



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne  
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**COMMISSIONERS**

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman, Vice Chair 3/4G-03 - Carol Grunewald  
3/4G-04 - Laura Phinizy 3/4G-05 - Karrenthya Simmons, Treasurer  
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin 3/4G-07 - Elizabeth Nagy, Secretary

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**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**March 10, 2025 – Virtual Meeting**

Commissioners present:

- Lisa Gore (3G01, Chair)
- Bruce Sherman (3G02, Vice Chair)
- Carol Grunewald (3G03)
- Laura Phinizy (3G04)
- Karrenthya Simmons (3G05, Treasurer)
- Peter Gosselin (3G06)
- Liz Nagy (3G07, Secretary)

38 participants online not including Commissioners

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Gore called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Commissioners introduced themselves.

## **I. Opening Business**

### **A. Adoption of Agenda**

Amendments:

- Commissioner Sherman proposed replacing the ECC item with a draft resolution circulated to the community on preserving funding for supplemental pre-kindergarten in the District.
- Commissioner Gosselin requested removing his item about Georgetown Events' public space application for an outdoor cafe, as the application is not being taken up by the Public Space Committee until April 23 or 24, 2025.

Commissioner Gore moved to adopt the agenda as amended by Commissioners Sherman and Gosselin. Passed (7-0).

### **B. Meeting Procedures**

Chair Gore outlined virtual meeting procedures.

### **C. Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Nagy to adopt meeting minutes for February 24th and 25th. Seconded. Passed (7-0).

### **D. Open Forum**

No community members raised any issues.

### **E. Liquor License Petition - Birdsong Thai**

Commissioner Simmons introduced Aaron Gordon, owner of Little Beast, who presented plans for a new restaurant called Birdsong Thai at the former Blue 44 location. Key points:

- Mr. Gordon described the plan for seating capacity and general plans for the restaurant
- Expected opening around May 10th
- Requested liquor license hours: Sun 10am-1am, Mon-Thu 11am-12am, Fri-Sat 10am-1am, though actual closing times will typically be earlier

Motion by Commissioner Simmons to support Birdsong Thai's liquor license application. Seconded. Passed (7-0).

## **F. DMPED Disposition Hearing Update for Chevy Chase Library and Community Center**

Commissioner Simmons provided information about the upcoming disposition hearing scheduled for March 29th, 9am-5pm:

- All developers who submitted bids will present their proposals
- Open house format where community members can ask developers questions
- ANC will collect feedback from the community
- DMPED has extended the ANC's time to respond with a resolution from 30 to 60 days
- The meeting will also have a virtual option

Commissioners Gosselin and Gore noted that this is a significant opportunity for the community to see concrete proposals for the site after five years of discussions. They are creating cards and mailers to distribute to constituents about the meeting.

Commissioner Sherman noted that DMPED will use the same facilitator as in the previous meeting and asked what the mechanism will be for DMPED to get feedback from the community. Developers' presentations will be recorded and will go until 11 a.m. after which the community can engage with proposers.

## **G. Community Engagement Plan Discussion**

The Commission discussed plans for engaging the community regarding the library and community center redevelopment:

- Go Vocal platform: Commissioners Gore, Gosselin, and Sherman are working to implement this engagement platform for the ANC in concert with three other ANCs. The platform will allow for posting information, surveys, and community feedback.
- Commissioners discussed having working sessions to build out the Go Vocal platform for the disposition hearing.
- ANC-wide survey: Commissioners agreed to conduct an ANC-wide survey following the disposition meeting to gather feedback on the development proposals.
- Individual SMD outreach: Many commissioners are already conducting or planning outreach within their single member districts.
- Concerns were raised about ensuring the survey allows all viewpoints to be heard and about ensuring that only residents of the ANC can respond to the survey.

Issues around scope of community input:

- DMPED declined to speak at the March 24<sup>th</sup> ANC Meeting to discuss how the March 29<sup>th</sup> hearing will unfold
- Commissioner Grunewald advocated for limiting survey respondents to Chevy Chase DC residents.

- Commissioner Simmons argued for including all potential users of the library and community center.
- Community member Michele Wolin expressed concern about groups from outside the ANC skewing results and her belief that the ANC should represent this community.

## **H. Resolution on Preserving Pre-K Funding**

Commissioner Sherman presented a resolution to preserve funding for supplemental pre-kindergarten programs at community-based organizations across the District, which are at risk due to budget cuts.

Raúl Echevarría, co-founder of CommuniKids preschool, spoke about the importance of maintaining PKEEP funding:

- His organization serves 244 students in Ward 3 through the PKEEP program
- Explained that childcare centers operate on a delicate financial balance, with preschoolers subsidizing the higher costs of infant and toddler care
- Without preschool funding, centers would either close or substantially increase costs for infant care
- Current infant care costs average \$31,000/year in DC

Commissioner Phinizy noted that incorporating infant and toddler care into elementary school buildings would be challenging due to different facility requirements.

Motion to adopt the resolution passed (7-0).

## **I. Office of Planning Comprehensive Plan Briefing**

Commissioner Gosselin reported on a briefing about the rewrite of the DC Comprehensive Plan:

- The Mayor announced a rewrite of the plan, aiming for implementation by 2027
- Office of Planning (OP) continues to project strong growth in population and jobs
- Housing will be a major focus
- When asked about potential changes to single-family residential zoning, OP said they are in "listening mode"

Commissioner Sherman noted that the city is projecting a loss of 40,000 jobs due to federal workforce cutbacks, which will likely require OP to fundamentally recalibrate their planning approach.

## **J. Community Announcements**


- William Owen Cox (Ward 3 Mayor's Office of Community Relations): Provided updates on the RFK Stadium project and the Rental Act, which would streamline court processes and eviction timelines.
- Commissioner Simmons: Will be at Lafayette Farmers Market on Saturday from 10-11am. Has "slow down" signs available for residents.
- Barbara Rogers: Thanked the community for the "Listen As We Climb" event. Reminded residents that DPW will resume street sweeping.
- Commissioner Nagy: Noted community concerns about flashing on the Community Center that needs repair. Commissioner Simmons will look into that issue as it is in her SMD. Commissioner Nagy announced a new blog on her website (liznag4dc.com).

## K. Agenda Items for March 24, 2025, Meeting

- Presentation by DMPED (if they accept)
- Discussion on kindergarten issues (concerns about DCPS bypassing kindergarten)
- Treasurer's report for February
- Update on Maret development plans
- Julian Bond memorial bench petition
- Possible Chevy Chase Main Street presentation

## II. Meeting Conclusion

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

  
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Lisa R. Gore, Chair

Apr 3, 2025

Date

  
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Elizabeth A. Nagy, Secretary

Apr 3, 2025

Date