

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

3F01 – David Dickinson, Chair
3F02 – Carolinn Kuebler, Vice Chair
3F03 – Naomi Rutenberg, Treasurer
3F04 – Leah Frelinghuysen
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary
3F06 – Monika Nemeth
3F07 – Vacant



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Public Meeting – February 19, 2019
University of the District of Columbia
4200 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008
Building 39, 3rd floor Boardroom

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2018 at the University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008, Building 39, 3rd floor Boardroom. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public. This meeting was not recorded due to time constraints imposed by a last-minute room change. Copies of resolutions approved are available at www.anc3f.com.

Commissioners Present: Dickinson
 Molod
 Kuebler
 Nemeth
 Rutenberg
 Frelinghuysen

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the modified regular agenda.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to table the consideration of a resolution regarding school overcrowding to next month	6-0-0	
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to support the public space application from I'm Eddie Cano	6-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the January minutes	6-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn	6-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:45 pm
Adjournment: 10:04 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:

- i. Request for DDOT to conduct a traffic study on Albemarle St. NW
- ii. Settlement agreement with Wine with Friends

The modification to the regular agenda was to move the discussion of school overcrowding to precede the discussion of the Broadbranch project.

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

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Frelinghuysen: None

Commissioner Nemeth: None

Commissioner Rutenberg:

- i. There are neighborhood concerns about traffic. The last liveability study done to look at traffic and other issues was in 2011, DC government wants to update the study
- ii. Urban Forestry is planting trees in public spaces in front of houses. There are complaints from residents who want them to explain the planting and care of trees.

Commissioner Kuebler: There is a new ABRA request at Domaine Liquors

Commissioner Molod: Reminder of continued noise complaints regarding Comet Ping Pong during band nights. Issue still under discussion with owners.

Commissioner Dickinson: none

3. Committee Reports

Parks and Trails (Dickinson): The committee had a meeting last week, and Alex Sanders is the new chair. They heard from Kathy Wist from the Audobon Society, who spoke about a water quality study that was performed related to the waters leading into rock creek. ANC3F is still expecting the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) about Soapstone Valley, it may be released soon.

Streets and Sidewalks (Kuebler): There was a meeting last week (January 13th), and the committee went over the 311 list and new issues. They spoke about traffic safety issues. The update on the Connecticut Ave traffic study is that DDOT commissioned the traffic study from Chevy Chast Circle to Dupont Circle, focused on reversible lanes and other issues. The committee is following up on the status of the study. There are vocal constituents representing seniors and young families who are interested in the study. They are not sure if the RFQ (Request for Qualification) was issued. Also, some components of the study may be in MPD purview, not only DDOT.

Grants (Molod): Reminder that the next grant cycle is March/April 2019. Grant applications should be submitted at or before the March ANC3F meeting to be voted on at the April meeting.

4. Community Open Forum

Rich Harrington, Ward 3 ANC liaison to the Mayor's office:

- i. The Mayor is hosting a series of budget engagement forums in the coming week. The closest to ANC3F is at Roosevelt High School on February 25th at 6pm. Other forum locations are Arthur Caper Community Center and Deanwood Community Center
- ii. The Office of Unified Communication announced the 311 line for non-life threatening emergencies.

Thomas Redman, Director of State and Local Affairs at UDC:

- i. The Council Performance Oversight hearing for UDC is on February 28th, 10AM at the Wilson building
- ii. Tuesday March 26th is the budget hearing for UDC at 11AM in the Wilson bldg

Sal Selveggio, Resident on Warren St, active on issues related to older DC residents, selvaggiogods@rcn.com:

- i. IONA has a new web site called Around Town DC to promote programs for older adults, particularly in Wards 2, 3 that don't have brick and mortar senior centers
- ii. IONA is assembling a transportation resource guide
- iii. Mention of Northwest Neighborhood Village (NNV), a local example of the village movement, a great way to coordinate resources for seniors.
- iv. On Monday April 1 there is a meeting of the Senior Advisory Coalition, from 10AM-1PM at the Wilson building. Those interested should register with Shawn Jegede, sac.dc.coordinator@gmail.com, 202-643-4125.
- v. IONA is having a forum called "Aging solo, guiding for future planning". It is a 6-lecture series, cost is \$80, register by March 6 at iona.org
- vi. Mr. Selveggio was asked to be the Ward 3 liaison for AARP

Phil Thomas - Chair of Ward 3 Democrats:

The next meeting of Ward 3 Dems is on February 27th at 7PM at Forest Hills of DC. Karl Racine will be there to address the members.

