

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, Vice-Chair
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary
3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Treasurer
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek



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Public Meeting – October 20, 2015

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

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 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: Tope
 Nugent
 Molod
 Ray
 Gresham
 Jakopchek
 Adelstein

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to nominate Commissioner Gresham as commission Vice-Chair.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to authorize Commissioner Molod to speak on behalf of ANC3F at hearings related to the Exelon takeover of Pepco.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion for ANC3F to sign the Small Donor Coalition letter	6-0-1	

Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve the ANC3F grant to Hillwood Museum.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve, as amended, the Settlement Agreement with Banana Leaf restaurant in support of their liquor license agreement.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a resolution to advocate a letter to DDOT in support of the construction of the sidewalk on the 3300 Block of Fessenden St. NW.	7-0-0	
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Commissioner Tope made a motion to support a BZA application for an over height air conditioner enclosure (screening) at Hearst Elementary School.	6-0-1	
Commissioner Tope made a resolution supporting Mayor Bowser's pledge to stop recurring homelessness.	6-0-1	
Commissioner Tope made a motion supporting installation of Contra flow bike lanes on 39th St NW between Van Ness and Albemarle St NW.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the budget.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special September 2015 meeting.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Jakopchek made a motion setting the membership of the Soapstone Valley, Melvin C Hazen, Trails and Parks Committee.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to spend up to \$200 on equipment to amplify the sound in the meeting room.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to adjourn.	7-0-0	

Financial Update: \$123,083.00
Call to Order: 7:30 pm
Adjournment: 10:38 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Election of ANC3F Vice Chair (00:02:58)

Commissioner Tope made a motion to nominate Commissioner Gresham as commission Vice-Chair. Motion was approved with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (7-0-0).

2. Open Forum (00:03:24)

No items

3. Commissioner Announcements (00:03:51)

Jakopchek:

- There will be an event at the Indonesian Embassy on October 25, 2015 from 1:30 to 7:30pm with approximately 1200 guests. Parking and traffic along Tilden St., NW will be difficult.

Molod:

- The mayor's office has reached a "nonunanimous" settlement with Exelon and Pepco related to the proposed Exelon takeover of Pepco. The applicants have submitted a Public Services Commission filing that is attempting to limit the schedule of any future hearings.

Gresham:

- Park Van Ness Construction Project Update
Construction activities for October/November 2015:
 - Exterior work at Van Ness for the next month will include:
 - Continue facade work (brick, cast stone and window installation).
 - Continue site demolition.
 - Continue installation of new public space elements (subgrade, waterproofing, site concrete, structural soil)
 - Continue site utility installation in public space and on Conn Ave right of way.
 - Alert: Pepco crews are scheduled to be working this weekend.
 - Their work at times may be in the right of way and may be night work.
 - The tower crane was dismantled October 10.

*The sidewalk will continue to be closed until the end of December as per the current approved DDOT Traffic Control Plan.
- Forest Hills Park Update -
The Friends of Forest Hills Playground will be hosting their Annual Halloween Party at the Forest Hills Park and Playground on Sunday, October 25th from 10 AM to 12 PM. This annual Halloween Party has been hosted for more than a decade and is well known in the neighborhood as one of the biggest community events for families. As previous Halloween Parties, the two-hour event will include a bake sale, arts and crafts, a magic performance by Abracadabra Alex (he performed at the event a couple years ago), as well as a costume parade for the young children. It is a much anticipated and fun time for our 'hood' children. Break out that costume and see everyone there!
- 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 Team was notified that a RFS (Request for Space) for swing space was submitted by the owners of Intelsat. No other locations suggested & contacted by the ANC such as UDC, Fannie Mae, Capital Memorial Church or Howard University submitted RFSs. Final word from DGS on the swing space location will be before the end of the year. RFP (Request for Proposal) applications have been received for a Design/Build Contractor. There was no information on the number of contractor submittals or when the final contractor will be selected. At last week's meeting, the conceptual landscape design was presented by DGS and the landscape architect consultant.

