

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



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 – December 15, 2015

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

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 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: Ray
 Gresham
 Jakopchek
 Adelstein
 Tope

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve the \$3000 grant for the pulley system at Pierce Mill.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Review Committee of Commissioners and members of the community to review Chick-Fil-A's plans.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Ray proposed a resolution to commend Ryan Hand, Tracy Gabriel and the DC Office of Planning for excellent action strategy that captures the shared vision for Van Ness, to state that ANC3F urges OP's widespread dissemination of the Action Strategy, and to state that ANC3F urges all DC government officials defer to the strategy.	5-0-0	

Commissioner Tope made a motion for payment in lieu of rent for \$750 for the use of Forest Hills of DC for meeting space.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Tope made a motion to adjourn.	5-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:35 pm
Adjournment: 10:25 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Announcements / Open Forum (00:01:50)

David Bardin – Stormwater rushing from Connecticut Avenue into Soapstone Valley and causing damage. The Commission should consider urging the city to add storm sewer drainage along that area.

Judy Jones – Commissioner from 4B07 urges the Commission to oppose the new Exelon/Pepco merger because we will lose local control and it will monopolize the distribution channel. Commissioners told her that they were already opposing it.

2. Commissioner Announcements (00:10:35)

Ray:

1. Van Ness Main Streets, Inc. name change- At request of DSLBD, we have changed our corporate name to Van Ness Group, Inc., and we will do business as Van Ness Main Street.
2. Van Ness Main Street ED interviews- We have narrowed the field from 22 candidates down to 7 candidates. We will begin interviews on Thursday, and hope to narrow the field to 3 and vote the first week of January. Hope ED will start no later than Feb. 1, 2016.
3. 3010 Albemarle Driveway- Matt Marcou of DDOT said that the parties have decided to try mediation to determine a mutually acceptable solution to the illegal driveway at 3010 Albemarle Street. The bollards have been removed, pending the mediation. DDOT is recommending pervious surface such as Flexipave. If the mediation is not successful, the appeal process will be resumed.
4. 3100 Albemarle- Learned today that a contract is pending on the Polish Ambassador’s residence at 3100 Albemarle Street. The purchaser is Julio Murillo, with MMG, who built the 3 houses at the corner of Albemarle and 36th St. They are considering subdividing the property into 4 or 5 lots, and they want to meet with the neighbors to get input. I expressed concern for the mature trees and the stormwater management issues due to the proximity to Soapstone Valley Park. Murillo said he will check with Holland and Knight for the application of the Tree and Slope overlay, and he will contact me in early January to set up a community meeting. They have hired Emily Eig to look into whether the existing house might be considered historic.
5. BIG NEWS- Sfoglina and Soapstone Market coming to Park Van Ness!!! Welcome!

Gresham:

1. Park Van Ness Retail Space Update - Exciting news was announced last week by BF Saul Real Estate. A new restaurant and a high-in market are moving into Park Van Ness. Welcome

Sfoglina, another restaurant by the husband & wife team of Fiola and Fiola Mare and Soapstone Market, a prepared foods & deli shop by the owners of Broad Branch Market!

2. Park Van Ness Construction Project Update - Representatives from Saul and Clark will discuss the construction activities for December & January 2016 when they present the sidewalk opening time line. The current Traffic Control Plan is in effect until December 19th. Again Saul, Clark and DDOT representatives will discuss the next TCP during their presentation.
3. WMATA Van Ness Metro Station Update - On Monday, Ann Chisholm and Cedric Watson reported to the ANC that the projected date of re-closing the west stairs will be in late February or early March. Ann and Cedric will attend our January 19th ANC meeting to present the quarterly status report on the Van Ness escalator project.
4. Murch Elementary School Modernization Update - This Thursday, December 17th at 6 there will be a Community Meeting in the Murch auditorium focusing on the evaluation of Swing Space scenarios. DCPS and DGS will present 4 possible sites under consideration. The sites are:
 - On-Site @ Murch,
 - Lafayette current swing space,
 - Split On-Site @ Murch and the Capital Memorial Church and the
 - UCD Soccer Field with a "trail park" like campus.All are welcome to attend.

