

Public Meeting – April 21, 2015

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

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 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, 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: Tope
 Ray
 Gresham
 Jakopchek
 Nugent

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Gresham made a motion to send a letter of support to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation’s permit office for the Capital Memorial Church of Seventh Day Adventists located at 3150 Chesapeake Street NW to hold a community fun day on the afternoon of June 14, 2015.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion that the grant from Hearst PTA regarding books for the new library for \$5000 is public in nature, acknowledge members students and parents of the ANC.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to acknowledge that the school receiving the grant is a 501(c)(3) and they have the paperwork proving it.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion that the ANC does not view this as duplicative and the books requested were listed in the grant.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope then made a motion to approve the grant application.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Jakopchek made a resolution in support of the historic designation of the interior of Sedgwick Gardens Apartment House at 3726 Connecticut Ave NW, HPRB Case 15-03.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a resolution to support the Full Budget Authority in FY2016 for the Murch ES Renovation/Modernization Project.	5-0-0	

Commissioner Tope made a motion to support installation of an additional parking meter on the corner of 36th St NW and Yuma St NW.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to send a letter to WMATA not to close the escalator until Park Van Ness is open again.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a resolution to update the DC Auditor about Certain Approved Payments.	5-0-0	
Motion to adjourn	5-0-0	

Financial Status: \$129,704.56.
Call to Order: 7:30 pm
Adjournment: 10:20 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Announcements

Jakopchek:

- Received complaints about 2900 Upton, but the noise issue has been resolved. Please work with your neighbors to resolve these issues as best as is possible.
- Discussing storm water runoff from Soapstone Trail – doing something more substantive with property owners
- Worked with Mayor’s office to make sure snow was shoveled in front of the Trail.

Gresham:

- Park Van Ness Construction Project Update Construction activities for March/April 2015:
Continued concrete operations along with exterior activities of framing, sheathing, and brick work.
Continued masonry, underground utility and below grade interior work.
Ongoing framing of units and interior MEP rough-in work.
- Park Van Ness Project Sidewalk Update
At an April 7th community meeting held in this room, Saul Centers, Clark Construction and DDOT Public Space Regulation Administration representatives presented a plan to re-open a six foot wide sidewalk in front of the construction site at 4455 Connecticut Avenue. Jason Elliott, Clark Construction's Superintendent for the Park Van Ness project presented a power point presentation which outlined the remaining major construction phases. Visual plans showed the type of construction operations needed and the duration of each phase that is to be performed on the building's frontage and public space area until final completion of the building. Construction activities remaining include:
 - installation of large precast concrete elements on the face of the building;

- installation of masonry walls and windows;
- installation of underground utilities;
- demolition of the remaining existing sidewalk and new installation of the new sidewalk;
- construction of planter walls;
- installation of the Yuma Street traffic light and Connecticut Ave streetlights;
- resurfacing portions of Connecticut Ave;
- installation of curb and gutter and restriping of Connecticut Ave crosswalks at Yuma;
- installation of tree boxes, trees and landscaping.

Saul Centers and Clark worked closely with DDOT's Public Space Regulation & Traffic Operation Administrations, the ANC and the neighborhood to ensure public safety during construction and a timely and realistic schedule of opening the finished sidewalk and tree box area by the December 31st, 2015 date. The full sidewalk, which will be 30 feet from the curb to the building face, is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2016. After this evening's ANC meeting, a recap of the April 7th Community Meeting along with the presented power point presentation will be issued to our local yahoo groups and list serves via a formal Saul Centers Press Release.

- Forest Hills Park and Playground Update
 - a. Capital City Little League is in full swing at the baseball field area. Representatives from DPR, CCLL and I are continuing to work on a list of improvements needed at the baseball field entry, bleachers, dug outs, storage sheds, trash collection, surrounding fencing and southern vegetation areas.
 - b. Friends of Forest Hills Playground Spring Clean-Up is this coming 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 be enjoy. Please pick up a flyer on the front entry table and PLEASE come help!
 - c. Friends of Brandywine Street & Forest Hills Park, a newly formed community group comprised of residents of the Brandywine, Saratoga and Chesapeake and single house residents along Brandywine St from Connecticut Ave to 30th and surrounding the park streets will be assisting the Friends of Forest Hills Playground with their Spring Clean-Up this Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. This new community volunteer group will mainly focus on cleaning up Brandywine Street's sloped hillside, sidewalk and roadway. Please bring gloves, pruners and rakes and come help with the clean-up and also join this new community volunteer group! Organization details and contacts will be forthcoming so please come, sign up and join this new community volunteer group on Saturday at the Forest Hills Park clean-up.
 - d. Brandywine Street Clean-up and Improvements - After meeting with the Mark Wick, DPW's Street Cleaning department manager in early April, his DPW street cleaning crew manually removed the fall leaves and most of the hazardous roadway debris on Friday, April 10th. Thank you DPW! DDOT filled the huge potholes in late March. Thank you DDOT! However, the job is not done so I am continuing to press DDOT on the installation of ADA compliant ramps and crosswalk markings, re-surfacing of the entire roadway, installation of stormwater catch basins along with

the possibility of regular street sweeping on the streets surrounding the park by DPW.