- 'Music Man' in Forest Hills Park
Because of the ongoing issue of a young man loitering and playing loud music in the Forest Hills Park after dark, Chesapeake & 32nd Street residents surrounding the park, Forest Hills residents & parents, the Friends of Forest Hills Playground members and myself as the park's Commissioner reached out to DPR for larger posted 'Park Closed at Dark' signs. These signs were installed yesterday. MPD Officers will now be able to bar the 'Music Man' from the park after dark if he continues to violate the closed at dark park signage and is disturbing the peace by playing loud music. MPD District 2's Commander Gresham and Lieutenant Durand are not able to attend tonight's meeting to address this ongoing issue in more detail but will keep in contact through e-mail communications.
- MPD-2nd District Community Police Meeting
The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council for MPD's 2nd District Police will be Wednesday, October 28th starting at 7 PM in the Community Room of the 2nd District Headquarters on 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW behind the Cathedral Commons development that includes the new Giant
Police officials will provide a rundown on recent crime statistics and outline steps being taken to address recent citywide increases in crime. This is a good time for members of our community to voice any police related concerns (for example, the 'music man' issue). For more info, please contact: Brian Turmail, Chairman, Citizens Advisory Council for MPD's 2nd District, C:703-459-0238; bturmail@yahoo.com

Adelstein:

- Her SMD 3F2 Community Meeting will be October 27, 7:30pm at Van Ness East.

Tope:

- The complaint he filed against UDC for their zoning problems two years ago has finally been approved. They have 60 days to fix the issue or they will be fined.

Nugent:

- Reminder that grass on private property cannot be higher than 10 inches or the city can mow, bill the homeowner, and add a \$500 fine. Citizens can register concerns about property neglect – including structures, inside and out – by calling 311 or sending an email to dcra.housingcomplaints@dc.gov

- Seniors and citizens with disabilities who live in rent-controlled apartments are eligible for a reduction in the standard annual rent increase. See Barbara Cline's October 8 article in the Forest Hills Connection for details.
- DDOT has finally agreed to repair and resurface the alley between the 3500 blocks of Appleton and Brandywine. They will patch major potholes first, then do the larger work later in the fiscal year. Thanks to Gerry Borsuk for his work on this issue.

Ray:

- Van Ness Main Streets, Inc. filed its application for Main Streets designation on Oct. 2. We should hear back from DSLBD on Nov. 16th as to whether our application is successful. We are putting together a job description for an executive director and will begin to post those ads as soon as we hear about the grant. In the meantime, we are filing our 501c3 application and other required documentation. WAMU is hosting a membership workshop for the board and committee members on Nov. 7th.
- The 27th Street bridge construction is complete and the bridge is open.
- Broad Branch Road Rehabilitation between Linnean and Beach Drive- Paul Hoffman reports that they hope to select a preferred alternative this month. EA will be completed; then next public meeting will be summer 2016. Next comes design and construction, which is at least 2 years away. No completion date available. Background is at: <http://www.broadbranchrdea.com/>
- Resolutions honoring Tom Whitley and Karen Perry have been typed up on letterhead and framed, just need signatures before presenting to their families.

4. Police Report (00:18:27)

Present were officer Steven Francheck, Sargent Johnson and Lieutenant Merrill.

Crime in PSA 2 is down 54% from this time last year. Crimes from vehicle continue at the same pace, and many of these were as a result of valuable items left in sight.

Commissioner Gresham asked about the Music Man. Officer Francheck replied that it would require a park ranger to remove him permanently. He suggested that if MPD can get him to tone down music it would be "happy medium." He also reminded us that the issue with barring him is that if he is barred after dark, everyone would have to be barred.

Since school started Officer Francheck has been near Fessenden to help with the children coming and going.

Commissioner Adelstein requested an update about the robbery at Van Ness North as there was a similar incident that occurred recently. Officer Francheck responded that the investigation into the robbery that occurred last month was suspended by the detectives, and that he would look into why it was suspended.

From the public:

There is a problem with trucks parking around 6-7am on Van Ness St. NW(which is marked as no trucks on street) between Reno and Wisconsin (by Hearst). The problem is construction related now but also occurs with deliveries.

Courtney Carlson: Commented on the dangerous situation for children walking to and from school with no sidewalks and no traffic calming in certain areas. As a partial remedy, Officer Franchek suggested that a "no turns" sign should be posted on 36th (behind Politics & Prose) and on 32nd. He also suggested the need for a stop sign on 32nd at the three-way intersection. Officer Franchek is willing to assist Commissioners to encourage DDOT to do the traffic survey to get stop signs in those places.

