

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

3F01 – Adam Tope, Chair  
3F02 – Shirley Adelstein  
3F03 – Mary Beth Ray  
3F04 – Sally Gresham  
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary  
3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Treasurer  
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek



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**Public Meeting – September 15, 2015**

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

**MINUTES**

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at Forest Hills of DC, 4901 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public.

A 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:      Molod  
   Ray  
   Gresham  
   Jakopchek  
   Adelstein

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Jakopchek made a resolution to create a standing committee called the Soapstone/Melvin Hazen Trails and Parks Committee.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Ray made a resolution to support a Great Streets Grant for Acacia Bistro.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Ray made a resolution to designate Van Ness Main Streets, Inc. as the recipient of the Van Ness Main Street grant.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Jakopchek made a motion to write a letter to DC Water regarding the Soapstone Sewer.	5-0-0	

Commissioner Gresham made a motion to write a letter of support to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation Permit Department for the Friends of Forest Hills Playground Annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 25, 9am-1pm.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Jakopchek made a motion to approve the minutes of the July & August 2015 meetings.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to adjourn.	5-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:35 pm  
Adjournment: 10:37 pm

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Commissioner Announcements (00:10:00)**

Jakopchek: None

Molod:

- The Public Service Commission has rejected the Exelon/Pepco merger. There will be a Rally on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> to thank the Public Service Commission for stopping the merger.

Gresham:

- AU/WAMU Minipark Eagle Scout Project Clean-Up by Alex Ray and his Boy Scouts Troop on August 28th/29th.
- Thank you Alex Ray, Mary Beth Ray (his Mother and our 3F03 Commissioner), Boy Scouts members, leaders & parents, friends and neighbors for the wonderful 2 day clean-up of the minipark! It looks awesome! AU will remove the dead tree, do further landscaping clean-up and have kindly offered to purchase and install 2 new benches, a recycling receptacle, a Dogi-Pot station and a cigarette butts waste pole. Hopefully the new benches will be installed before the end of the year. Thank you AU!
- Park Van Ness Construction Project Update
  - Construction activities for September/October 2015:
  - Continue Connecticut facade installation, masonry, cast stone and windows.
  - Continue demolition and sitework in public space.
  - Continue site utilities in public space.
  - The sidewalk will continue to be closed until the end of December as per the current approved DDOT Traffic Control Plan.
- Hawk Signal at Connecticut Ave & Ellicott Street, NW: George Brayan, DDOT/PPSA's (Policy, Planning and Sustainability Administration) Pedestrian Program Coordinator handling the Connecticut Avenue, NW Corridor Crosswalk Safety Project continues to work on the installation of a Hawk Signal at Connecticut Ave and Ellicott Street, NW. Since many of Forest Hills of DC's employees and residents cross Conn. Ave. to use the south bound bus stop shelter Forest Hills of DC's management has strongly lobbied over the years for a traffic signal at this dangerous intersection. George Brayan

confirmed that the Hawk signal was in DDOT/TOA's Design phase with a 9-12 week design and construction time frame from the October 2016 Budget allocations. Hopefully the Hawk signal will be installed by next year at this time.

- Murch Elementary School Renovation: DCPS and DGS continue to move forward on the design development phase of the modernization with their design consultants team. The SIT was notified that a RFS (Request for Space) for swing space locations and the RFP (Request for Proposal) for a Design/Build Contractor were both released in late August/early September with application submittals due in October and the final selection of the swing space building selection/Owner and a Design/Build contractor sometime in November/December. Upcoming SIT meetings will be reviewing the conceptual landscape designs and updates on the architectural design team's progress.
- Young Man in Forest Hills Park and Murch Elementary School: The Friends of Forest Hills Playground members, Chesapeake & 32nd Street residents surrounding the park, Murch School parents, and the ANC (SMD04) have reached out to the MPD District 2's Commander Melvin Gresham and Lieutenant Gary Durand regarding the suspicious behavior of a young man loitering and playing loud music on the Forest Hills main pathway benches & adult fitness equipment and Murch school playground areas. Commander Gresham and Lieutenant Durant are here with us tonight to address this issue in more detail.

