

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A Public Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Quorum call: Commissioners Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Two of the three sitting Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

Verification of Meeting Notice: The meeting notice was posted 7 days in advance of the meeting on the ANC 3A website, and local listservs in Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, Glover Park, and McLean Gardens, meeting the notice requirement.

Agenda: Chair Bradley-Lewis made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Resolutions Adopted

Vote to designate Commissioner Mladinov to work with Go Vocal on developing a proposed contract for one year of Citizen Engagement Software and services that would meet DC laws and regulations. The Chair made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

Administrative Matters

Minutes of September 17 Regular Public Meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

ANC 3A Quarterly Report for 4th Quarter FY2024. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed quarterly report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the report as presented.

ANC 3A Budget for FY 2025. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the budget as presented.

Next Public Meeting: November 13, 2024

The Chair made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn.

FULL SUMMARY

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and called the roll. Commissioners Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Two of the three sitting Commissioners make a quorum.)

Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that the meeting notice and proposed agenda had been posted 7 days in advance, using the ANC 3A website, email list and local listservs, which satisfied the notice requirement.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2024) www.anc3a.org

3A01	3A02	3A03	3A04	3A05
Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis	Vacant	Vacant	Jeremy Del Moral	Ann Lane Mladinov

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda, with the note that updates from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) would be shifted to the beginning of the agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the agenda.

Welcome and Remarks by Phil Thomas, new Director of MOCRS

Phil Thomas introduced himself to the ANC, after 2 weeks on the job. He had previously worked for the Mayor, and also served as an ANC Commissioner and Chair of the Ward 3 Democrats. Now he will be overseeing the MOCRS staff, including the staff's liaisons to each ward. He provided his contact information phil.thomas@dc.gov 202-340-8552 and said the MOCRS Community Services Manager for Ward 3 would continue working with ANCs and coming to monthly meetings.

Mr. Thomas also announced the District's 2024-2025 DC Leaf Collection program is beginning, following the approach from the previous year. Starting October 28, leaves would be picked up from the streetside, either raked into piles or in paper leaf bags (no plastic bags). DPW is planning to provide residents a door hanger to announce when their block is expected to have leaf collection crews reach their block.

MPD Community Report

Captain Darren Haskis (MPD Second District for Sectors 1 and 2) provided the monthly police report. He reported specifically on two robberies in ANC 3A, which are violent crimes that he said are not characteristic of the area previously this year. The first was around midday on October 9, when a landscaping contractor was approached in the parking lot behind 4000 Massachusetts Avenue by two individuals with a knife, who stole \$180. The second robbery was after 7 pm on the 3800 block of Massachusetts in front of Annunciation Church, when a juvenile male was approached by two other juveniles and robbed of some cash. Both robberies are being actively investigated by MPD.

Captain Haskis reported there had not been any thefts of autos in the previous month but there had been property crimes including retail thefts in City Ridge and some hallway thefts in an apartment building. He also noted a series of thefts from autos in recent days in the 4200 block of Massachusetts Avenue and in McLean Gardens. Chair Bradley-Lewis added that those thefts involved taking all four wheels from vehicles in parking lots, some of them more than once. MPD had identified one suspect. One of the victims, Therese Fergo, spoke about her effort to work with MPD and residents to share information on the incidents and get advice on how to prevent these incidents. She also reported that there are 3 cameras in the parking lot where her vehicle was parked, but they are solar-powered, not professional and not positioned effectively to cover the area. The Chair outlined his discussions on getting new cameras, including the advice that the cameras be purchased from DataWatch so they will be immediately connected to MPD to share information from the cameras. He is working with Vaughan Place and City Ridge to coordinate use of cameras so all the information can be available to MPD across those locations. He reported that the Board at McLean Gardens has approved purchase of new cameras and is also planning to install LED lights to improve the lighting in the parking lots.

Captain Haskis reiterated the importance of real-time communications and coordination with MPD so investigators get photo evidence. Cameras are even more important overnight when not that many people are out. He recommended using wheel locks on vehicles as a deterrent, though he acknowledged that even with wheel locks, it is still possible for wheels to be stolen. He invited others to contact MPD about security cameras and the District's rebate program for people installing private security cameras.

Ms. Fergo also asked about illegal drug consumption she observes frequently on the border between City Ridge and McLean Gardens. She had contacted Wegmans, which has strict limits on employees smoking, and she believed the individuals were residents at City Ridge. Jim Linde confirmed that report. Captain

Haskis said MPD could assign additional patrols in that area, and urged people to call 911 to report illegal drug use, including smoking marijuana outside of private residences, so MPD could respond in real time.

Presentation of plans for new restaurant Shinwa Izakaya with summer garden at 11 Ridge Square

Charlene Tan representing Shinwa Izakaya presented the updated drawings for the outdoor patio space that the new restaurant will be using, located between Tatte and the King Street Oyster Bar. The restaurant had received approval for a liquor license for the restaurant to open at City Ridge, with outdoor service for 13 people in a “summer garden,” and has applied for a building permit to reconfigure the outdoor space. The changes will mean reassigning some of the space now included in the summer garden of King Street Oyster Bar to the new outdoor space serving Shinwa Izakaya. The restaurant is working toward opening in December 2024.