Tope: None

Jakopchek: None

Adelstein:

1. 3F2 Community Meeting is January 28th at 7:30pm in Van Ness East.
2. Thanks to Commissioner Ray and everyone for getting the Van Ness Main Streets grant.
3. Congratulate UDC on opening the Clock Tower. They will open the Student Center on Jan 20 2016.
4. The Soapstone Melvin Hazen Committee is working on the storm mitigation in the area and ways to improve it. The Committee welcomes any new members in the community interested in becoming involved.

3. Police Report (00:19:10)

Lt. Durand: Crime is down 10% in this area. Theft from autos is still the primary crime. Package thefts around the holidays are happening a lot. Phone scams and identity theft are another prevalent crime.

If anyone encounters the Music Man at Forest Hills Park email Officer Durand at gary.durand@dc.gov for any problems.

Residents asked about speeding on Brandywine: DDOT has to do a study to put in speed cameras (FADS machine to tell people the speed).

Trucks on Reno Rd. continue to be a problem.

4. Presentation and Update from DDOT and Park Van Ness regarding sidewalk (00:28:44)

Don Hachey from Saul Centers & Clark Construction reported that the power was turned on in October. Due to unanticipated PEPCO vaults' repair work at the north end of the public space area and difficult site conditions, the sidewalk will be re-opening February 26, 2016. The December and January updates include the completion of all masonry work, landscaping and paving. When the sidewalk is reopened they will have flaggers on Connecticut Ave to signal when construction traffic is coming in and out of the property and to maintain the flow of automobile traffic. The whole project will be complete in April and opening as soon as it is done.

Gresham requested Saul/Clark provide streetscape (sidewalk) updates and progress to the merchants on the same side of Connecticut Avenue.

5. Update Presentation from Sidwell Friends (00:43:30)

Bryan Garman, head of school said that based on the meeting last week Sidwell will look into the bussing option to reduce traffic. Susan Rodriguez spoke about making sure to maintain outdoor play environments and taking advantage of the beauty. They want to continue to reinforce the trees and gardens. Sidwell is adapting reuse of the Washington Home and creating a student center and gym. None of the buildings will be higher than any of the current ones so there will be no change to the skyline. They really want to try to make sure the landscape stays as beautiful as it currently is. They will continue to avoid demolition as much as possible and to have fencing around the construction areas.

Jamie Milanovich discussed the parking plan. The current plan is for site access and circulation. The 37th St entrance will only be used for drop-off in the morning. All pickup in the afternoon will be on Wisconsin Ave. There is room for 58 cars to stack on the school grounds for the lower school. The anticipated trip generation is an additional 117 cars in the morning and 63 cars in the afternoon. There are 50 trips removed from the Washington Home traffic as there are no longer patients or employees there. A 30% Transportation Management Plan (TMP) reduction will result in fewer trips in the morning and just slightly more in the afternoon.

The Transportation Management Plan includes Operations Management, which entails expanding the pick-up window to 30 minutes for parents, Demand Management, which entails providing a shuttle to the metro, a bus to Bethesda and alternate commute incentives, carpooling matching assistance, outreach and education, and a Monitoring Plan, which entails a monitoring study and reporting to DDOT and the ANC quarterly in year 1 and annually thereafter to ensure the plan put in place is working.

Response:

Chuck Little lives a block away. He wants a bus only option and is worried about all of the cut-through traffic this new traffic plan will create.

Commissioner Ray suggests studying the Field School bussing plan to determine if that would work for them.

Matthew Levine is supportive of having the Lower School there but is worried about the traffic. He wants parking on just one side of the street or none at all and is also worried about pedestrians/cyclists being hit by cars and illegally parking around the school (needs enforcement by police).

Brenda [last name currently unknown] from the Van Ness Street Coalition said that Sidwell should reestablish a new baseline on a typical school day so the numbers are more accurate. She also suggested taking out the concrete barriers and get them to use on Upton St. Ben Burnett shares the concerns of all of his neighbors and says Van Ness St is the most congested during the school dropoff and pickup times. He is also worried about air quality issues from the cars idling and the already large amounts of traffic from the children going to Hearst. He wants to make sure there are safe places for families to walk to school as an option.

A Van Ness St. resident is upset about the fast alley traffic and hearing honking out front of his apartment currently and only worried about it getting worse with the addition of the lower school.

