

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 – April 23, 2019
 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, April 23, 2019 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. The meeting was not recorded due to equipment issues.

Commissioners Present: Dickinson
 Molod
 Rutenberg
 Nemeth

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the modified consent agenda and the modified regular agenda.	4-0-0	
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion <i>NOT</i> to approve of the Public Space Application for 3624 Alton Pl. NW	4-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve ANC grant applications from PATC (\$2500), RCC (\$3000) and Wilson Tiger Athletics (\$1500).	4-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the March ANC3F minutes.	4-0-0	
Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the Q1 financial report	4-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn.	4-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:38 pm
 Adjournment: 10:38 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 Public Space Applications for 3950 37th St NW and for 4545 Connecticut Ave NW. The Public Space Application for 3564 Alton Place, NW was moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda. The modification to the regular agenda, in addition to the addition of the Public Space Application at 3564 Alton PI NW, was the addition of a presentation from MPD. Both were added after the Community Forum.

Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Rutenberg: none

Commissioner Nemeth:

1. There is a sink hole on Ellicott St. NW. The issue is being worked on with DDOT, and it is getting repaired.
2. There were noise complaints in the Burger King parking lot. Commissioner Nemeth Spoke with the manager, who turned down the volume and the issue was settled.

Commissioner Molod: none

Commissioner Dickinson:

1. The UDC task force met.
2. These are trying moments in DC, we need to be mindful that we are a community
3. There may be a presentation from Sidwell School at the May meeting of ANC3F
4. Whittle School was granted the building permit to continue construction

3. Committee Reports

Parks and Trails (Rutenberg): Meets on the second Monday of each month at Forest Hills of DC, 4901 Connecticut Ave NW. At the last meeting, a representative from DDOT spoke about DOEE's program to promote pervious paving in alleys. If the neighborhood wants it, DDOT and DOEE will take care of it. There was also a discussion of the Melvin Hazen/Hearst tributary.

Streets and Sidewalks: No report. In response to a question from the audience, the community was reminded that the Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month, at the UDC Building 33 Windows Lounge at 7PM.

Grants (Molod): Nothing to report, will vote on current applications later during the meeting.

4. Community Open Forum

Jennifer McCahill, Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture.

Here to introduce herself and let the community know about the office.

Juanita Grey, UDC:

1. The next UDC Community Task Force meeting will take place on either May 16th or 23rd.
2. Commencement will take place on May 11. Maxine Waters is the keynote speaker.
3. There are issues with the entrance to UDC off Veazey St. NW. People are parking, on the street and making illegal U-turns. There have been two accidents. UDC has met with WMATA to discuss the Kiss-n-ride, and will attend the next ANC3F Street and Sidewalks committee meeting to try to get better painting and signage. Would like ANC support.

Theresa Cameron, VNMS (Presentation was later in the meeting):

1. Attended one of the events that are part of Cultural Tourism DC. Events include Embassy tours, there will be tours of the Chinese Embassy on Friday May 4, 10AM-4PM.
2. On May 4 the VNMS/UDC farmers market is open. Saturdays from 8AM-2PM, there are several new non-food vendors this year.
3. The VNMS meeting is on Friday April 26, 8:30AM-10AM. UDC President Mason will be there, also a representative from Uptown Market. The meeting is at 4340 Connecticut AVE NW, see vnms.org.
4. VNMS is accepting applications for business grants towards capital improvements, the deadline is May 25th.

5. MPD Update

Lieutenant Valerie Steward came to speak to the ANC. She is the PSA leader for PSA 203. Lt. Steward presented the crime statistics for the last 60 days:

Increase in robberies and thefts - There were four robberies, three were robberies from Taxi drivers and were closed right away. Another robbery involved a 90-year-old woman. MPD has leads, is expecting to close the case soon. In the meantime, they have an officer in that area 24 hours per day, is doing community outreach, and monitoring senior citizens in that area. This will continue until the suspect is behind bars. They are also doing business checks. The thefts were in the 2900 block of Porter St NW, from the CVS and Target stores in Cleveland Park

Traffic – Tour buses are parking in front of 4340 Connecticut Ave NW. Have spoken with Theresa Cameron of VNMS, officers are writing tickets.

