

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
Van Ness • North Cleveland Park • Wakefield • Forest Hills

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



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Public Meeting – October 18, 2016

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

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 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.com, 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
 Dickinson
 Jakopchek
 Adelstein
 Gresham
 Nugent
 Molod

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended	7-0-0	
Consent agenda item: Letter of support for Friends of Forest Hills Playground Halloween party.	7-0-0	
Consent agenda item: Letter of Support for Friends of Forest Hills Park DPR Partnership Application.	7-0-0	
Consent agenda item: Resolution supporting the extension of the sidewalk on Yuma St. NW	7-0-0	

Consent agenda item: Resolution in support of the public space application at 2916 Chesapeake St. NW.	7-0-0	
Consent agenda item: Resolution in support of the rent control legislation.	7-0-0	
Consent agenda item: Approval of grant application from Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance to support plantings along Broad Branch Stream.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the regular agenda.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Nugent made a motion to adjourn.	7-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:34 pm
Adjournment: 9:53 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Consent and Regular Agendas

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended with the following items:

- Letter of Support for Friends of Forest Hills Playground Halloween Party
- Letter of Support for Friends of Forest Hills Park DPR Partnership Application
- Resolution Regarding Extension of Sidewalk on Yuma St.
- Resolution Regarding Public Space Application at 2916 Chesapeake (Israeli Amb)
- Resolution Regarding Rent Control Legislation
- Grant Application from Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance to support plantings along Broad Branch Stream

Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0). All items on the consent agenda are therefore approved by the Commission by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the amended regular agenda. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

2. Commissioner Announcements / Updates

Molod: The kickoff event for the Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance/Rock Creek Conservancy RiverSmart project to revitalize Broad Branch Stream took place on Oct 15. CM Mary Cheh was present and the event included a cleanup and a tour of the stream.

Adelstein: none

Jakopchek: Wants to thank volunteers for the cleanup in Melvin Hazen on October 28 with the Rock Creek Conservancy.

Nugent: The Sheridan School will hold an October 27 6-7 pm meeting with the neighbor's part of the BZA conditions to meet once a year.

Gresham:

1. 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 Saturday, October 29th from 11 AM to 1 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, an Armand's pizza truck selling pizza, arts and crafts, and a magic performance by Abracadabra Alex who performed at last year's party, 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!

2. Van Ness Main Street Updates - AND to continue the Halloween spirit...Van Ness Main Street is sponsoring a Van Ness Merchant Halloween Open House on the same Saturday, October 29th from 1 to 2 PM. So all you kids and parents in costume from the Forest Hills Park Halloween Party parade on up to Connecticut Ave and join the next spooky fun. All kids in costume will be able to trick-or-treat throughout the Van Ness Main Street area between Albemarle and Van Ness Streets. Gather at the UDC Farmers Market in front of the VN Offices at 1 PM and zombie on! Further information will be on VN's social media and the Forest Hills Connection. BOO!

3. Van Ness Main Streets continues making streetscape improvements along our Connecticut Ave strip. Check out the newly improved building facades at the Albemarle St and Connecticut Ave intersection. Outdated awnings have been removed from the Albemarle Corner's 2 buildings exposing simple deco styled facades. The buildings' facades have been spruced up by painting the original stucco and cleaning the streamline metal decorative panels. Future improvements will include new signage, exterior lighting and new surrounding concrete paving areas for the east corner businesses. Diplomat Cleaners, Italian Pizza Kitchen, The Nail Salon, Thai Pad Restaurant and the Cut N' Edge barber shop are thrilled with the progress and positive customer comments! Kudos to the Van Ness Main Street Board, Design Committee, Theresa Cameron and Travis Price Architects for making this happen!

Ray:

1. Van Ness Main Street is holding a Friend-Raiser on Sat. Nov. 5, from 7 to 9 pm at Park Van Ness. The event will feature appetizers by Sfoglina and Soapstone Market, and fine wines by Calvert Woodley. Sally Gresham is donating floral arrangements and Sheldon Ray is donating craft beer. The cost is \$50, and for an invitation please see or email Theresa Cameron or me. All are welcome!

2. 3010 Albemarle Street – two bits of good news: the owner finally mowed, and DDOT won its appeal ruling the driveway unlawful. Thanks to Ian Maggard of the Mayor's Office and to Matt Marcou of DDOT. DDOT will continue to work with the owner to bring the driveway saga to a conclusion.

