

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

3F01 – David Dickinson, Vice Chair  
3F02 – Shirley Adelstein, Treasurer  
3F03 – Naomi Rutenberg  
3F04 –  
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary  
3F06 – William Sittig  
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek, Chair



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**Public Meeting – December 18, 2018**

University of the District of Columbia  
4200 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Building 44, room A03

**MINUTES**

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at the University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008, Building 44 Room A03. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public. Copies of resolutions approved are available at [www.anc3f.com](http://www.anc3f.com).

Commissioners Present: Dickinson  
Molod  
Adelstein  
Sittig  
Rutenberg  
Jakopchek (non-voting, as recently resigned)

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the modified regular agenda.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the resolution regarding 4250 Connecticut Ave NW	5-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the November minutes	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn	5-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:31 pm  
Adjournment: 9:46 pm

## AGENDA ITEMS

### **1. Approval of Consent and Regular Agendas**

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the modified regular agenda. The consent agenda includes a Settlement Agreement with Rocket Wines, LLC. The modifications to the regular agenda were the removal of the consideration of a resolution regarding WMATA discounts for students. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

### **2. Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Dickinson: Expression of thanks to outgoing Commissioners Patrick Jakopchek, William Sittig and Shirley Adelstein for their service. Welcome to incoming Commissioners Carolinn Kuebler and Monika Nemeth

Commissioner Sittig: None

Commissioner Rutenberg: None

Commissioner Adelstein: Expression of thanks to fellow Commissioners

Commissioner Molod: None

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek: Expression of thanks to fellow Commissioners, and mention of procedure for filling his (now) vacant seat: A call for candidates will be issued Jan 1, 2019, and if there is more than one candidate a special election will be held in March.

### **3. Committee Reports**

Parks and Trails: No activity

Streets and Sidewalks: A meeting took place regarding the Connecticut Ave traffic study. It originated based on complaints about safety (plus 3C and 3G). DDOT is putting together an RFQ for the criterion/qualifications for who will conduct the study, and are still taking community comments on the RFQ. Another question arose about speed cameras.

Grants: No activity, reminder that next grant cycle is March/April 2019. Grant applications to be submitted at or before the March ANC3F meeting to be voted on at the April meeting.

### **4. Community Open Forum**

Elaine Greenstone – A message of thanks to outgoing Commissioner Sittig for his service.

Juanita Grey, UDC –

- a) Expression of thanks to outgoing Commissioners Sittig, Adelstein, Jakopchek, including an additional thanks to Commissioner Adelstein.
- b) UDC campus closes on December 24, opens on January 2, classes begin on January 9.
- c) Update about the status of missing/broken streetlights on Yuma St. NW – there is a new light on the gym, and in January the broken lights will be fixed and new ones added.
- d) There was a UDC task force meeting last Thursday (details to be presented later).
- e) The 3-year Master Lease for 4250 Connecticut Ave NW was approved by the DC Council today, will be signed on February 1, and there is no set date for the move-in.

Theresa Cameron, VNMS -

- a) Expression of thanks to outgoing Commissioners Sittig, Adelstein, Jakopchek
- b) Thanks to ANC3F for the resolution supporting Thai Pad Great Streets grant – they were not awarded the grant
- c) There is a new business where Embassy Dry Cleaners was, it is called Peoples Drug Store.
- d) VNMS funded lights for some businesses near Connecticut Ave/Albemarle St.
- e) The Whittle school is funding a Van Ness sculpture, so VNMS can get the ANC matching funds
- f) There are new VNMS board members: Michael Sands, Barbara Lardy, Sandi Steward. The new president is Sarah Cumbie. Mary Beth Ray and Marlene Berlin are leaving the board, thanks to them for their service.
- g) Soapstone Market is closing, a new market will be there.

Stephen Marencic, Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) -

Here to tell the ANC and the community about OPC - our utility lawyer. Their name is on all of our utility bills (for now including gas and electric). The phone number is 202-727-3071. Mr. Marencic brought brochures; A guide to going solar, A guide to third party energy suppliers. As part of the last brochure, the message is that if a ratepayer is looking for a discount from third party (as opposed to looking for a greener option), it is probably not a good idea. Mr Marencic also told us that DC Water will soon be in the purview of OPC. He said that it is a strange situation since DC Water not regulated by the Public Services Commission (PSC). OPC also monitors many DC listservs, and have heard a lot about a utility scam in which people are spoofing Pepco or Washington Gas asking for payments. Please call OPC if scammed.

Commissioner Molod: Will OPC get a board seat on the DC Water board? A: Not sure, ask OPC about this later.

Commissioner Rutenberg: Scammers are getting 202 local numbers to get their calls answered. Can OPC take action? A: That is an FCC issue.