Theresa Cameron, Van Ness Main Streets:

- i. Introduce Sarah Cumbie, the new board Chair to the ANC.
- ii. (Sarah Cumbie introduced herself, said she has been on the board, and has lived in Ward 3 for 12 1/2 years. She works at WAMU)
- iii. Thanks to the Mayor's Office for help to clean up 4250 Connecticut Ave and get the homeless that were squatting there a better place (with Friendship House)
- iv. UDC now owns 4250 Connecticut Ave, VNMS is working with them. Requests that neighbors please do not leave food for them, the rodents have increased
- v. VNMS had a recycle/bulk trash day in collaboration with DOEE and the Mayor's Office – it was the largest in DC.

- vi. March 16th is the kickoff for Alive at VN. The first event is an Irish event at Tesoro, from 6-8 PM, there will be live music, green beer
- vii. VNMS is working with other Main Streets, want to get funding from the Department of Housing and Development. The hearings are in March
- viii. The VNMS farmers market starts on May 5th. They are sending out the application for non-farm vendors. Anyone with suggestions should get in touch.
tcameron@vannessmainstreets.org
- ix. There is an uptick in crime behind Zips Cleaners, people are stealing from cars, and there is some drug activity. They have video and are working with MPD.

5. MPD Report

Lieutenant Valerie Steward from MPD's Second District came to speak to the ANC. She presented the crime statistics for the last 30 days relative to this 30-day period from last year. Overall – crime is down by 2%, but some categories are up. These are:

Burglaries – last year 1, this year 3.

Motor vehicles theft - last year 1, this year 3. A known group of perpetrators is back in the Second District and MPD is trying to get "stayaway" orders for them. She advocates that people lock their car doors and not leave keys inside the car anywhere.

Theft from autos - up again, was 13 last year and this year 15. MPD has a motor vehicle campaign, to deter people from leaving things in cars. Most of these thefts are thefts of convenience. Theft from auto is MPD's biggest issue in our ANC. The "Theft from auto" unit has made successful arrests, and will come into the area behind Zips.

Lt. Steward also spoke about several issues in the community:

- i. The fire at Comet Pizza - On January 23rd Ryan Ramos set the curtains on fire, but it is not clear why. The arson investigator in the DC fire department has taken the case. This same person did damage near the Washington Monument and was arrested, so there are Federal charges. The person is now in jail, and is due to have a hearing on March 4 in Superior Court.
- ii. Squatters in the bays in front of 4250 Connecticut Ave, the former Fannie Mae building - MPD will continue with the barring notice there.
- iii. Crime behind Zips – MPD needs good information. There was video footage of car a break-in, and MPD had 6 calls for service, 4 for theft from auto. They recognize that this is a lot of activity for that location.
- iv. Sedgewick Gardens – There have been complaints about smoking, there was a barricade situation, and there have been numerous arrests. At a meeting with residents MPD determined that there was a high number of calls of service but low crime. There are new residents connected with the DC government's low income housing program. MPD will be teaming up with the Mayor's Office to try to keep peace. MPD is not authorized to move people out.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen: Why is there an increase in auto theft and theft from autos? A: People are being careless.

Commissioner Kuebler: How is MPD doing outreach about theft from auto? A: There are announcements on MPD's web site, and they are putting flyers on cars.

Commissioner Nemeth: Is auto theft becoming professionalized? A: There are two sets of people doing this. One group is homeless, the other is young people in gangs opening cars to see which open and can be stolen from.