- 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, bruce**m**c**b**arnette@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.

Tope: None

Ray:

- At yesterday's City Council Committee of the Whole, I testified as chairman of the Van Ness Vision Committee in support of adequate funding for UDC. I have circulated my testimony and to date have received only favorable comments. The gist of the testimony is that Van Ness and UDC are both under-performing. Our success at Van Ness is tied to UDC's success. And for UDC to thrive, it must be thoughtfully and adequately funded.
- At last month's ANC meeting, Dorn McGrath spoke about the water and road problems on Broad Branch, and in the alley just south of Brandywine St. Mayor Bowser's Ward 3 rep. Mike Matthews and I met with Mr. McGrath a few days later and visited the site. Mike has followed up with DC Water, DDOE and the DPW to address both problems. Hope to have follow-up next month.
- Van Ness Vision Committee is re-structuring to parallel the structure of a Main Street organization. We now have four subcommittees: Economic, Promotions and Events, Organization and Membership, and Design. If you are interested in making Van Ness more beautiful and economically vibrant, and you're willing to commit 15 hours/month, please consider joining a subcommittee.
- There is still no decision on the Broad Branch renovation. Paul Hoffman (DDOT) reports that he is working to brief the new mayor's administration on the situation. He expects the Environmental Assessment document to take another 3-6 months.
- Finally, thanks to the Rock Creek Conservancy and lots of volunteers for their clean-up of Soapstone Valley Park. Thanks also to neighbor and Girl Scout Kimberly Ross who helped publicize the event.

Nugent:

- Successful in getting potholes filled. Special thanks to D Smith at Powell & Wong and Mike Matthews for the help.

2. Announcements / Open Forum

Elias Hoffman - elias.hoffman@dc.gov - Ward 2 & 3 community liaison for DCPS - Talked about the \$40 million modernization for DC Public Schools and initiative of empowering males of color (500 mentors & mentees, check out emoc.org for more information).

David Bardin – spoke with the Council on UDC issues. President Lyons feels that the city doesn't appreciate UDC enough, Councilmember Mendelson stressed the need for a partnership.

Councilmember Grasso held a meeting about the relationship between UDC and the Council/Mayor. UDC has 3 candidates that are finalists for the President position. Mr. Grasso thinks that while the Board of UDC has progressed, they need to add ex officio members to make it run better.

Michael Antin (prosecutor at AG's office in Vice Crimes) - wanted to discuss the newly elected AG. The main focus of the new AG is juvenile justice reform, consumer protection, and community outreach. They are independent of the mayor's office, so they need their own pot of money. They are seeking to retain funds that are earned by the AG's office in civil lawsuits. Audience asked if that was a conflict of interest. His response was that they need to establish their own budget and doing so through this own course of action. The AG wants to add 50-75 attorneys to his office for those sections that he wants to focus on and he wants to make it a better, stronger office.

3. Motion

Commissioner Gresham made a motion to send a letter of support to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation's permit office regarding the plans of the Capital Memorial Church of Seventh Day Adventists located at 3150 Chesapeake Street NW to hold a community fun day on the afternoon of June 14, 2015.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Discussion: Tricia Lee Wilkins presented information on the Community Fun Day. They will use Forest Hills Ball Park. They do not need port-a-johns because the church has bathrooms for the public. The company bringing the Bounce House has insurance with \$1 million w/\$25 to include DPR. The rental company can do no-stake tents and they will try not to put the tent on the outfield. The Church canvassed 8-10 neighbors and they said the biggest thing they were concerned with was trash removal, keeping the driveways clear, not having loud music, and not destroying the field. They checked with Capital City Little League to make sure there was no need for the field that day. They are expecting 100-175 in attendance.

4. Discussion

Preservation of 3020 Albemarle Street NW: Barbara (Bbates9@juno.com) wants it saved, but the question is how. The preservation has implications for Soapstone Valley and Forest Hills. It was built in 1924 at the entrance to Soapstone for Horace Peasley, the Chief Surgeon of the Army and Forest Hills Citizen Association founder. Elizabeth Satch recently owned it and now her sons own it. It is up for sale as a "renovation or build your own dream house." The DC Preservation League says it is a "contributing structure to a historic district" and is considering landmarking the house or calling it a conservation district, and called Kim Williams, of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The question arose about whether the community has a say, and if this is adequate it may not be as hard as getting it declared a historic site or landmark. Also the question arose about whether Soapstone can be a conservation district. Ideas: Need a study team to evaluate the best plan? Ask Councilwoman Cheh to work toward enable?