Commissioner Dickinson: What is the status of the DC Council Bill requiring 100% renewables? A: It passed the Council today. Reach out to OPC for official comment.

Greyson Mann, Whittle School -

- a) Thank you to the community for the welcome, its been great so far to be in community
- b) Welcome neighbors to tour the school
- c) Construction is on schedule
- d) They are continuing to meet with the Tilden Gardens community
- e) There are weekly events, speaker series, a January event showing the curriculum. See [whittleschool.org](http://whittleschool.org) for a list

From Public (Carolinn Kuebler): Would you consider putting another display near Van Ness about the school like the one in Mazza Gallery? A: There is no real space for that now

## **5. Status/Plans for 4250 Connecticut Ave NW**

Juanita Grey (UDC), Theresa Cameron (VNMS) are here to provide an introduction and update the ANC on what happened today.

Grey - The 3-year master lease was approved by the DC Council today, will sign the contract on February 1. This is a sublease from Bernstein Management. UDC's Building 41 is in bad shape, they are all moved out, and are looking at putting those classes in 4250 Connecticut Ave. As to retail space: The retail study was done. The use of the space for retail will not be soon. UDC is also looking at the space of the previous Walgreens, and will hire someone to see how to activate retail in both spaces.

Cameron – There is a Letter of Intent (LOI) signed with UDC about the retail spaces, including the ones at 4225 and 4240 Connecticut Ave (where Fannie Mae was), and VNMS is working with UDC to get retail there too. But the Walgreens/Law School sites are more important. The idea of the LOI is to go with the results of the Office of Planning retail study.

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek: When will there be word on the permission to purchase? A (Grey): With the 2019 budget proposal of the Mayor's office. Q: Will the UDC master plan be revised next year? A (Grey) It expires in 2020, and will be updated in conjunction with the President's Equity Imperative. There will be committees, open forums, etc., the process will start next year. Q: ANC3F would like to see the new plan include commitments about retail along with measurable milestones.

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek ran through the clauses of the proposed resolution. He reminded us that Troy Stoval came to talk to us at our last meeting. We didn't get as much in terms of specifics as we would have liked because negotiation was ongoing, and now the lease approval is all done. In the end the process was conducted so that we (the ANC and the community) had no voice here. The stated goal of UDC as example of an urban university is lofty, but we are not there yet, and we recognize that UDC says that the status of 4250 Connecticut Ave is related to that goal. The resolution expresses support for that lofty goal, but we also want UDC to take advantage of the important and valuable retail space.

Grey - President Mason's appointment was approved for another 5 years, this will provide stable leadership, and a lot will happen in the near future.

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek read through the list of changes to the resolution and read the operative clauses into the record. He made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

## **6. Upton St. NW Traffic Calming Study and Results**

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek gave a short history of the issue. Last summer the ANC was approached (by the Holder family) about implementing some calming measures on Upton St NW in the 2900 block. We passed a resolution saying that we needed a study from DDOT. A petition to conduct the study was circulated in neighborhood. DDOT did the study, and shared the results at a community meeting last month.

At the meeting, it was brought up that traffic data was collected in April when Beach Dr. was still closed. There is a current idea that the re-opening changed the traffic pattern (ie., fewer cut-throughs). The community requested additional data from DDOT. The study results indicated that there is no issue with eastbound (down into park) traffic, but there is an issue with westbound traffic. Based on the results DDOT recommended the installation of two speed humps. Emily Dalphy, the DDOT traffic engineer, said there was a big problem so the humps are needed. In the end DDOT recommended that we (the ANC) delay a resolution about this since they want to update their data and construction won't happen until April anyway. They will get more data in January (when there is no snow), will share the new results with the ANC in February. We also asked that DDOT share their guidelines with us. (Former) Commissioner Jakopchek recommended that they consider removeable signage and collect data when these are in place. ie., to see if these are working. Currently there is no speed limit sign, no stop sign at 29th St. and Upton St, no School Zone signs, etc... and these issues should be addressed. (Former) Commissioner Jakopchek suggests that we delay a resolution until February, also that we revisit our October 2017 resolution and ask DDOT for the answers to the items on the list.

Commissioner Adelstein: The new data collection is slated for January? A (Jakopchek): Yes, but we have not heard back from DDOT yet. Q: You states that we would like to re-iterate the soundness of an incremental approach. Have you thought about which intermediate approaches? A: To begin with, a stop sign at Upton St. and 29th St. since the issue is westbound. DDOT doubts the effectiveness of this. The intermediate measures should also include clearly marking speed the limit. In addition, the installation of a speed camera with the posted speed. DDOT said there aren't utility poles so a camera would be hard to place. It is also possible to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph since the street is in a school zone.