Ray:

- Ray's son completed his Eagle Scout project which was clearing the entrance to Soapstone Valley.
- UDC was in the Northwest Current with a story about their urban agriculture, including their green roof.
- Van Ness Main Street will be filed with the Main Streets program soon.

Adelstein:

- Will be having a community meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 7:30pm. The address is 3003 Van Ness Street.

## **2. Announcements / Open Forum (00:18:15)**

- Phillip Thomas: Expressed thank you for considering a grant to the Second District MPD Citizens Advisory Council. The awards banquet is at Maggiano's on September 30th. Also announced that the Ward 3 Community Walk with the Mayor is on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Chevy Chase Rec Center.
- Mike Matthews – Ward 3 Liaison from Mayor's Office: Distributed the 6 month report of the Mayor's office. He also discussed the mayor's homeless pledge and informed us that the mayor wants all citizens to sign the pledge, "We are all committed to ending homelessness."
- Andy Huff: Commented on the risk to public safety on Broadbranch Ave. Also expressed the opinion that sidewalk construction should not be subject to a public vote. Commissioner Ray added that Paul Hoffman is the contact person, that Broadbranch is being studied. Marlene Berlin added that it is not necessary to vote on sidewalks, but it's easier to get from DDOT if there is a vote.

- Barbara Bates: Announced that September 26 is “Take back your old medicines day” at UDC. Also inquired about the yellow police/crime tape at the Van Ness metrobus stop. Commissioner Ray responded that the tape was to stop jaywalking.
- Joel Fishman: Lives at 2800 Davenport St NW and he wanted to report that his home was burglarized on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Police Report (00:30:45)**

Present were Commander Gresham, new PSA liaison Lt. Gary Durand [gary.durand@dc.gov](mailto:gary.durand@dc.gov) 202-489-4181, and officer John Hansen.

They announced that special police attention will be given to the man in the Forest Hills Park playing loud music and engaging with local children. The issue came to the ANC’s attention when Commissioner Gresham was called by a neighbor and was asked to intercede due to loud music being played in Forest Hills Park by a man who wouldn't give his name. The man was engaging with children in the Park, and was also present near the Murch Elementary School playground.

Josh Ginomen from Friendship Place asked if the person seemed homeless, and told us that even if the person is housed there could be some assistance given by the staff of Friendship Place.

Virginia Marinted, chair of friends of Forest Hills Park, and a parent of Murch child agreed that anyone can be in a park, but commented that it was strange for grown man to hang out with children. She said that the man was last there during Labor Day weekend, and that he has been belligerent when speaking with people.

Commander Gresham added that the school has the authority to bar him from their grounds, but that MPD cannot bar him. If the school were to bar him then MPD can arrest him if he is on their grounds.

Leut. Durand added that if the man is creating disruption MPD can deal with it. His advice is to let MPD officers deal with him.

[Note: During the ANC meeting, Commissioner Gresham received a call saying that the man was present at Forest Hills Park. Officer Hansen issued a look-out for him, and left the meeting to locate and speak with him. Friendship Place staff also left to see if they could assist.]

Public comment:

Want to inform MPD of a homeless person in the parking lot of Giant Food garage who is becoming a permanent resident.

Leut. Durand announced that all crimes are down 34% in last month from the same time last year. He mentioned two robberies from autos that happened simultaneously near Nebraska Ave. He also spoke about the two armed robberies that happened recently. The investigation of specific people is ongoing, but he indicated that the assailants came from Military Road. Commander Gresham added some advice: he said that people should not be out late at night,

that the assailants drove around looking for victims. Leut. Durand also spoke about the robbery near the Van Ness (Giant Food parking lot), and said that it seems unconnected to the other two armed robberies. He also said that this one was on private property (Giant needs more security?).