5. Motion

Commissioner Tope made a motion to declare that the grant from Hearst PTA regarding books for the new library for \$5000 is public in nature, and to acknowledge members students and parents of the ANC.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Commissioner Tope made a motion to acknowledge that the school receiving the grant is a 501(c)(3) and they have the paperwork proving it.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Commissioner Tope made a motion that the ANC does not view this as duplicative and the books requested were listed in the grant.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Commissioner Tope then made a motion to approve the grant application.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Discussion: David (past PTA President) said that approval of the grant would be ideal now so they can order books in September or October. The purpose of the grant is for library development: 1. 1 hour special with the librarian weekly, 2. Special research program, and 3. School wide enrichment model (research and literature in every program of the school – history, science, math, etc.). The school will receive \$20 per student (300 students) from city, each special gets \$500, and the library does a few fundraisers on their own for \$3000-5000. David agreed to give receipts and will make a report within 60 days of spending the money detailing how the money was spent. The grant cannot duplicate the money from the city council budget. \$11,000 has already been included for the year, but the \$5000 will just be books because the \$20 per kid is not enough. If all \$5000 is not spent it must be return.

6. Motion

Commissioner Jakopchek made a resolution in support of the historic designation of the interior of Sedgwick Gardens Apartment House at 3726 Connecticut Ave NW, HPRB Case 15-03.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Discussion: Sally Burk and Caroline Mizroughbian are longtime preservationists. They said it qualifies as an individual landmark because it is work of a master and part of a pattern of development (Park Avenue, Michigan Avenue, Connecticut Avenue). The property is Byzantine/Art Deco, designed for middle income and the lobbies were used for socializing. Lobby and hallways are included in the designation. Furniture is not, but it will be saved. Landmark hearing is May 28th. They said the designation can be a fluid process, where everything other than the structure can be changed as needed if people wanted it changed, such as the furniture.

John Edwards and Carissa Perry (President of Daro) did minor work on exterior, and are now doing lobby renovations. Conservation of lobby needs to occur because of uneven settling of the lobby over the last 100 years, the fountain is in bad shape, and the steam pipes in the columns have had issues as well. The renovation/enhancement of the property is done with a light touch to stay within the historic preservation designation. Items will be used that make it

more functional, but do not impair the historical significance of the lobby. The furniture will be upgraded, the concierge desk will be moved so that staff can see the door for security. Stand-alone kiosks will be set up for mail to make USPS happy and cabinet space will be added to hide packages. New front doors will be installed to match the original drawings. Cleaning and restoring of the sky light will take place in the style of the building. They want to do landscaping in the back to turn it into a garden instead of just a piece of grass. A separate application from the landmark application will be filed for the landscaping that will be heard at the same meeting, but will be decided after the landmark designation has been decided. They said another entrance will be built for the ADA access or a temporary lift in the lobby.

Gwen Wright said that residents of Cleveland Park are in support of the preservation.

Karen Casting (resident of the building) has lots of questions. Will it be the original furniture or new? Socializing spaces were 90% of the lobby and with the new plan will be reduced to 40%. Front desk was not haphazardly placed but put there to be out of the way and the new look would make the lobby look like a hotel with a huge front desk making the attendant stand for 8 hours. How will they be able to retain original furniture with only 40% available? She thinks it will be a soulless design. Also the issue of moving the furniture is a "slippery slope".

Commissioner Gresham addressed the need for socializing in place, but thought the mailboxes should be out the room. Also said that moving the concierge desk makes sense.

Jeff Quigley (president of homeowner's association) said his primary concerns are affordability, accessibility (losing ADA access during renovation), maintenance (basic level of service), and he hopes to have continued input in the final process.

Commissioner Tope will put plans on the ANC3F website.

7. Resolution

Commissioner Nugent made a resolution to support the Full Budget Authority in FY2016 for the Murch ES Renovation/Modernization Project.

The resolution was approved as amended with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

8. Motion

Commissioner Tope made a motion to support installation of an additional parking meter on the corner of 36th St NW and Yuma St NW.

The motion was approved as amended with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Discussion: There is one spot that people park in for days and this will help stop it.

9. Motion

Commissioner Tope made a motion to send a letter to WMATA not to close the escalator until Park Van Ness is open again.

The motion was approved as amended with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

10. Miscellaneous

Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2015 Meeting

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

Financial Update

Commissioner Nugent gave a Financial Update, noting a balance in the ANC 3F account of \$128,254.

Resolution for the Payment to Forest Hills of DC for the DC Auditor

Commissioner Nugent made a resolution to update the DC Auditor about Certain Approved Payments. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

Technology Committee Update

An email was sent to all Commissioners and we will take comments to draft function requirements by the end of the week. Then it will be circulated to the Commissioners to make sure everything has been included. The Committee will meet with City Aperture to update the website. By the next meeting we plan to have a budget request.

Karen Perry

She has been MIA since December. Commissioner Gresham has only spoken with her once. The question is: what do about her absence? What can be done: They can try to have her recalled and have a new election; she can resign and the board of elections would declare her seat vacant; or just go on without her, leaving the ANC with only six commissioners. A new vice chair needs to be appointed in her absence. Commissioner Tope will try and reach out to her in many different ways, but it is not fair to commissioners or her constituents.