Presentation about Citizen Engagement Technology to Support Outreach and Dialogue

Commissioner Chuck Elkins of ANC 3D (Wesley Heights-Palisades) described the general nature of citizen engagement software, which his ANC had been using since the spring. He mentioned the first project using the software, the survey ANC 3D had conducted on proposed changes in area Metrobus routes under WMATA’s Better Bus initiative that was posted online in June. The survey, linked to the ANC 3D home page, received more than 900 respondents, including dozens living in ANC 3A commenting about proposed changes to the N bus routes, and a larger number living in ANC 3B about the proposed changes to the D2 route. After that first project, Commissioner Elkins said ANC 3D was in a far better position to gather citizen input on the next issue, which was traffic safety improvements after a traffic fatality on Foxhall Road. He concluded that the citizen engagement platform was ideal for getting people informed and eliciting their views and recommendations on solutions to the traffic safety problems in that location.

ANC 3D is currently contracting with the company “District Engage” based in Australia, which is one of the competitors offering Citizen Engagement Software to ANCs. “Go Vocal” is the name of the other company which developed the software to allow public officials and organizations to engage with constituents through surveys, informational presentations, online brainstorming and workshops, as well as in-person outreach. Formerly known as “Citizen Lab,” the company has been offering the technology and support services for over a decade in Europe and the United States. Both District Engage and Go Vocal made presentations to Councilmember Frumin’s office and interested ANCs, and they are both offering ANCs an economical option of \$2,000 for the year. Go Vocal has proposed to offer shared training and extend the offer of \$2,000 for the year, if a minimum of three ANCs enter individual contracts for the services for the year so they can share training.

The Chair noted that the ANC 3A draft budget for FY2025 included \$2,000 for Citizen Engagement software. He also emphasized that if the ANC does contract for that software, he would ensure that the technology would be fully used and all the Commissioners would receive the training. He also suggested that the ANCs continue to work with CM Frumin’s office which had organized the presentations on this software. The Chair suggested one major issue that would be ideal for using the citizen engagement technology is the planning for new uses of the property that was formerly used by the U.S. Homeland Security Department and Navy Department at the northeast corner of Nebraska Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue, which the U.S. General Services Administration has indicated will be transferred by the federal government in the next few years. That property is within ANC 3A. The Chair emphasized that the Commission will want to be sure there is ample chance for discussion and public input on the plans for that area, which also is bordered by ANC 3D and ANC 3E. Commissioner Elkins noted that his Commission would also have a great interest in the use of that area, and it would be good for all three affected ANCs to coordinate on it and make use of citizen engagement technology to facilitate that process.

Other meeting participants asked several questions, including whether the \$2,000 annual price might end up escalating sharply after the first year. Commissioner Elkins responded that the price quote from Go Vocal for future years could only be increased to keep up with inflation. The Chair also explained that under District law, ANCs cannot make spending decisions that extend beyond the immediate year ahead. Votes of Commissioners cannot bind the ANC into the future.

The Chair made a motion to vote on designating Commissioner Mladinov to work with Go Vocal on developing a proposed contract for one year of Citizen Engagement Software and services that would meet DC laws and regulations. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

DC Water Presentation on Program to Replace Lead Water Pipes at No Cost to DC Residents

Sean Moore, Communications Manager for Lead-Free DC, spoke about DC Water's initiative to replace lead and galvanized metal water service lines across the District. Under this initiative, water service lines containing lead, whether lead pipes or galvanized metal pipes, can be replaced from the water main in the street to the home at no cost, if a residence is in a block designated as eligible for the program. The plan is to remove lead water pipes from all homes by 2037. For households that are not living in blocks currently designated as eligible for the no-cost pipe replacement, Mr. Moore advised that they could contact DC Water and get their water service lines replaced as part of the voluntary program. In that program, DC Water covers the cost of replacing the line from the water main in the street to the water meter in the front yard (all in public property), but the homeowner pays the cost from the water meter to the house (in private property). The first step is to verify the material in the water lines serving a residence. Homeowners can check their own water lines and also check DC Water's records for their property at: <https://geo.dewater.com/Lead/> DC Water also provides test kits that can be used to determine if there are dangerous levels of lead in the water supply in a home.

Residents had several questions and comments. Some local homeowners have found they have brass water service lines, which also contain lead and should be removed. That is one of the types of water lines that can lead to properties being shown without clear information on the DC Water inventory. Some smaller multi-family buildings also have service lines containing lead, including some at McLean Gardens. Mr. Moore explained that large apartments and institutional or commercial buildings in the District, and structures built after 1986, would not have water lines containing lead.

