

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



Box 244
4401-A Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
commissioners@anc3f.us
www.anc3f.us
202-670-7ANC
Twitter: @ANC3F

Public Meeting – 05/26/2015

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

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened an off-cycle public meeting on May 26, 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
 Molod
 Jakopchek

Call to Order: 7:36 pm
Adjournment: 8:22 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Announcements / Open Forum

Commissioner Tope opened the open forum with an acknowledgement of the passing of long time ANC commissioner Karen Perry, and her contributions to the community.

ANC 3F Resident Marlene Berlin spoke about two issues:

1) Her daughter was in a car crash due to the construction at Park Van Ness. She was driving north on Conn. Ave, dropped someone off at the Giant Food store. As she passed the driveway located just south of Park Van Ness, a car came out of the driveway and hit her car. The car exiting the driveway was obscured by a van parked on Conn. Ave. The driver said it was ongoing issue – that of cars parked on Conn. Ave. obscuring the driveway. Ms. Berlin contacted Matthew Marcou of DDOT and Richard Houghton of BF Saul. Matt Marcou said he would send an

inspector since the van was parked illegally. The situation is still an ongoing problem and safety hazard. The recommendation is that ANC3F should talk to BF Saul. There was no photo of the van so it is not clear if it was a BF Saul van. Ms. Berlin also tried to get in touch with property manager, no answer yet. Suggestion made to ask MPD to enforce parking restrictions?

2) Due to the meeting about the Conn. Ave. corridor pedestrian safety study on unsigned crosswalks, FHconn has a survey about how people use the Chesapeake intersection. Ms Berlin asked ANC3F to help get the word out for people to fill survey.

ANC3F resident Tom Whitley made a comment about the discussion related to the span of Conn. Ave. area between Albemarle and Tilden streets. He said that it should not have a name identified with Van Ness – that it should be Forest Hills. He said that Van Ness is not part of this area's history.

ANC3F resident Shirley Adelstein, at 3003 Van Ness St. NW announced that she is running for the ANC3F seat vacated by the late Karen Perry. Ms. Adelstein is a long time District resident and a Federal employee.

2. Motion

Commissioner Tope made a resolution to support the interior renovations of Sedgewick Gardens proposed by the owners that had been discussed at previous ANC3F meetings. The motion did not get a second.

3. WMATA closure of west entrance to Van Ness Metro Station

Commissioner Tope reminded the assembled that DDOT has proposed that ANC3F gather information from neighbors about their views of weekend closures if they accelerate the timeline of the escalator project. The feedback indicated that some don't care, some want it open, some said it would be ok if it takes a year off the project. The conclusion is to indicate to DDOT that there is no consensus.

Public discussion:

Miguel Gonzalez - general manager of Days Inn hotel. He said that he understands that there is a lot of work to be done. If the strategy is the closing one entrance at a time, the inconvenience is having to cross the street. But he argued that shutting down the station isolates the neighborhood. He said that most hotel guests don't drive, that the employees use metro (not only hotel employees but employees of Giant and other businesses). Mr. Gonzalez said that the savings on time - even if saving a few months, is not worth headache. That the District will lose tax revenue. He said that 90% of Days Inn's guests are from overseas all year long, in part because of the access to the Metro. He told us that some of his guests are with Kon Tiki tours who runs 54 tours of weekend length. These guests constitute busloads of people who will come and go at odd hours, and making them get back from another Metro station is reckless. He also raised the issue that Van Ness/UDC is not a destination but is more a commuter station.

Karen Morris. Weekend closure discussion is a distraction. That the more important questions is why can't Metro wait for this until sidewalk closure related to Park Van Ness is done. That WMATA has not answered this question in writing. Ms. Morris also said that Albemarle is a dangerous intersection.

Commissioner Jakopcheck: We can get something in writing from WMATA.

David Power: There was a response in writing from Ann Chisolm to the the DC Council on this issue. Her answer was that alternate stations need to have escalators replaced, not contiguous ones. Mr. Power said that Ms. Chisolm said it was based on a document of office of emergency management, but Mr. Power does not think such a document exists. He said that there is a safety security and certification plan, and that in that document it indicates that WMATA has to prepare a safety certification for any plans. Mr. Power said that WMATA had to prove the obligation to keep Cleveland Park open while they work on Van Ness. As to weekend closures, Mr. power said that there will be closures without warning when they decide station is overcrowded as was done at Bethesda. That there will be interruptions whether or not they work on weekends. Businesses will have to plan for this. Also that WMATA will provide shuttles if they shut down a station for a weekend so the neighborhood is not isolated.

Commissioner Tope: Suggestion to submit a FOIA request to force them to show proof of statement about alternate stations closing.

Commissioners Tope and Jakopchek said that they would ask for the safety and certification plan during the site visit on Friday.

Commissioner Tope said he would draft a resolution for DDOT to further explore weekend closures.

4. Miscellaneous

Approval of Minutes from 04/21/2015 Meeting

Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve the minutes of the 04/21/2015 meeting. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0-0.