There is a new Memorandum of Understanding with DDOT regarding automated traffic control measures. Any community wanting an assessment of an intersection/street for the need for automated control, go to: <https://ddot.dc.gov/node/545412>.

Commissioner Dickinson: Q: What is the idling law? A: 3 minutes. But tour buses should not be parking there at all. Q: Is there an update on the homeless occupancy at 4250 Connecticut Ave?

Commissioner Rutenberg: Q: You talked about thefts from cars during the last MPD update, did the program with flyers, etc... work? Was that successful? A: Yes, thefts from cars were down to 12 from 19, so yes, it was successful. The campaign continues.

Commissioner Molod: Q: There are ongoing pedestrian safety issues at the intersection of 36th St NW and Fessenden St. NW. It is in the path for students walking to Murch Elementary School.

There used to be an MPD officer there but he is not there any longer. Can we get the officer back? A (Jonathan Willingham, office of CM Cheh): CM Cheh's office is looking into getting a school crossing guard there, but that takes a study of pedestrian traffic. A (MPD): We will coordinate with school crossing folks and look into it.

6. Public Space Application for 3564 Alton PI NW

Commissioner Nemeth: There is an application for a Public Space permit for a new curb cut at 3564 Alton PI NW. The application is related to a second driveway on a subdivided lot. Rick Silver, who lives next door, was present at the meeting and says there is not enough footage for two homes on that lot. He has been in touch with the developer, and at some point was asked to sell part of his land so the lot next door could be enlarged. Also, the previous owner had a pool it and created a health hazard with mosquitos. He complained to DCRA but got no response.

Commissioner Dickinson: The application has a request for a public space permit two curb cuts, one is to expand the driveway for the current house, another is for the second house. Perhaps we could support the first curb cut but not the second.

Commissioner Nemeth: there is a single application for both. We should look into this further.

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to object to the public space application if we cannot delay the public space hearing on the grounds that there is not enough information about the second curb cut. Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

7. Presentation from the Mayor's Office on the City Budget

Jay Melder, Assistant City Administrator came to the ANC to talk about the budget submitted to the Council in March by Mayor Bowser. It was a balanced budget.

Overview: The budget totaled \$15.5 billion, \$8.6 billion in local funds. The allocation of local funds included \$2.35 billion for public education, \$2.14 billion for human support, \$1.19 billion for public safety, \$1 billion for debt service, \$800 million for government direction, \$669 million for public works.

In July 2018, Moody's rated DC at AAA, which means that we can borrow relatively cheaply. Also a reminder of lost revenue during the shutdown, \$47 million, that had to be absorbed into the budget.

The Mayor continues the focus on affordable housing. There is an increase from \$1 million to \$130 million for the Housing Preservation Trust Fund, and also a proposed \$20 million for workforce housing. The HPTF is for very low-income residents, the workforce program is for workforce families with incomes between 60% and 140% of the AMI.

The budget also includes \$5.2 million to expand Schedule 8, the DC income tax rebate.

Among the large amount of new money in schools there is \$10 million to expand school based mental health and money to provide laptops.

The budget can be found online, see: <https://dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-presents-fiscal-year-2020-budget-proposal>

Commissioner Nemeth- Q: There are reports that the DC Auditor raised questions about budget, saying that the budget is too big. A: The DC Government has sound fiscal health, and an independent auditor certified that the budget is balanced. The Mayor made sure the budget is sound, and said so in the State of DC speech. It will even be sound if the economy slows. So the Mayor's office doesn't hold credence to the criticism.

