

**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F**  
*North Cleveland Park • Forest Hills • Tenleytown*

3F01 – Adam Tope, Chair  
3F02 – Karen L. Perry, Vice Chair  
3F03 – Mary Beth Ray  
3F04 – Sally Gresham  
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary  
3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Treasurer  
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek



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**Public Meeting – Feb 17, 2015**

Forest Hills of DC  
4901 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**MINUTES**

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at Forest Hills of DC, 4901 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public.

Copies of resolutions approved are available at [www.anc3f.us](http://www.anc3f.us), and the livestream recording of the meeting is available at <http://new.livestream.com/anc-3f>. Times listed in parentheses indicate the point in the recording at which that item is discussed.

Commissioners Present:     Ray  
                                      Gresham  
                                      Molod  
                                      Nugent

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Motion to appoint Commissioner Nugent Chair Pro Tem for the meeting in Commissioner Tope & Perry's absence.	4-0-0	
Motion to approve the agenda with the motion to send a letter of support to Church tabled, and the motion to approve VNVC members and quarterly financial report added.	4-0-0	
Motion to accept the Settlement Agreement by Thai Pad at 4481-B Connecticut Avenue NW to serve alcohol at the establishment.	4-0-0	
Motion to approve a Zoning Special Exception at 3629 Everett Street NW.	4-0-0	
Motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting.	4-0-0	

Motion to approve quarterly financial report.	4-0-0	
Motion that the ANC accept the 16 member volunteers on the Van Ness Vision Committee.	4-0-0	
Motion to adjourn.	4-0-0	

Financial Status: \$128,920  
Call to Order: 7:30 pm  
Adjournment: 9:30 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Councilmember David Gross to speak about education priorities (00:10:48)**

Discussion: Chair of the Committee on Education and on the Human Services Committee. He wants to be more collaborative in solutions and wants to include not only DCPS but public charter schools as well. Contact Info: 202-724-8105, dgrosso@dccouncil.us, davidgrosso.org

He wants to create a better environment for kids and give teachers the tools they need. He would require OSSE to do an annual report on suspensions and expulsions, not only the federally mandated ones (guns to school), to put every child in the best position to succeed in school. They need to address mental health issues, discipline, and students living in poverty. The priority should be early childhood learning, with an emphasis on literacy. The big reason for attrition is that kids are too far behind to catch up, so the graduation rates are very low.

They are working to make sure the renovation gets done at Hearst. Murch renovation is a challenge because it's overcrowded. Budget will have money for Murch renovation.

He's working with DC libraries and DCPS on disparities throughout the city. The chancellor committed \$20 per student to address this problem. The library system could be holder of books and lend to the schools that need them.

Council does not approve/disapprove of swing space for schools being renovated, DGS does. DGS responds to pressure from community. Cheh is chair of committee with oversight over DGS.

The Committee will be following the ability to pass common core tests, but problems such as not enough computers are more urgent.

Teachers need to have options and money for training and professional development and give more control to the principals to do so.

Wilson is facing a budget cut and increase in enrollment (\$900 per student decrease). The Committee looked at Wilson's budget, but there is a cut this year because of "at risk" funding.

Wilson is only 31% at risk, but there are schools around the city getting hit like this, even though they have higher achieving students/higher graduation rates. The budget needs to be used to invest in high schools, such as pools and art programs.

He introduced a bill to ban suspensions for younger students in order to stop the school to prison pipeline. He says there is a recommendation to expand the ban to 3rd grade.

## **2. Commissioner Announcements (0:20:57)**

Nugent:

- Worked with Mayor's office to make sure snow was shoveled in front of Muhlenberg Park (CT between Ellicott and Fessenden) and the small triangle on the other side (CT between 36th and Fessenden); special thanks to Mike Matthews for ensuring it.
- Told Wilson Track Boosters that we couldn't process a grant in time to support their Tiger Run at the end of March but that they could come back to us (with a little more lead time) for something in the future.
- Banana Leaf applied for a liquor license - no notice of hearing yet.
- Dealing with constituent issue concerning a tree on Burger King property damaging a neighboring garage, waiting to hear back from property owner.
- Also dealing with constituent complaints about after hours construction at 3600 Albemarle, reaching out to contractor.
- Tech Committee: Website survey went up on Wednesday, March 11; 72 responses so far; plan to leave it up another week, then analyze results.
- Received a nice thank you letter from Forest Hills of DC for support in purchasing the monitor.

