



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

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2025, 6:30 PM - Virtual Via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Commissioner Lisa Gore (ANC 3/4G-01, Chair) • Commissioner Bruce Sherman (ANC 3/4G-02, Vice Chair) • Commissioner Carol Grunewald (ANC 3/4G-03) • Commissioner Laura Phinizy (ANC 3/4G-04) • Commissioner Karrenthya Simmons (ANC 3/4G-05, Treasurer) - arrived during meeting • Commissioner Peter Gosselin (ANC 3/4G-06) • Commissioner Elizabeth Nagy (ANC 3/4G-07, Secretary)

Number of participants online: 70 participants, including Commissioners at highest attendance level

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gore called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. MEETING PROCEDURES: Chair Gore outlined virtual meeting procedures.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Gore presented the agenda for approval with the following amendments:

- Addition of resolution regarding Pepco outages (Commissioner Phinizy)
- Addition of ANC website discussion (Commissioner Simmons)
- Removal of purchasing standard operating procedures (Commissioner Nagy)
- Removal of bottle bill consideration (Commissioner Sherman)
- Addition of reimbursement request for \$20.88 for flyers (Commissioner Simmons)

Commissioner Gore moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Multiple commissioners seconded. Approved 7-0-0.

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Nagy moved to adopt the meeting minutes for September 8, 2025, with leave to make technical corrections. Seconded. Approved 7-0-0.

II. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. RESIDENT AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS' FORUM

The Commission heard from the following community members: **Libby Martin** - raised concerns about email communications protocols for committee members and co-chairs. Commissioner Nagy responded regarding appropriate communication channels for legal discussions between the ANC and the Office of the Attorney General. **Tracy Bowen** - a Friends of Lafayette Pointer Park board member, announced a tree walk event scheduled for October 18, 2025, 9:00 - 11:00 AM with DC DDOT Urban Forester Ranjit Babra to discuss tree management in the park.

Ron Kahn - expressed concerns about maintenance conditions at Chevy Chase Recreation Center and grounds, noting deteriorated conditions compared to Friendship Recreation Center. Commissioner Simmons reported ongoing work with DPR and DGS regarding an unhoused person and maintenance issues. **Scott Afzal** - presented proposal to carve a bear sculpture from a damaged tree stump at Lafayette Pointer Park, working with Friends of Lafayette Pointer Park. The project has approval from DC arborist and proponents are working on DPR permitting.

Bernice Ashitey - Representative for DC Council At-Large candidate Representative Oye, introduced herself and offered support for community issues.

Cal Simone - announced updates from Friends of Bus Transit Chevy Chase, including a feedback forum, weekly open Zoom calls and a travel training session on October 25 at Chevy Chase Library (2:00 - 4:00 PM). **William Owen Cox**, Ward 3 liaison for Mayor's Office of Community Relations, announced office hours on October 10th at Cleveland Park Library (3:30 PM) and also that a new Faith Liaison has been onboarded for Wards 1 - 4.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. RESOLUTION: PEPCO OUTAGES INVESTIGATION

Commissioner Phinizy presented a resolution urging the Public Service Commission to investigate outages and power surges that occurred on August 1 - 2, 2025, affecting ANC 3/4G residents and their property. Commissioner Phinizy referenced precedent from formal case 1055 (2007) where the PSC granted petition for Fairfax community residents after similar outages.

The resolution requests:

- PSC investigation of outage causes and power surges
- Investigation of electrical system conditions

- Corrective actions where appropriate
- Compensation for affected residents
- Release of meeting video to public
- Explanation of estimated billing formula
- Response to technical questions from Office of People's Council

Commissioner Phinizy moved to adopt the resolution urging the Public Service Commission to investigate the August 1 - 2, 2025, outages (E-docket GD2025-01-E). Multiple commissioners seconded. Approved 7-0-0.

2. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Sherman presented four proposed amendments to ANC bylaws concerning committee membership, including provisions for:

- Nomination process for committee members
- Committee size limitations (9 members maximum)
- Term limits (2 years)
- Commissioner ex-officio membership

Extensive discussion by commissioners and the community ensued regarding:

- Nomination procedures (by commissioners and/or public)
- Compliance with DC Code regarding committee membership eligibility
- Effect of member limitations on committee effectiveness
- Historical committee sizes and success rates
- Term limit appropriateness

Chair Gore presented alternative amendment language previously shared with commissioners, citing DC Code requirements and historical ANC practices. Discussion focused on whether proposed changes aligned with DC Code provisions for committee membership.

MOTION: Commissioner Nagy moved to lay the bylaw amendments on the table for further discussion at a later date. Seconded. Approved 7-0-0.

3. RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUITY (RASE) COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Commissioner Simmons presented nominations for new Racial and Social Equity (RASE) Committee members:

- Shannon Wulf Trager
- Tai Wingfield
- Colleen Morsli
- Katherine Curley
- Lester Burke
- Brian Heilman

Discussion included concerns about committee operations, transparency, and the need to finalize bylaw amendments before approving new members.

MOTION: Commissioner Nagy moved to lay the vote on new RASE committee members on the table pending bylaw resolution. Seconded. Motion failed 3-3-0 (In favor: Nagy, Grunewald, Sherman; Opposed: Gore, Gosselin, Simmons) (Commissioner Phinizy abstained/unclear)

After clarification of the motion and parliamentary procedure and Commissioner Phinizy's voted against laying the vote on the table (3-4-0) (In favor: Nagy, Grunewald, Sherman; Opposed: Gore, Gosselin, Simmons, Phinizy):

Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the six new Racial and Social Equity (RASE) Committee members as listed. Seconded. Approved 5-2-0 (In favor: Gore, Gosselin, Simmons, Sherman, Phinizy; Opposed: Grunewald, Nagy)

4. MARET FIELD

A. Opening Weekend Report and Community Concerns

Trey Holloway, Maret School representative, reported on the inaugural field opening October 4 - 5, 2025, which coincided with homecoming. Approximately 700 attendees were at Friday's game, significantly exceeding the Certificate of Occupancy limit of 200 persons.

Community members raised concerns about:

- Traffic congestion on Nebraska Avenue
- Extensive parking violations including vehicles blocking driveways, crosswalks, and sidewalks
- Extended delays (2 hours) for parking enforcement response
- Food trucks utilizing parking lot spaces

Commissioner Gosselin reported filing 14 parking enforcement requests (311). Multiple community members observed parking and traffic safety issues throughout the neighborhood.

Maret acknowledged lessons learned and committed to improved communication about parking violations and exploring alternative arrangements for large events, including potential use of ECC property for ride-share drop-offs.

B. Certificate of Occupancy and Zoning Issues

Jeff Reiss, Deputy Chief Department of Buildings Official, and Elisa Vitale, Deputy Zoning Administrator, Department of Buildings, provided the following briefing:

Status: Conditional Certificate of Occupancy issued with 120-day term, maximum occupancy 200 persons. Department of Buildings confirmed enforcement action will be taken against Maret for exceeding the October 4 occupancy limit.

Outstanding Issues:

1. Retaining wall heights exceed approved plans (2-22 inches over specified heights)
2. Landscaping completion required
3. Green area ratio compliance pending
4. Bio-retention area remediation

Maret has filed application with Board of Zoning Adjustment to obtain relief for retaining wall heights as constructed. Trey Holloway stated Maret will pursue increased occupancy capacity through proper permitting process but, although asked, did not specify the number of occupants being requested.

Commissioner Gosselin expressed concern about wall construction discrepancies and suggested remediation be negotiated with the community, including screening trees/plants.

Community Use Hours: Current BZA order specifies Sunday afternoons from 3:30 - 8:00 PM (fall and spring). Maret indicated it may seek additional community-use hours on Saturday mornings and on Saturday afternoons and some hours in the winter and summer through the BZA modification process. Commissioner Sherman clarified that BZA order governs all operations and any hour changes require order modification.

C. Vandalism and Community Dialogue

Scoreboard vandalism occurred over opening weekend. Commissioner Sherman condemned the vandalism. Multiple commissioners and community members called for more respectful dialogue regardless of positions on field development. There was discussion concerning security at the field.