5. Motion (00:37:51)

Commissioner Tope made a motion to authorize Commissioner Molod to speak on behalf of ANC3F at hearings related to the Exelon takeover of Pepco. Motion was passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (7-0-0).

6. Motion (00:38:35)

Commissioner Tope made a motion for ANC3F to sign the Small Donor Coalition letter.

Discussion:

Keshini Ladduwahetty from DC for Democracy and the Small Donor Coalition of Washington DC spoke about the crisis of confidence in our politicians in part due to the fact that the system of funding campaigns is broken. The coalition seeks to obtain matching funds for candidates who sign a pledge to eschew large campaign donations. The Coalition is asking ANC3F to sign a letter to DC Council members in support of the Coalition, with the understanding that the details have yet to be determined.

Commissioner Jakopchek asked if there was any idea where the money for the matching funds would come from. The representative answered that it was not clear yet, but that Councilmember Mendelsohn encouraged them to go ahead. Commissioner Jakopchek also asked for some statistics relevant to the District about large campaign donations and the need for a small donor financing option.

Commissioner Molod asked if small donor financing impacts elections. The representative answered that it had in New York City.

Motion was passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention (6-0-1).

7. Motion (00:56:21)

Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve the ANC3F grant to Hillwood Museum. Motion was passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (7-0-0).

8. Motion (00:56:53)

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve, as amended, the Settlement Agreement with Banana Leaf restaurant in support of their liquor license agreement.

Discussion: The settlement agreement includes music and entertainment, and live or recorded music as background in the restaurant will be allowed. They would also not be barred from having a video monitor in order to put traditional items on the screen. Commissioner Tope suggested a friendly amendment to clarify the prohibition against sidewalk advertisements for alcohol.

Motion was passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (7-0-0).

9. Presentation from Sidwell Friends School regarding plans to relocate the lower school to its Van Ness Campus (01:07:10)

Plans are being made for the Sidwell Friends School lower school to be moved to the Van Ness campus, primarily in the building now occupied by the Washington Home. They have filed a zoning application. Bryan Garman is the head of the school and Ellis Turner (202-537-8184 or turnere@sidwell.edu) is the ombudsman to the community. He presented a general plan overview, and said that they plan to reuse 80% of the current (Washington Home) building. This will lessen the impact on the neighborhood. With the addition of the lower school student body, 1250 students would be attending the school, as compared to the 1150 that attend now. There is room to accommodate them all.

Susie Rodriguez, a Partner at Enniad (architects), spoke about the plans in more detail and said that this move will put the whole school together one location, as currently the upper and middle school are located at this campus and the lower school is in Bethesda. They will try to preserve as much of the Washington Home building as they can. A new gym and campus center will be added. They would also preserve the landscape buffer around the property and they want to preserve curb cuts and traffic plans where possible. They are trying to figure out how to keep the tennis courts. The emphasis is on environmental stewardship where they would integrate buildings into the topography and utilize green roofs.

Jamie Milanovich with Wellsen Corporation, the contractor for parking management for the school. They will have parking to try to accommodate the drop-off/pick-up onsite without a spillover onto the streets. They have begun to meet with DDOT about the parking management plan, and about the documents to be filed with the BZA. The specifics of the parking management include a new circle off of Wisconsin Ave. There would also be a new pick-up location at the campus center for families with students at all of the 3 schools. The previous Washington Home will be the area for the lower school. The parking there can hold 62 cars on the property if done in double lines. The middle and upper schools will have the same pick-ups as before.

They will create a transportation management plan that includes running a shuttle to the metro, to replace the current shuttle that runs between campuses, and walking and biking for the students. The campus has overflow parking for people who actually want to run in and get their students and not wait in the drop-off/pick-up queue. There are currently 160 cars that bring kids to the lower school in the morning and about 120 in the afternoon because after school activities spread it out. However, some of the traffic will be spread out because the middle and lower schools do not let out at the same time. The total for the two upper schools is 680 cars inbound and 270 outbound.