Commissioner Sittig: The interim measures should be included. Is there any chance for community input on the scope and details of the study? A (Jakopchek): The study is more data gathering, but DDOT should involve the public in the process more. They looked at the 85th percentile of speed. Westbound was 32 mph, eastbound 25 mph. That's a big gap given the statistics of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Commissioner Dickinson: The community should get another "bite at apple" before DDOT starts a new study.

Commissioner Molod: There should be community input on the timing of the study, ie., what measures happen beforehand and are in place at the time of the new study.

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek: ANC and the community should propose to DDOT that data be collected after intermediate measures are taken.

Commissioner Dickinson: ANC3F has received many coherent emails from the community, and we would like to give residents the chance to be heard:

Jane Braden, 2941 Upton St NW. – The DDOT study say the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is moving at 32 mph, but there are no speed limit signs westbound. As to a stop sign at 29th and Upton St, it would

slow down cars making left turn. There is an issue with the 2800 block of Upton St near the Levine School as well.

Rodney Holder, 2938 Upton St. NW - Thanks to ANC3F for letting his children make the presentation last year. What/how we decide to proceed aside, recommend that we do something soon because it is unsafe now

Ruth McDermott, 2630 Upton St. NW - Read the DDOT survey, but says that it is invalid since the data were taken during the Beach Dr. closure. Also stated as an issue that there are no speed limit signs at all except eastbound at 28th St. also no School Zone sign.

Elliott Totah, 2940 Upton St. NW - Congratulations to the Holder children for their initiative and activism. Objects to the quick jump to the option of installing speed humps. It is standard practice to do this as a last measure. It brings issues of noise, difficulty in snow removal, etc... But sees the need for some calming measures. Intermediate measures like signs, etc... or even grooving the pavement. This last option is noisy but there is no issue for snow removal. Rumble strips are also an option. Even if a speed hump is installed, recommend a rubber one so it could be removed.

Commissioner Dickinson: Are the speed limit signs and the stop sign at 29th and Upton St "no brainer"s? A: Resounding yes from the residents. A stop sign on both sides of the street.

Julie Weisman, 2932 Upton St. NW – Discussing the process: the residents had no part in the process. Suddenly there was going to be vote in December. They should allow everyone in the 2900 block of Upton St. NW to meet with DDOT. This meeting should happen in January.

Sharon Worthington, 2912 Upton St. NW - Agree about the process. There are also issues with the study. Asks that we slow down the process. One of the humps is slated to be in front of her house. She will ask the Burke School for space for a community meeting.

Jodie Smolick, 2945 Upton St. NW - Did attend the December 4th meeting, it was startling to see the speed humps recommended. The DDOT engineer (Emily Dalphy) said anyone could call her. So Ms. Smolick met with her, had a long conversation. Ms. Dalphy has agreed to do a new traffic study, and agreed to do a study for a 3-way stop at 29<sup>th</sup> St and Upton St. She also agreed to another community meeting. At the December 4th meeting Ms. Dalphy said that DDOT didn't want to divide neighborhood. She also said that it was clear that if speed humps were installed the snow removal on that street would be the lowest priority. As part of the reason she agreed to do more traffic study, Ms. Dalphy also thinks that lots of the traffic was cut-through. Ms. Smolik also spoke with DDOT's school safety person (Derek Hardy) and said that the school zone signs are not there. Mr. Hardy said he would add signage for a 15 mph speed limit when students there for Burke and Levine schools. They also talked about flashing school signs. There is currently no funding for the flashing signs, but it should be done. The ANC can ask CM Cheh (has oversight of DDOT) to get Upton St. in the pilot program for the flashing school zone signs. They are also considering a stop sign at 29th St. and a crosswalk. Emily Dalphy also recommended a feedback machine, and said we could have it for one year.

Neil Gross, Lenore Lane - Feels that residents on his street were left out. He was initially not aware that this meeting was going to take place. Doesn't trust the study. Noone will go fast towards Connecticut Ave. Agrees with the recommendation that a section of the ANC3F website for Upton St. issues be added.

Gabrielle Holder, 2938 Upton St. NW - Her children started this, but now the whole block is involved. She cherishes the activism.

(Former) Commissioner Jakopchek: We should lay out our expectations to DDOT.

Commissioner Dickinson: We should draft an email to DDOT and ask for another community meeting in January with Emily Dalphy (and perhaps with Derek Hardy). before they initiate another study.

### **7. Approval of November Minutes**

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the ANC3F minutes from November, 2018. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

### **8. Other Business**

Commissioner Adelstein gave the current Treasurers Report.

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