D. Mosquito Abatement

Joy McFarland Mills, DC Department of Health, reported that mosquito breeding concerns related to standing water in rain barrels and bio-retention structure have been addressed. DC Department of Health conducted site visits, applied larvicide, and construction management remediated drainage issues. Bio-retention area appears dried out; monitoring will continue. Official surveillance ends for the year at the end of October.

E. Nebraska Avenue and Utah Avenue Intersection - Flex Posts

Commissioner Sherman provided update on flex post traffic calming measures installed per Department of Transportation traffic safety plan. DDOT position: Safety measures must remain at intersection with reduced configuration; long-term plan includes permanent curb bump-outs, bio-retention beds, and other means. Maret has said that it is flexible as to what is there.

Community concerns were raised about intersection safety and necessity of flex posts. Becky Maydak noted intersection has had no accidents in 27 years and

observed drivers having difficulty navigating turns with the flex posts. Commissioner Grunewald suggested contacting St. John's High School regarding overflow parking arrangements for large Maret events.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Safety Issues at 5301 Connecticut Avenue

Commissioner Nagy requested deferral to next meeting due to Lieutenant Ollivierre's 9:00 PM departure.

MOTION: Defer to next ANC meeting. Approved by consensus.

B. ANC Website Updates

Commissioner Simmons raised concerns about outdated website content, particularly meeting minutes not available past 2022. Chair Gore and Commissioner Gosselin reported on their meeting with the website developer.

A contract for a simplified website has been underway since 2024, but the project has been delayed. The beta site is ready but not activated. The developer indicated the original contract scope has been exhausted and content migration was not fully included. Commissioner Sherman stated his understanding that the contract included complete content migration.

Concerns were raised regarding proper authorization procedures for contractor communication, financial implications of unauthorized work, and project timeline delays. Commissioner Nagy requested full commission input on the process going forward.

Commissioners Gosselin and Gore will meet with the developer to review project status and contract scope. Commissioner Simmons (Treasurer) will participate in financial discussions. They will report back to the commission with a plan to activate the beta site and update content incrementally.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Simmons presented:

1. FY 2026 Budget

District Allotment: About \$19,000

Proposed Expenditures:

- Personnel: \$6,000
- Direct Office Costs: \$7,200
- Communication: \$15,000
- Office Supplies/Equipment: \$7,000
- Grants: \$5,000
- Local Transportation: \$500

- Purchase of Services: \$2,000
- Bank Charges: \$100
- Other: \$2,000
- **Total Proposed Disbursements:** \$44,800

Balance Brought Forward: \$55,000

MOTION: Commissioner Simmons moved to approve FY 2026 proposed budget. Seconded. Approved 4-0-1 (In favor: Gore, Gosselin, Sherman, Simmons. Commissioner Nagy abstained.) (Commissioners Phinizy and Grunewald had left the meeting at approximately 11:20 PM.)

2. Reimbursement Requests

- a. Commissioner Phinizy business cards: \$23.31
- b. Commissioner Gore/Phinizy Pepco flyer printing: \$20.88

MOTION: Commissioner Simmons moved to approve both reimbursement requests. Seconded. Approved 5-0-0 (In favor: Gore, Gosselin, Sherman, Simmons, Nagy) (Commissioners Phinizy and Grunewald had left the meeting at approximately 11:20 PM.)

IV. ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 27, 2025, MEETING

The following items were identified for the October 27th meeting agenda:

- Office of People's Council briefing on utility rate increases (pending determination if special meeting needed after consultation by Commissioner Sherman with OPC)
- Safety issues at 5301 Connecticut Avenue (Commissioner Nagy)
- Purchasing procedures (Commissioner Nagy)
- Bottle bill consideration (Commissioner Sherman)

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:26 PM.

Approved on October 27, 2025

Attested by:  box SIGN 187YZ365-4QVK2JXX
Lisa R. Gore, Chair

 box SIGN 4ZRVL67X-4QVK2JXX
Elizabeth A. Nagy, Secretary

Nov 9, 2025

Date

Nov 4, 2025

Date