

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 18, 2024

Quorum call: Commissioners Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Judy Havemann (3A02), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Hans Miller (3A03) was not participating.

Verification of Meeting Notice: Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that the ANC meeting notice had been posted 7 days in advance of the meeting on the ANC 3A website, local listservs in Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, Glover Park, and McLean Gardens, and the Nextdoor e-network, meeting the requirement.

Agenda: Chair Bradley-Lewis 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.

Resolutions Adopted

Letter to the DC Council opposing proposed legislation B53-0475 “The Initiative Amendment Act”

The Chair made a motion to vote on sending a letter opposing the bill. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve having the Chair send a letter to that effect.

Resolution Requesting the DC Public Service Commission to set aside Pepco’s Three-Year Rate Request in Formal Case 1176 and instead to consider only a one-year rate increase using the traditional test year approach while it conducts a full evaluation of the results of the 18-month pilot multi-year rate plan.

Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution.

Letter Supporting Nomination of Commissioner Chuck Elkins (3D01) as the Ward 3 representative on the proposed new ANC Advisory Group to OANC. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed letter.

The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the letter.

Administrative Matters

Minutes of March 19 Regular Public Meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

Amended Minutes of February 20 Public Meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

Vote to approve ANC 3A Quarterly Financial Report for the Second Quarter of FY2024.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the Second Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the quarterly report.

Next monthly public meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 (the second Tuesday of the month)

Adjournment: The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

FULL SUMMARY

The Chair Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held in “hybrid” format, virtually via Zoom and in-person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom.

The Chair asked for a roll call. Commissioners Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Judy Havemann (3A02), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present and participating in the meeting.

Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that made a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Commissioner Hans Miller (3A03) was not participating.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda, with the addition of a vote on the ANC 3A Second Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda with that amendment.

MPD Community Report

MPD Lieutenant James VanderMeer (PSA 203) provided a summary of crime trends in ANC 3A. He reported that thefts in the area were up significantly since the previous year, particular retail thefts. He said MPD had reason to believe the increased retail threats involved organized groups, and MPD was taking a number of measures to address that. He said previously officers were seeing thefts of low-value objects by people in need, but recent thefts had shifted to larger scale thefts of significant value. The officers are now focusing on making arrests of individuals when they make their way from a store with objects of value and holding people accountable when there is probable cause. He said some of the recent changes in District laws are allowing MPD to apprehend perpetrators more readily before they pass along stolen merchandise, still protect constitutional rights, and also build stronger cases for prosecution. He reported arrests for thefts were up 157% in the District, up 188% in the Second District, and up 267% in PSA 203 for the year to date compared to 2023. Other crime categories and complaints have not had a similar increase, but Lt. VanderMeer did mention a number of package thefts. MPD continues to recommend that people use the Amazon Locker at the Second District police station.

Lt. VanderMeer also spoke about two recent barricade incidents in the Glover Park-Cathedral Heights area, in ANC 3B. He reported that special units had worked with the local police to de-escalate and resolve the problems, with the focus on keeping people safe, including all members of the community.

Several meeting participants asked about the January 13 carjacking in the 3000 block of Idaho Avenue. Lt. VanderMeer said it was still under investigation and he didn’t have any updates to share, but he believed MPD was continuing to pursue evidence and build as strong a case as they can.

Discussion and Resolution on Council proposed bill B25-0475 “Initiative Amendment Act”

The bill would prohibit citizen initiatives from being on the District ballot if they would require appropriations in order to be implemented. Council representatives have been invited to speak about the proposed bill but were not able to attend so the Chair summarized the main points for and against the bill, read Council Chair Phil Mendelson’s introductory statement presenting the proposed bill as well as his email response to the meeting invitation. His comments emphasized the burden on the Council to have to consider every approved initiative as part of its annual budget review, which he said could potentially overwhelm the Councilmembers and staff. Chair Bradley-Lewis noted how difficult it would be for initiatives to get on the ballot because virtually all initiatives mean at least some spending for launching a new program or policy, even if the initiative does not involve a funding program. Several Commissioners expressed their concerns about creating more obstacles to citizen initiatives. The Chair made a motion to vote on a letter to the Council saying the ANC would not support the proposed legislation. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve having the Chair send a letter to that effect.