Ray:

- BZA granted exception for 3318 Fessenden St NW
- Placed ad in Boy Scout magazine.
- Rock Creek is doing clean-up from April 11, 9-12 at Soapstone Valley.
- New meeting schedule for the Van Ness Vision Committee: 2nd Friday of every month, alternate mornings & afternoons
  - Speakers at recent meetings: Christina Amarusso heads up Main Street's for DC & Martin Smith Executive Director of Barracks Row
  - Currently drafting bylaws & articles of incorporation

Gresham:

- Park Van Ness Project Update - Construction activities for February/March 2015: Continued concrete operations along with exterior activities of framing, sheathing, and brick work; Ongoing framing of units and interior MEP rough-in work; Ongoing night time utility work by PEPCO in the roadway of Connecticut Ave regarding their vault work and further site demolition work associated with PEPCO street vault work in the southern public space area adjacent the curb line.
- PARK VAN NESS Project - Upcoming Community Meeting There will be a Park Van Ness (4455 Connecticut Avenue NW) Project Community Meeting on Tuesday, April 7th, 2015 6:30 to 8:30 PM hosted by Saul/Clark/DDOT and ANC3F at the Forest Hills of DC Senior Living facility (formally the Methodist Home) regarding the current and ongoing construction activities, the related traffic control plan and sidewalk accessibility through

the end of the project. Completion of the project is currently slated for March 2016. Please pick up a flyer at the front entry table.

- AU/WAMU Update - AU's annual Campus Beautification Day is on Tuesday, APRIL 14th from 8 AM to 2 PM. AU Students and community volunteers will again be back at the AU/WAMU 4401 Connecticut Ave, NW Building mini park. They will be adding plantings, mulching, picking up trash and debris and repainting the benches. AU welcomes any and ALL neighbors who would like to participate. Please pick up a flyer at the front table.
- Rotary Club of Alexandria has invited members, friends and our Forest Hills Community to a HIKE, PIZZA & LIGHT on Sunday, April 26th at 12 noon. Everyone is to meet at the Soapstone Valley Trail entrance at Albemarle & 32nd St, hike to Rock Creek and Pierce Mill and then back to the Albemarle entrance. After the hike, you are invited to enjoy refreshments, pizza, and a relaxing energy called "light" at the Mahikari Center, at 4479 Connecticut Ave. above the new Thai Pad Restaurant. (Please RSVP to Bruce McBarnette, brucemcbarnette@gmail.com or 703-404-8429.) Please pick up a flyer at the front entry table and RSVP to Bruce McBarnette's contact information listed.
- Forest Hills Park and Playground Update
  - Capital City Little League starts its season next Saturday, March 28th at the baseball field area. The President of the league, DPR, DGS and I are working on a list of improvements needed at the baseball field entry, bleachers, dugouts, storage sheds, trash collection, surrounding fencing and southern vegetation.
  - Friends of Forest Hills Playground Spring Clean-Up is Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. Along with trash bags, gloves and rakes, they plan to provide doughnuts, coffee and hot coco for everyone to enjoy. They will send out a flyer to local list serves and post on the playground's bulletin board closer to the clean-up date.
  - Brandywine Street Clean-up and Improvements - I am continuing to work with and pressing DPW and DDOT representatives to remove the fall leaves, fill the potholes, remove the hazardous roadway debris, install ADA compliant ramps and crosswalk markings and hopefully future storm water catch basins.

Molod:

- Approved Settlement of Politics & Prose has been placarded.
- Complaint about Excessive speed on Nebraska Avenue. DDOT has rejected a stop sign, suggested change of intersection, and the change of speed from 30 to 25mph.

### **3. Announcements / Open Forum (0:33:10)**

David Dickinson – Parent at Hearst Elementary School and Past PTA director wanted to give update on renovation and expansion: Building A & B done, C&D will be done next. The grant for the music program went well. There are needs that will not be covered in the DCPS budget. They currently have 300 students, but have a capacity for 325. He will be back to apply for a grant for the autism program. Gresham asked how has construction had been going with DGS and the architect? He said it was not an easy process getting everyone including the neighbors involved from the start.