Commissioner Dickinson – Q: What are the next steps? Also, please address the budget priorities related to Alice Deal Middle School, the Old Hardy School and UDC. Further, please address the Mayor's position on a commuter tax. We remind the speaker that ANC3F is focused on school overcrowding. A: As to a commuter tax – it is the Mayor's position that rather than a commuter tax we should continue to support statehood. As to the next steps in the budget process – the Council is finishing hearings with agencies this week, the last one is on Friday. This will be followed by markups by Council committees, and then the budget will move to the Committee of the Whole. This will be followed by two Council votes, and should all be completed by third or fourth week in May. As to budget issues related to the schools – the budget calls for adding 390 seat onto Deal, with 16 more classrooms. The school will then be able to reclaim the non-classroom space.

From public (David Bardin) – Q: How is the shutdown still impacting the FY2020 budget? It happened in the beginning of 2019. A: OCFO gets new revenue adjustments every month. We lost the revenue in FY2019 money, but since the taxes are paid next year it is a loss of FY2020 money.

From public – Q: We request that we be presented with hard copies of the handouts the next time a presentation is made. Also, how is affordable housing defined? A: There are different levels of affordable housing. There is the Housing Preservation Trust Fund, available to residents whose income is below 30% of AMI. Q: Request that AMI be redefined. There are many rich people getting benefits.

From public – Q: How is “Vision Zero” a priority of the Mayor if she has not commented on traffic deaths, and she has not done anything for street redesign. A: Evidence of the Mayor's focus on “Vision Zero” is in the budget and on the accomplishments last term.

8. Historic Preservation Application – 3400 International Drive, NW

Jacqueline Drayer, the DC Preservation League Outreach and Grants manager, came to speak about the application for Historic Preservation status for the Intelsat building. The application is being made on the basis of DC Historic Preservation criterion D: architecture and urbanism. 1986 is the official building date, and at the time the building was owned by the National Bureau of Standards. The State Department controlled the property. Intelsat leased the land for 99 years in 1982.

Commissioner Dickinson – Q: Is the application for the building's exterior? A: yes. Q: What about the park? A: It is also included. This is related to how the building boundaries are drawn.

Q: What about the notification of the owner about the application and that a hearing is scheduled? A: The owner was contacted by certified mail in 2014 when the application was filed. They reached out to the owner (there was a sale to private owner a few years ago), but there was no response.

Commissioner Rutenberg - Q: Why, if the application was filed in 2014, was there such a big delay? A: The DC Historic Preservation office determines when to schedule hearing. They had to go through a long process since the building was federally owned. Then there was another stall related to a tax credit application. The date of the hearing was triggered by permit applications on the site.

From public (David Bardin) - Q: The State Department has an interest here. They control the land, but the building owners have a 99-year lease. Recommend that we hear from the State Department before weighing in.

Commissioner Dickinson: Suggest that we request an extension on the hearing date so we can get State Department feedback. We are also still not sure of the position of the building owner. In addition, we just learned that the park is part of the historic designation.

From public: Barbara Bates was active in the initial application. we should have her input.

From public: ANC3F should not support the application because we should not restrict building in space. A: Historic designation won't necessarily restrict building.

From public: Will the park always be open? A: Historic Preservation Board has no jurisdiction on this. A (from Whittle School representative): Whittle School is committed to keeping the park open to the public.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to contact the Historic Preservation Board to request that they delay the hearing until we deliberate, and until the owners are contacted and are heard from.

Commissioner Molod: What should we do if HPB won't delay the hearing?

Commissioner Rutenberg: What are grounds for the delay request? A (Commissioner Dickinson): That we are just hearing about park area being included.

The motion had no second.

9. DC Water – Update on Soapstone Renovation Project

Tonya Hedgepeth, Louis Arguello, Will Elledge from DC Water came to the ANC to provide an update and review the background of the Soapstone renovation project. The project is part of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), and NPS (National Park Service) is the lead agency. The project concerns the MS4 - Municipal Separate Stormwater Systems region of the District.

A slide show with a summary of the project was presented to the ANC.