Presentation on New Exhibit and Programming on Redlining and its Legacy in Ward 3

Joy Bates Boyle spoke about the “Undesign the Redline” project designed to explore the effects of discriminatory lending policies, racial covenants, and other efforts to discourage or prevent black people from getting homes or remaining as members of the community. She said the project extends nationwide as a secular effort to find avenues for undoing the redlining, creating greater equity and opening opportunities in housing and other services. In each city, activities are led by volunteer members of the community and focus on its unique history and experiences. The DC project is the only one to date that is organized by faith communities.

She provided information on the interactive exhibit at Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Avenue, through July 11, called “Undesign the Redline DC,” organized by a community advisory group and a planning team from Ward 3, including St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Adas Israel Congregation, Temple Sinai, Temple Micah, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The exhibit explores the history of redlining and displacement of communities of color in upper NW DC and also presents stories of vision and change to inspire others to take positive action. She announced several future programs and activities, including guided tours, private tours, and self-guided experiences. For more information on the exhibit and related programs and activities, see www.undesigndc.org

Kalil Roussaw Presentation on KRF Neighborhood Partnership Program

Mr. Roussaw was not in attendance so the Chair asked to postpone the presentation to a future meeting.

Presentation and Resolution on Pepco application for 3-year rate increase in Formal Case 1176

Assistant People’s Counsel Ankush Nayar spoke about the current Pepco rate case before the DC Public Service Commission (PSC). He explained that Pepco had asked the PSC to approve a new multi-year rate plan (MYP) based on forecasts of costs and investments, which would result in a 3-year increase in electric rates of \$190.7 million (not counting the cumulative effects over the years). On March 12 the Office of the People’s Counsel (OPC) joined the DC Government and the Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) in filing a Joint Motion to Dismiss Pepco’s request for the MYP on the basis that it is structurally deficient and premature, and instead to focus on evaluating the results of the prior 18-month pilot of a Pepco multi-year rate plan and reviewing a one-year Pepco rate increase using the traditional test year approach. Public comments on the Pepco request were due to the PSC by April 26. Several Commissioners asked questions and made comments. Commissioner Mladinov presented a resolution to support the OPC position and made a motion to take a vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commissioner voted 4-0 to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Updates

The agenda included a list of applications for renewal of liquor licenses at local liquor stores and other retailers that sell alcoholic beverages. By law, each ANC is required to share with the public the information about these notices so people affected have a chance to participate. Commissioner Mladinov read the list of retail establishments in or adjoining ANC 3A that are applying for renewal of liquor licenses and the due date for submitting letters of support or opposition to ABCA:

- Wegmans Food Market, 41 Ridge Square in ANC3A01 (ABRA-116841). Comments due April 29.
Application includes Class A Retail Liquor Store license and tasting endorsement.
- Westchester Market, 4000 Cathedral Avenue in ANC 3B (ABRA-117003). Comments due May 6.
- Han Towers Liquor, 4201 Cathedral Avenue in ANC 3B (ABRA-115850). Comments due May 6.
- Papa's Liquor, 3713 Macomb in ANC3A03 (ABRA-118381). Comments due May 13.
- Burka's Liquor, 3414 Wisconsin Avenue in ANC3A03 (ABRA-086394). Comments due May 13.
- Tenley Market/Liquor, 4326 Wisconsin Avenue in ANC3A04 (ABRA-060821). Comments due May 20.
- Reyna Market&Deli, 4201 Massachusetts Avenue in ANC3A04 (ABRA-125833). Comments due May 20.
- Ace Beverage, 3301 New Mexico Avenue in ANC 3B (ABRA-014553). Comments due May 28.

Commissioner Mladinov also reported that the Settlement Agreement between ANC 3A and Top Level LLC was approved by the ABC Board by order dated March 20, 2024. Top Level's application for a Medical Cannabis Retailer license is still under review at ABCA.

