs adopt rules or statements of standard operating procedures to provide further guidance. Chair Bradley-Lewis recommended developing standard operating procedures for creating ANC committees or task forces and suggested the Commission take up the matter at the next meeting.

The Chair noted specifically that transportation issues have come up at each meeting, the idea of forming a Transportation Committee has been raised, but there was not enough time to cover very much in the remaining 10 minutes of the meeting. He mentioned again the challenges of the DDOT TSI 2.0 system, which has a long queue of 311 requests in ANC 3A that are not getting addressed, creating a lot of dissatisfaction. He said the Commission would continue to advocate for traffic safety improvements, work with DDOT, and give consideration to new concerns that arise.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm, at the National Presbyterian Church.

The Chair made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

The Commission voted 4 – 0 to approve these minutes at a duly-noticed public meeting on May 16, 2023, at which a quorum was participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)