Dena Curtis lives on Van Ness St. She said this is an improvement from the previous plan. She appreciates that they are looking at a bussing option and a change to further increase the number of cars that can be stacked in the spirit of being good neighbors.

Robert Ricks from Van Ness St. said they created a traffic route that is misleading.

Christy Weiss from Upton St. said that 100% bussing will not work. She also said that monitoring is one thing, but penalties are even better! She also suggests satellite drops around the city and bus the students in from there.

Richard Dotson said the Sidwell School community is a good neighbor and the neighborhood is welcoming of the school. One major problem though is the quick turnaround of the BZA meeting on January 26th. He wants to sit down with Sidwell outside of the ANC so they can present the bullets to ANC without having to go through this type of a meeting in the future.

Betsy Goodfellow said that there are 1149 students, 156 teachers and 112 staff. Gina Palladorvo has a daughter who is a Sidwell student that walks to school and says that other schools employ MPD to help direct traffic for safety and Sidwell could do the same. Victoria Cordova said she has not heard anything about the Post Office and wonders if that will add more traffic. Patrick Drescher wants to come together as a community and says that Sidwell is a great neighbor. There should be some solution to incorporate both sides, but they do need a traffic cop on top of the crossing guard that is already there. Jeff Weiss said that the Potomac School loves their bussing plan so Sidwell could try that. Ed Newman really encourages the ANC to get DDOT involved. (They are currently finalizing a traffic study with DDOT through Brian Westrum.)

Henry Diallo lives on 38th Street and wants to slow people down and suggests different kinds of transportation used together to help reduce traffic.

Kevin Nawrocki says they should put as much traffic on Wisconsin Ave. as possible.

Alfred Cummings lives on 37th Street asked how much traffic the neighborhood wants to allow in? At this point the traffic volume is out of control.

Tom Ham lives on the corner of Van Ness and 37th Street and said his main concern is the dangerous conditions of 37th Street.

Ryan Hand from the Office of Planning said that Ted VanHouten is the DDOT contact for any issues.

Mark Bravin who lives on 37th and Upton Street says they should start working on the problems that are happening currently before the construction update because there are plenty.

Commissioner Ray wants to keep an open dialog between both sides.

Check out Sidwell.edu for campus planning on the project or contact the Associate Head of School Mr. Turner at turnere@sidwell.edu with any questions.

6. Vote to Approve a Grant Application from Friends of Pierce Mill (02:19:40)

Commissioner Tope made a motion to approve motion the \$3000 grant for the pulley system at Pierce Mill. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

7. Formation of an Ad Hoc Technical Review Committee (2:20:05)

Commissioner Tope made a motion to review Chick-Fil-A's plan through an Ad Hoc Technical Review Committee with specially appointed Commissioners and members of the community chosen for their technical expertise. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

8. Resolution on the Office of Planning Van Ness Commercial District Action Strategy (2:22:00)

Commissioner Ray made a resolution to commend Ryan Hand, Tracy Gabriel and the DC Office of Planning for excellent action strategy that captures the shared vision for Van Ness, to state that ANC3F urges OP's widespread dissemination of the Action Strategy, and to state that ANC3F recommends that all DC government officials defer to the strategy. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Discussion: Ryan Hand sees a new vision and brand for Van Ness. He also said that they don't have to have a new stormwater sewer installed but he highly suggests one be put in place and that the Commission pursue that idea. He will have a Public Meeting to discuss the strategy in the near future. He's hoping to have it in the new UDC Ballroom after it opens on January 25th.

9. Miscellaneous (02:33:18)

Donation to Forest Hills of DC

Commissioner Tope made a motion for payment in lieu of rent for \$750 for the use of Forest Hills of DC for meeting space. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Discussion: The ANC would like to donate money in lieu of rent to Forest Hills of DC. Forest Hills suggested that they would like to purchase some new tables for the meeting room. 6 feet tables cost about \$270 each and an 8 feet table costs about \$350, so the ANC would like to give Forest Hills of DC enough money for two or three tables.

Commissioner Molod testified on behalf of ANC3F at the most recent Pepco/Exelon Merger hearing, expressing our opposition to the merger agreement as written in the non-unanimous settlement agreement.

The next meeting of ANC3F will be January 25th and the January 19th regularly scheduled meeting is cancelled.

Commissioner Tope made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).