6. Discussion of Broadbranch Culvert Project

Cecilia Lane, District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) came to speak to the commission about the Broadbranch Culvert Project. East of Broadbranch on near Ingleside DOEE did a streamlighting project, but did not address the flooding. Now they want to repair the culvert. At this point in the project they are doing the permitting and design, and then they will do construction.

Commissioner Rutenberg: Do you need anything from the ANC to support the project? A: At first they had issues getting the different DC government agencies to table, but that has been accomplished. This has delayed the timeline.

Commissioner Kuebler: The project will enlarge the pipe and build a culvert to extend where the water goes. Where will the water end up? A: They will build a box culvert under the road, so it will redirect the water to the same place it goes now, it will just not flow onto the road first.

Ms. Lane continued to tell the ANC that the project is at the 65% design stage, and they are answering questions from DC Water and DOEE. When this is completed, will continue with the design and then apply for permits. She said that perhaps an emergency contract will be proposed to the DC Office of Contracting and Procurement. If they proceed in that direction, the will ask the ANC for a resolution.

The Commission asked if we should pass a motion to authorize Commissioner Rutenberg to write a letter in support if it is needed before ANC3F's next meeting. Ms. Lane responded that perhaps a resolution will be needed in a few months. Suggestion from Marlene Berlin: Perhaps the Commission could reach out to Emmanuel Briggs at DC water saying that ANC3F supports the project.

7. Discussion of School Overcrowding

The Honorable Ruth Watenberg, the Ward 3 member of the DC State Board of Education, came to speak to ANC3F about the issue of school overcrowding. Ward 3 Wilson Ed-Net has asked for resolutions to be passed in Ward 3 ANCs.

The Honorable Ms. Wattenberg is working with the Wilson feeder school network, and it is clear that overcrowding is a problem. A long time ago there were 1 1/2 classes for each grade, then there were 4, now there are 8. So the overcrowding is a long standing problem and is recognized as issue. A community working group was convened consisting of the principal and one parent from each school. This working group issued a report summarizing the current situation, projecting the near term status, and making some recommendations:

Current: A school and feeder system is considered overcrowded when it reaches 90% of its at capacity, and that 12 of the 15 schools in the Wilson feeder system are at 90% or above, and more than half are over 100% of their capacity. Murch School is not as overcrowded.

The projections: there will be a 20% increase in Middle School students in the next 20 years, and a 10% increase in High School students.

Recommendations: There has to be more square footage. They need a new High School, a new Middle School and a new Elementary School in each feeder area, but there are some possible measures short of that. For example:

- i. Ellington School - half of the building is used at any one time. They could make room for 400 more students.
- ii. DC State Board of Education could set up early childhood centers, perhaps with leased space. That would pull those children out of local Elementary Schools.
- iii. Hardy School - Make sure it is not leased to the Lab School

The Honorable Ms. Wattenberg and Ward 3 Ed-Net is asking for a resolution from Ward 3 ANCs in support of these recommendations. To accomplish these goals we will perhaps also need to impose a development tax to create a fund to build new schools.

Commissioner Kuebler: Are there any buildings in surplus? A: Only Hardy School, It is the only one in Wards 2, 3. UDC is also public land, so they could potentially put a small Middle School at UDC or have dual enrollment classes with Wilson High School.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen: This is not just about reallocating space. School construction has a variety of issues. How can the ANC impact the work?

A: In order to arrive at a solution to the overcrowding, we have to "light a lot of fires". Some in of this advocacy is in the "wheelhouse" of the DC Public School Commissioner. Synergies with UDC exist. Other issues related to leasing space must be accomplished with the support of the DC Council. They have a general list of recommendations for what should happen, some solutions reside with DCPS and some with the Council.

Q: Was this document sent to the Council and DCPS?

A: Yes, and they have gotten friendly responses from the DCPS Chancellor, and from the Mayor's Office (the Deputy Mayor for Education).

Commissioner Dickinson: I am hesitant to endorse report recommendations, for instance saying that Hardy School should belong to DCPS. Would prefer to ANC3F to ask for an answer back from the Deputy Mayor, DCPS, and the Council.