David Bardin – discussed the citywide implications of UDC and how it's reflected in the DC budget. UDC has a Community College, Law School, and Flagship university and it's the only public school in DC. It's a land grant college and an HBCU. It adds to the diversity of this area,

yet it chronically has been underfunded. He suggests 3 ideas: Mayor and Council increase the base funding of UDC, that it has identified performance benchmarks appropriate to its mission, and before next budget DC & UDC have a stable budget plan for the future by instituting per pupil formula.

Bianca Black – Legislative Director for Mary Cheh while Nicole Rentz is on maternity leave.

Dorn McGrath – (dornmcg@gwu.edu) Wants to prevent a serious accident on Brandywine at alley that serves 13 families. Alley goes off Broach Branch Road (South of Brandywine) and a pool of water has formed there from natural drainage leaking from the pipes (Ray said there is also one north of Brandywine and has called Tara Morrison about the other one, not this one). He contacted DPW and was told they don't do pipes. Robert Horton said the project won't be done until December. They replaced covering over one of the catch basins but did not do the pipes to connect to the catch basins that would relieve the pooling and leakage. Pipes were badly put in, are crushed and are full, that is why water runs down the middle of the road. Commissioner Ray will call Tara Morrison, Park Service, DDOT, and WASA.

Mike Matthews – Ward 3 liaison for Mayor's office is doing a UDC Clean-up Saturday March 21 at 11am. Coffee and light snacks will be provided. Michael.matthews@dc.gov (202)341-7706.

Wayne Fortune – 4249 Wisconsin Ave PNC Bank Manager. This bank is a new concept design, all staff is cross-trained in all jobs. The bank further north is now closed (above FH metro).

#### **4. Motion (1:15:29)**

Commissioner Gresham made a motion to accept the Settlement Agreement by Thai Pad at 4481-B Connecticut Avenue NW to serve alcohol at the establishment.

Motion was approved as amended with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

#### Discussion:

The owner, Steven Imus discussed the new restaurant. They plan to open as soon as Washington Gas finishes fixing their gas line. The concept is to have an owner in all aspects of the establishment. They will serve beer and wine only and will finishing serving it an hour before the restaurant closes at 11pm. They put a summer garden in the application but it's not ready to open, maybe in the future. They have seating for 28 at low top tables and 5 at the bar. They are thinking of asking the nail salon to encroach on their front space to put tables in front, but they will have to consult public space. They plan on doing take-out and delivery, and a clause was added to the settlement agreement for the delivery vehicle not to block the street. Ray asked how did they choose Van Ness area for their restaurant. Imus said because of UDC, there were residents around for lunch and dinner business, and also lots of foot traffic. Ray also recommended that Great Streets Grants are available to merchants on Connecticut Ave in Van Ness. The maximum amount is \$85000 for capital improvements.

#### **5. Motion (1:28:01)**

Commissioner Nugent made a motion for a Zoning Special Exception at 3629 Everett Street NW. Motion was passed with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

Discussion: Elizabeth Fields, owner of house, has no space to bathe kids. She wants to expand her bathroom onto the front porch. Steven Muse from Muse architects brought photos and drawings of the expansion. All houses nearby have decks and the Fields' house is already in violation. It will not increase current lot coverage (50%) but they need the exception because the house already exceeds lot coverage allowed by law (40%). Letters from surrounding neighbors saying they approve were provided to the Commissioners.

## **6. Miscellaneous**

### Approval of Minutes from February 17, 2015 Meeting (1:34:15)

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions (4-0-0).

### Financial Update (1:34:48)

Commissioner Nugent gave a Financial Update, noting a balance in the account of \$128,920.

### Quarterly Report (1:35:16)

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY15 quarterly report. Motion was passed with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

### Motion to Accept VNVC 16 Members (1:37:48)

Commissioner Ray made a motion to accept the 16 members (David Bardin, Marlene Berlin, Patricia Davies, Sally Gresham, Pat Jakopchek, Dipa Mehta, Larry Rausch, Mary Beth Ray, Chuck Schilke, Marjorie Share, Bill Sittig, Jane Solomon, Judith Sullivan, Ken Terzian, Adam Tope, and Frances Wu) to the Van Ness Vision Committee for 2015-6. Motion was passed with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

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