Commissioner Gresham wanted to know about crossing guards on Connecticut Avenue to handle jaywalking issues. MPD will try to put someone out at some of the intersections.

Commissioner Adelstein asked for an update from Commander Gresham on the assault at 3300 Van Ness. She said that she was told that 3 UDC students living in a unit in building may be involved, but the victim did not identify them, and the case was still open. She also asked if the police had seen the video. Commander Gresham responded that the police had seen the video and the case was still open.

#### **4. Update from WMATA (01:06:48)**

Cedric Watson made a presentation to the ANC about progress on the Van Ness Metro Station repairs. He told us that WMATA will reopen the West entrance to the Van Ness/UDC metro stop in mid-October, and that it would be closed again in February. He said that the cycle of repair to remove old escalators and place new ones called approximately 6-7 months of closure for the West entrance to the station. They have determined that some remediation work is needed for the stairs, but that they are structurally sound.

#### **5. DDOT - Discussion Van Ness Pedestrian Hazards (01:17:21)**

Matthew Marcou was present, but was not aware that a representative from DDOT was invited to speak about pedestrian hazards. He also strongly advised against driving into the District on September 22, 23, 24<sup>th</sup> during the Pope's visit.

#### **6. Grant Applications (01:23:25)**

- **Iona request for a \$2,500 grant to assist with printing of Senior Resource Guide.**  
Discussion: Print the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the aging guide. They print 3000+ guides. The cost is \$25,000 to print all the books. Many in the Van Ness community use this guide and lots of people at the meeting expressed their praise of Iona.
- **Second District MPD Citizens Advisory Counsel grant for \$750 for award plaques for officers.** Discussion: The grant would partially offset the costs of making the plaques, which will be purchased from the Fraternal Order of Police.
- **Hillwood grant request for \$3,000 for erosion controls.**  
Discussion: Angie Dodson asking for funds to partially cover cost of erosion controls on the property (undermining Soapstone Trails). They will use the funds to buy \$1500 of plant materials (they will provide labor) and \$1500 to perform some terracing with logs. Mike Mathews, liaison from mayor's office, offered to assist with manpower. Commissioner Jakopcheck (chair of Melvin Hazen and Soapstone committee of the ANC) views this approach as sound.

#### **7. Resolution (01:40:07)**

Commissioner Jakopchek made a resolution to create a standing committee called the Soapstone/Melvin Hazen Trails and Parks Committee. The resolution (with a friendly

amendment proposed by Commissioner Ray) was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

**8. Resolution (01:51:48)**

Commissioner Ray made a resolution to support a Great Streets Grant for Acacia Bistro.

Discussion: \$50,000 available for Acacia for work inside and out.

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

**9. Resolution (01:57:59)**

Commissioner Ray made a resolution to designate Van Ness Main Streets, Inc. as the recipient of the Van Ness Main Street grant.

Discussion: Van Ness Vision Committee needs a management structure and in order to do so they need to register for a Main Street grant.

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

**10. Motion (02:02:59)**

Commissioner Jakopchek made a motion to write a letter to DC Water regarding the Soapstone Sewer.

Discussion: The ANC would like to write a letter to DC Water before they make a decision as to how to handle the Soapstone sewer. The Commissioners would like to review the letter and approve it before it is sent out.

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

**11. Motion (02:25:03)**

Commissioner Gresham made a motion to write a letter of support to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation Permit Department for the Friends of Forest Hills Playground Annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 25, 9am-1pm. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

**12. Miscellaneous (02:27:15)**

Technology Committee Update

The Committee has moved out of the design phase. The hope is that in 2-3 weeks they will have the website available to review.

Approval of Minutes from July & August 2015 Meeting

Commissioner Jakopchek made a motion to approve the minutes of the July and August 2015 meetings. Motion was approved, 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Meeting was adjourned at 10:37 PM