3. This Saturday from 10 to noon, the Coalition for Smarter Growth will feature Van Ness for its neighborhood walk! This 2012 walk is what led to the creation of the Van Ness Vision

Committee, which became Van Ness Main Street. Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. With the new UDC Student Center, the Art-Deco inspired Park Van Ness, and the new WAMU offices, this once quiet stop on the Red Line is awakening. We'll learn how local residents have successfully pushed for improvements, including safer conditions for pedestrians, and we'll talk about how the area can continue to evolve.

4. The Cleveland Park Library swing space at UDC is set to open on Halloween!

5. The Forest Hills Connection is hosting a book talk by our neighbor Marge Elfin, in honor of her new book *A Nation on Trial: France and the Legacy of the Dreyfus Affair*. The event is a fundraiser for the FHC, \$20 suggested donation, and it will be Sunday Oct. 30 from 3 to 4:30 at the home of Jane and Daniel Solomon.

Dickinson:

1. Hearst Elementary Annual E-cycle will occur on Saturday November 5th from 9 am to 1 pm. The event includes electronics recycling, pet adoption, paper shredding, kid events such as moon bounce and rock wall. See hearstes.org

2. Hearst Park Update: The last park planning meeting occurred on September 8th. Three park plans were proposed at can be found at <http://dgs.dc.gov/node/1135096> A public survey is planned and will be posted on community list serves along with the ANC website.

3. Hearst Elementary Gym – still no MOU signed to allow community access (DPR) but expect to see that soon.

4. Sidwell Update: Plans are still underway for Sidwell to eventually close on the Washington Home property but there is on-going litigation between the residents and owners/operators of the Home.

5. Death With Dignity Bill: Vote is projected from the DC Council on November 1st.

3. Committee Reports

A. Parks & Trails: There was no meeting in October. The next meeting will be November 14 here at 7 pm.

B. Streets & Sidewalks: They met October 13 and discussed how to conduct a survey of issues, categories of things to look for, how to record data. They will circulate minutes to the committee members.

Grants: They agreed to recommend the Broad Stream grant application from the Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance for a grant to support plantings along Broad Branch Stream.

4. Community Open Forum

Ian Maggerd: Saturday at 9 am, Fit DC Park Run. They will start at Fletcher's boathouse and the Mayor will run in the 5K.

Theresa Cameron has Van Ness Main Street Announcements:

1. Art All Night was successful.

2. There is a new guide with all the businesses in the Van Ness Main Street corridor.

3. They are launching a website next week. vannessmainstreets.org

4. Jazz at VN will take place on Tuesday October 25 at Soapstone Market, 5-7 pm with the Levine School of Music performing.

Michelle Purceau from UDC:

1. The UDC task force meeting is tomorrow.
2. They are talking with Murch about the use of their athletic facilities. The outdoor area has been worked out, the gym is yet to be worked out.
3. Cleveland Park Library swing space will open tomorrow.
4. There has been a soft launch of the wellness center.
5. Upcoming: They are working on housing more activities at UDC.
6. Thursday is the "big read" on campus and the career fair.
7. November 9 is Veteran's Day events.

Mike Porcello is Councilmember Cheh's new representative to the ANCs. He can be reached at mporcello@dccouncil.us.

5. Presentation on Kuwait Embassy BZA Application and other issues

Ray: The corner of Fessenden St. NW and Linnean Ave. NW has been purchased for the Kuwaiti ambassador's residence. They want to build a security station behind the shrubs in front of the house. They filed for a special exception with BZA.

Chris Collins (Collins and Knight), Michael Jones (Jones Associates Architects), and Jackie Botham (Securitas - security expert) are here to present.

Collins: The representatives of the Kuwaiti ambassador want to build an accessory building and need a zoning exception. They have not yet filed, and will return to address the ANC when they do. They will file it within the next 5 business days.

Jones: Described the property characteristics. They want to preserve the beautiful landscape, so they will conceal the guardhouse. There is no intercom, no lights, and it is a quiet building. They will use pervious pavers. They will build it so as to keep the tree next to the new building and have even gotten recommendations from a tree expert. The other trees on the site will be left alone. They showed schematics and drawings to demonstrate that the new structure will be discrete and hardly visible from the street.

Commissioner questions:

Ray: Who talked to the DC Forestry Administration? A: They talked to someone who has a private firm and is a tree expert. They will send the info along.