Homeowners who do not live on blocks that are part of the current phase of the Lead-free DC program may find it advisable to sign up for the voluntary program, under which DC Water pays for replacement of the service lines on the "public side" (from the water main in the street to the meter) and the homeowner pays for replacement of the service line on the "private side" (from the meter into the house). Several meeting participants asked if DC Water has a list of approved contractors for this work. Mr. Moore explained that DC Water selects the contractor doing the work for the utility, which homeowners can agree to use as well to facilitate coordination of the work on the public side and the private side. DC Water also maintains a list of licensed contractors, and DOEE also has a list of vendors that residents can use. The Chair and Mr. Moore encouraged residents to take advantage of the program while funds are available, and remove the lead hazards when they have this opportunity.

DDOT Draft Permanent Guidelines for Continuing Use of Public Space for "Streeteries"

Commissioner Mladinov presented DDOT's proposed new guidelines for a long-term program to allow use of public space such as curb lanes of roadways for "streeteries" in order to expand the outdoor space available for restaurants and other food establishments to serve customers. DDOT developed a temporary program for streeteries during the COVID-19 emergency and most of those permits were scheduled to expire at the end of 2024. DDOT extended all the permits to July 31, 2025, and hopes to be able to have the new guidelines and permits in place by that time. DDOT was planning to present the new draft guidelines to its Public Space Committee at a public hearing on November 14. This year for the first time,

all establishments using streateries would be asked to pay a \$260 fee for the permit as well as an annual rental fee of \$20 per square foot of streatory space they are requesting. The guidelines also incorporate some new design standards for safety and design quality and appearance.

The ANC invited public comments on the guidelines, including from the four local establishments that are participating in the program, using streatory space on the northwest corner of Macomb Street and Wisconsin Avenue. DDOT had posted the proposed draft of permanent guidelines at:

<https://publicspaceactivation.ddot.dc.gov/pages/streateries>

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Del Moral reported that National Presbyterian Church had asked for support for a permit to have work done on the playground along Nebraska Avenue on the Monday holiday earlier in the week. He only had one business day to review it so he submitted his approval as an individual Commissioner. Commissioner Mladinov added that Sidwell Friends had also requested a permit to have work done at the former site of the Washington Home and Hospice at 37th Street and Upton Street, but the work was postponed for a week and the permit was not used. She referred residents to the web page covering the construction plans and timeline. <https://www.sidwell.edu/about/new-upper-school>

The Chair mentioned that there had been progress on getting attention to the hole in the Newark Street playground which Commissioner Havemann had particularly wanted to see remedied.

The Chair shared information on the General Election. Official ballots had been mailed to all DC voters. Drop boxes for mail-in ballots were available from October 11 to November 5 at 8:00 pm.

Early Vote Centers were scheduled to be open for in-person voting or dropping off mailed ballots every day from October 28-November 3 from 8:30 am - 7:00 pm, and on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, all DC precincts were scheduled to be open for in-person voting from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm.

Community Announcements

The Chair invited candidates for ANC 3A Commissioner seats in November 5 General Election to introduce themselves at the meeting but no candidates came forward.

Joe Dweck from CM Frumin's office announced that the Councilmember would be visiting all Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) sites around the District, which are under his jurisdiction as temporary Chair of the Council's Subcommittee with jurisdiction over DPR.

Mr. Dweck repeated the plans for DPW leaf exemption and announced the approaching deadline for seniors in private homes to apply for an exemption from fines for clearing snow from the public sidewalks. See

<https://shovelexemption.dpw.dc.gov/>

He also announced a DPW e-cycle event for electronics and hazardous materials at Stoddert Elementary School on October 26. In case of questions, Mr. Dweck provided his contact information 202-671-4617 jdweck@dccouncil.us

Open Forum

Resident David White expressed his support for the ANC to contract for Go Vocal citizen engagement software, which he said would make it much easier for residents to receive and share information on subjects like WMATA's Better Bus proposals, which had been difficult to distribute effectively to local residents and buildings over the summer, using email or other standard methods.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared draft minutes of the September 17 ANC 3A regular monthly public meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Del Moral read the ANC 3A September financial report.

ANC 3A September Financial Report

Opening Balance (September 1): \$24,326.30

- Income: None
- Cash Withdrawals: None
 - Expenditures: None
 - Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)

Ending Balance (September 30): \$24,326.30

Commissioner Del Moral also presented the ANC 3A Quarterly Report for the 4th Quarter of FY 2024. The Chair made a motion to vote on the quarterly report. The motion was seconded and the commission voted 3-0 to adopt the report as presented.

Commissioner Mladinov presented the proposed FY2025 annual budget for ANC 3A covering the time from October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025, which had been introduced at the September meeting. The proposed budget also included funds for personnel, office equipment and supplies, communications, professional services, local travel, and for the first time, grants to local non-profits for projects that benefit the community. The Commission is required to approve the budget for the new fiscal year by October 15. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adopt the budget.

The Chair announced that the next public meeting would be Wednesday, November 13, a change from the usual third Tuesday of the month because the Commissioners wanted to be able to take a vote on a resolution about the proposed streateries guidelines before the Public Space Committee hearing scheduled for November 14.

The Chair made a motion to vote on adjournment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 3 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on October 15, 2024, at which a quorum was present. (Two of the three sitting Commissioners constitute a quorum.)