Michael Porcello (from CM Cheh's office): It is best to start the process with the Executive and try to get their buy-in, and then go to the specific DC Agencies to get specific things done.

Commissioner Dickinson: I would prefer to have the operative clauses of a resolution say that we want to hear from the Deputy Mayor's Office rather than say that we support the specific recommendations of the community working group. I am also thinking that we should not

directly say that DCPS should not sell the Hardy School property. (Reminder from the Honorable Ms. Watenberg and Mike Porcello that DCPS has to say they can't use the School in order for Mayor to be allowed to sell it.)

Commissioner Rutenberg: What is the timeline here? A: A resolution in March would be fine in terms of when the Mayor's Office will entertain the subject.

Commissioner Nemeth: This resolution does not have enough in it. Perhaps it needs more active clauses.

Commissioner Kuebler: The idea that there is only one building in this area that could be a school is a difficult enough situation, we should resolve not to let it go.

The Honorable Ms. Wattenberg: Perhaps we could think about asking the Mayor to set up a fund to deal with the overcrowding issue. Maybe there is something ANC3F-specific we can do to get a survey of near term developments.

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to table the consideration of a resolution regarding school overcrowding. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

8. Public Space Application from I'm Eddie Cano

Commissioner Nemeth: Representatives from I'm Eddie Cano, who have applied for a public space permit to build a sidewalk deck, are here to address the Commission. The timeline: March 28th is the Public Space hearing date, February 28th is the deadline for public response. ANC3F can also put comments in TOPS.

Present representing I'm Eddie Cano are: Cedono Ojanes, Veritas Law, Ben Farahpour, architect, and James Gee, chef and partner.

The sidewalk cafe application is for a small space - 10 tables, 2 at each table. They will abide by the Settlement Agreement signed with ANC3F and approved by ABRA, ie., the hours will be from 7PM -12AM the latest, but the restaurant is usually open until 10PM, not midnight. ANC3F Commissioner are reminded that the SA does talk about public space and a sidewalk cafe. The physical dimensions of one side of the deck is 14 ft by 9 ft, the other side is 17 ft by 9 ft. DDOT recommends 8 feet from the end of the cafe to the tree box (that is why one side is now only 14 ft).

Commissioner Dickinson: What is the deck made of? Will there be plantings? A: The deck includes planters as part of the deck design. Q: Will you eventually want to enclose it? A: If we wanted that we would have to come back again to DDOT.

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to fill in the form saying we have no objections to the public space application. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

9. Discussion of Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge

Commissioner Molod presented a status update on the discussions related to the DC Water's Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) that are taking place in the DC Water Stakeholder Alliance. DC Water, at the suggestion of the DC Council, convened a Stakeholder Alliance committee that has been meeting since the fall of 2018, with representatives from each Ward and DC's citizens and business groups, largely to discuss viable alternative to the present formulation of the CRIAC fees. Commissioner Molod reminded the ANC of the current fee structure that was the subject of much public outcry. CRIAC fees cover the costs of DC Water's Clean Rivers Tunnel project, which they designed in response to an EPA consent decree requiring DC to prevent effluent from reaching the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.

Commissioner Molod reminded the ANC of the current fee structure that was the subject of much public outcry. Under the current structure, each property owner pays a fee proportional to the impervious surface area of their property, and the District government is exempt from paying fees for their roadways. This structure leaves the burden largely on individual homeowners and non-profits such as churches. At the suggestion of the Stakeholder Alliance, DC Water has agreed to shift 20% of the fees to be proportional to water and sewer use, and has increased the allowable discount on this fee for building green infrastructure to offset runoff. The remaining suggestion of the Alliance is that the DC government should pay for their impervious surfaces like other DC Water ratepayers. This must be approved by the DC Council.

10. Other Business

- i. Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the ANC3F minutes from December, 2019. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).
- ii. Treasurer's report: Commissioner Rutenberg said that these report will resume at ANC3F's next meeting, and that there were few expenses in the past month.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

These minutes are provisional pending formal approval
at a regular meeting of ANC 3F.