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the FY 2025 WMATA budget was still uncertain. The additional funding for WMATA promised by two of the three jurisdictions that provide the majority of financial support for WMATA—Maryland, Virginia and DC—had not yet been finalized. WMATA also still intended to release a revised map of its proposed “Better Bus” map later in the spring, along with proposed “Year One” changes in bus routes and services, and would be asking for public comments.

Chair Bradley-Lewis summarized his experience participating in the MPD Community Engagement Academy, which involves tours, speakers, and discussions about the work and challenges of local police. He reported that the previous Thursday from 4 - 8 pm he had gone on a “ride-along” with an MPD officer to observe what patrol officers do and see on the beat. He encouraged others to sign up for the program, or ask MPD Second District to go on a ride-along in the community.

Community Announcements

Danica Hawkins, Division Director of Welcome Center Services at Friendship Place, spoke about the new drop-in center in a small blue house at 4713 Wisconsin Avenue, between the Friendship Heights and Tenleytown Metro stations. It is designed to offer a place for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to find a safe, friendly place to get out of cold or heat on a weekday, have a cup of coffee or something to eat, do laundry or wash clothes, use the phone or internet, or pick up toiletries or other necessities, would like to speak to a case manager, need to see a doctor or psychiatrist, or need housing and would like to apply for one of the Friendship Place shelters. Drop-in hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9 am-12 noon and 1 pm-4 pm. For more information, call the Welcome Center staff at 202-364-1419 or contact info@friendshiplace.org

Commissioner Havemann asked if The Brooks short-term emergency shelter for families, which is managed by Friendship Place, was fully occupied. Ms. Hawkins said that The Brooks had a staggered opening through the COVID-19 emergency and had been serving the number of families allocated to the shelter by the DC Department of Human Services. She emphasized that The Brooks provides each family emergency housing for a short time, and helps residents move on to longer term housing, which was the objective of the family shelters from the beginning.

No representative from the Mayor’s office was at the meeting, so Commissioner Mladinov reported that the Mayor’s proposed District budget for Fiscal Year 2025 was released on April 3. She noted that the ANC Commissioners had been receiving comments on the potential effect of the budget on school funding, transportation, affordable housing, and other public programs, and encouraged people to check Councilmember Frumin’s newsletter, read the materials from the Mayor and Council, and listen to the Council hearings on the budget through April and early May. The Mayor’s office had committed to send a speaker to present the proposed budget to the ANC at the May public meeting.

Open Forum

There were no additional comments.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared draft minutes of the March 19 public meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the March minutes.

The Chair also introduced amended February minutes to include a missing paragraph about approval of the letter of support for an after-hours work permit for MCN to work overnight on improvements at PIW, 4228 Wisconsin Avenue, and to correct the description of the liquor license application by Makers Union Cathedral at 3701 Newark Street NW. The Chair made a motion to vote on approving the amended February minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as amended.

Commissioner Del Moral read the ANC 3A March financial report:

ANC 3A March Financial Report

Opening Balance (February 1): \$17,873.01

- Income: None
- Cash Withdrawals: None
- Expenditures: One Check. \$152.51
 - Bank Fees: None
 - Monthly Fee waived

Ending Balance (March 31): \$17,720.50

Commissioner Del Moral presented the ANC 3A Quarterly Report for the Second Quarter of FY 2024. The ANC had three transactions in the quarter, for total expenditures of \$225.68. The OANC had prepared the Quarterly Financial Report (QFR) using its new software but he noted that the software had not provided an updated ending balance. The Chair made a motion to vote on approving the QFR. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the report.

The Chair presented a request for the ANC to vote to support the appointment of Commissioner Chuck Elkins (3D01) as the Ward 3 representative to OANC's proposed new ANC Advisory Board. The Chair made a motion to vote on supporting the nomination of Commissioner Elkins. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve sending a letter of support.

The Chair announced that the next monthly public meeting would be Tuesday, May 14, 2024, which is the second Tuesday of the month rather than the usual third Tuesday.

The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 4 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on May 14, 2024, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the Commissioners constitute a quorum.)