Gresham: Concerned about the safety of the tree. Is it possible to miss the specimen tree by elongating and crossing the restriction line? (They would have to apply for zoning exception). A: They will consider it.

Gresham: Also can you explain the guardhouse and concrete sidewalk a bit more? The original plan had a mistake. A: The new plan has it corrected. The sidewalk is with pervious pavement.

Gresham: The plan calls for two doors, perhaps they don't need the two doors.

Gresham: What is the extra room for? A: The ambassador's driver will use the other room

Gresham: The fence is not being changed, correct? A: No, it is not being changed.

Nugent: Will the guard be sitting there always? A: No, they will circulate, and will go out there when visitors are expected.

Dickinson: What is the expected use of the ambassador's residence? Entertaining? What is the current zoning? A: R8 (was an R1A) zone. It will be the ambassador's residence, not an event venue.

Adelstein: The residence will probably will be used for large events, typical for ambassador's residence. There are a lot of on-site parking spaces in case of an event (about 8).

Gresham: Why not consider a building more in sync with the residence's architecture? A: They wanted to keep it discrete. It would defeat the purpose of the guard house.

Jakopchek: Is there an update on anything planned in the adjacent lot? Collins: No current plans, but they will provide advance notice of any such plans. They would be willing to meet with community members. A stormwater mitigation plan exists and they will contact Jakopchek with details.

6. Presentation on Washington Gas Project in Forest Hills

Steven Jumper, the Director of Corporate Public Policy from Washington Gas (WG) reached out to Councilmember Cheh's office to talk to the community about complaints related to construction.

There are two big construction projects ongoing; the initiative to replace the mechanical couplings and also the initiative to replace old pipe (accelerated pipe replacement).

A few weeks ago, the ANC were getting emails from the people near the Fessenden/Linnean corner about a gas odor. WG was doing work related to the mechanical coupling work and are getting ready to do the pipe replacement work.

Q: Why is WG there, what are they doing, when will the work be done, and is the neighborhood safe?

WG is here to talk about the two projects and how they treat gas odors when they hear a complaint.

Greg Brown, the Field Operations Manager for Montgomery County and NW DC:

There was a water leak at Linnean/Fessenden where there is an old pipe connection. The leak can be the cause of an odor report. They found a grade 2 leak (non-hazardous), low level. WG did excavate and apply a clamp to fix the leak. They decided to replace the pipe based on the community's concerns. They converted it to a grade 3 leak. There is no migration from the place of the leak to the ground, or any homes.

David Thomas is managing the construction activities of the 2 projects. WG is installing 2700 ft. of new main, and pipes from main to homes along road. They may be required to dig up yards when needed. This project was mobilized on September 27 and all customers were notified. This part of the project will be done by the end of November (weather permitting). The other project involves 43 individual houses affected by construction of new laterals. These customers have been notified as well. This is part of the modernization efforts.

Questions from Commissioners:

Dickinson: How are priorities set? Why are targeted houses scattered around?

Ray: With the torn up yards, how torn up? How will they notify? A: Each customer will be notified, the date of construction agreed upon, and then the yard is restored.

Molod: How can we improve the notification process A: Neighborhood listservs and they will notify the ANC in the future.

Resident David Steinglass lives on the street with the main replacement. He says they did not receive a notice. He also wanted to give some history on the project: in response to the complaint, the street was dug up twice. A: (from Brown) It was dug up again to reassess the leak after another odor complaint and that is when they found the grade 3 leak. A local worker told residents that he was taking gas out of the pipe so it would not explode. A: (from Brown) They were aspirating the pipe to reduce the gas ratio in the pipe, not to prevent an explosion.

7. Presentation on DC Statehood

Nathan Hartman from the DC Statehood Speaker's Bureau of the Mayor's Office. He is speaking to other ANCs also about the referendum.

DC has the longest standing voter disenfranchisement. The issue is how to get this to change. The Constitution is being put up for referendum in the November election. They are asking the Council to bring the issue to the federal government. It tells the Council that we of DC are willing to stand up and say we want this.

Dickinson asked for the wording of the referendum. A: It is in the voter guide for you to read.

8. Presentation on Lead in DC Water

Tabled.

9. Other Business

Commissioner Nugent commented that the Murch school polling place has been moved to St Paul's Lutheran Church for the Tuesday, November 8th election.

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