Washington Home is helping patients to find a new residence in the process as they are committed to creating individual transition plans for each patient.

Public questions and comments:

Tom Cam lives on 38th and Van Ness. He is concerned that when Hearst was renovated traffic was not considered. He wants an integrated approach to traffic for the Sidwell renovation. He would like to get DDOT involved. He also advocated that representatives from Hearst and Sidwell Schools have to communicate. He was told that DDOT has reached out to representative of both schools, and that they have met to discuss plans and even changed start time to stagger the two schools.

Henrik Aello wants all traffic flow out of the school onto Wisconsin Ave. He was told that this is not feasible because of the terrain.

Vanessa Johnson said that she is trying to work with Sidwell to eliminate parking on the east side of 37th Street. It currently messes up the queuing of the middle school.

Abe New, lives on 38th St NW, encourages the ANC to be active in the traffic plan process and keep this project from happening.

Mark Ravin, lives at 37th and Upton, wants the Commission to consider this whole area and the issue around parking and extra traffic.

Commissioner Tope will continue to talk with the neighbors and Sidwell School as the plans move forward.

10. Motion (2:00:46)

Commissioner Ray made a motion with respect to the property at 3240 Fessenden St. NW to accept the proposal to modify the curb cut and pervious surface driveway and add the 5 trees and remove the existing driveway.

Discussion: Ben and Lorie Soto are the property owners, and David Lansdan represents the engineering firm doing the change to their property. They are relocating the drive way west of its current location and bringing it up to DDOT's standards. The existing driveway does not work with the current house layout. There is currently no sidewalk in front of the house but the new design will not prohibit the plan of a sidewalk in the future.

Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

11. Resolution (2:13:01)

Commissioner Molod made a resolution to advocate a letter to DDOT in support of the construction of the sidewalk on the 3300 Block of Fessenden St. NW.

Discussion: More sidewalks need to be put in place by DDOT and Commissioner Gresham wants to see more done as soon as possible. There is a hawk signal at Ellicott Ave NW coming soon.

Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

12. Motion (2:29:28)

Commissioner Tope made a motion to support a BZA application for an over height air conditioner enclosure (screening) at Hearst Elementary School. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 1 abstaining (6-0-1).

13. Resolution (2:33:10)

Commissioner Tope made a resolution supporting Mayor Bowser's pledge to stop recurring homelessness.

Discussion: Mike Mathews, the Mayor's office liaison to ANC3F, asked the Commission to support the Mayor's plan to shut down DC General and not have any homeless veterans by 2016. Commissioners are worried about Virginia and Maryland homeless people coming into DC because housing will be given to anyone that comes. Commissioner Molod asked what is the fundamental difference from Proposition 19? Mr. Matthews answered that this plan is meant to be more local - small, decentralized structures. As of now, they are not certain whether they would use structures that currently exist or if new ones will be built.

Resolution was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 1 abstaining (6-0-1).

14. Motion (2:48:51)

Commissioner Tope made a motion supporting installation of Contra flow bike lanes on 39th St NW between Van Ness and Albemarle St NW.

Discussion: Separate lanes for bikes and driving. It would not take away from the parking on the street. The contra lane would be on the West side of the street.

Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

15. Miscellaneous (02:54:10)

Financial Update and Budget Approval

\$123,083 in the ANC3F savings account.

Commissioner Nugent presented the Commission's draft FY16 budget, which assumes ordinary operations covered by the regular District Allotment and a withdrawal of up to \$25,000 from the savings to pay for additional spending for grants and other items. Commissioner Nugent

made a motion to approve the budget. Motion was passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (7-0-0).

Approval of Minutes from Special September 2015 Meeting

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special September 2015 meetings. Motion was approved, 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

Soapstone Valley, Melvin C Hazen, Trails and Parks Committee Motion and Update

Commissioner Jakopchek made a motion setting the membership of the Soapstone Valley, Melvin C Hazen, Trails and Parks Committee. Motion was approved, 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

The Committee came up with a purpose statement and they will have a mission statement soon. As of now they do not need a budget, but they could need one at some point.

Motion for New Sound Equipment

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to spend up to \$200 on equipment to amplify the sound in the meeting room. Motion was approved, 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

Commissioner Tope made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved, 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).