Update – A document is expected to be released to the public in the spring of 2019 (a NEPA document). The details of the proposed project will be in the document, posted on web, and there will be a public comment period (PEPC system). The document will not be called an Environmental Assessment until it goes through public review. Until then it is not certain that it does not have to be an Environmental Impact Statement.

A meeting hosted by NPS and open to the public will take place, ANCs will be notified. The contact at NPS is Nick Bartolomeo.

10. Zoning Variance Application for Hearst Park/Pool Project

Representatives from DGS and their consulting firm, Cozen O'Connor came to the ANC to discuss the application for a zoning variance for the Hearst Park/Pool project.

Shirah Garimani, DGS project manager for Hearst Park and Pool: They are currently in the permitting process.

Sarah Mazo, Zoning Counsel with Cozen O'Connor. The zoning administrator directed DGS to request this relief. According to the DC zoning regulations, they are required to have 2.5 (or 3) parking spaces at the park based on the square footage of the pool house. They are asking for a variance from this to make no new parking spaces. The spaces are required because of the building of the pool house - parking requirements are required per square foot of the building. The building is 5500 sq. ft of area, so it triggers a requirement for three parking spaces. The law says that BZA can grant an exception if either they can't be created (this is the case - can't get cars down to pool house), or other conditions exist.

Irwin Andres, from Grove Slade who is the traffic consultant. Tom Wheeler, from Cox Grace Architects, is in charge of the project. Mr. Wheeler says that pool parking is not a fundamental issue, since the pool traffic there is off schedule from other parking stressors (schools, for example) since the pool is mostly in use in summer and on weekends. (From public: There are summer activities at Hearst and Sidwell schools). They looked at spaces that are non-RPP (residential permit parking) spaces. These are mostly on 37th St., and there are 92 spaces out there. DDOT supports the variance application to not require additional parking on site. DDOT also didn't want to request a new curb cut to serve 3 spaces, and they also identified a loading space to be used when the pool is open that will be available at other times. Based on this, DDOT supports the variance.

Commissioner Dickinson: Wants to speak for the present frustration and concerns of neighbors. They have concerns about the number of pool/park visitors and how they arrive (bike, car...). In addition, there are three other projects that may impact traffic, all trying to identify cut-through traffic on 37th St. The neighbors are requesting that DDOT perform a traffic study on this as the project is being developed. DDOT's answer to them is to wait until the pool is done. The study that was done was not done during summer peak times. Commissioner Dickinson said that he believes that it is okay not to put three new spaces in the park, but that the project plans should trigger an assessment of where parking should take place. The BZA hearing is in June. Would like

to engage a discussion with DDOT about a new traffic study at the public meeting on want May 7th. This BZA application is the only leverage that the ANC has for initiating the traffic study.

A (Andres): DDOT did traffic counts last year on June 5 (Tues). This date is after Memorial Day, and Hearst School was still in session, so should represent a busy summer weekday. (Commissioner Dickinson: Sidwell summer school session had not begun, and that would bring more traffic). A: There is still little synchronization of Sidwell traffic and pool traffic, ie., weekends for the pool and Sidwell during the week.

From public: There are active programs all summer long. It already presents a traffic bottleneck. The Washington Ballet (Wisconsin Ave/Porter St.) also has classes, and also the Post Office shifts end during the day. There are also cars doing U-turns in intersections, and people stop in the middle of the street to dropoff/pick up. There are also ice-cream vendors. All this is pre-existing.

From public, representative of the Cleveland Park Citizen's Association - Q: CPCA submitted a resolution regarding a traffic study, not getting any response. DC agencies are required to respond to CPCA also. As of now soccer games also draw traffic. The administrative building on 37th St. will have an elevator to the pool level. Another building on Quebec St. that will have a trash pickup elevator. It is not clear how to get a vehicle to the pool or soccer field, for instance in the case of someone being hurt. A (Wheeler) Yes, they will need to use the elevator to get in/out.

Commissioner Rutenberg - Q: What do we want next? A more comprehensive traffic study?
A (Commissioner Dickinson): We want DDOT to engage the community on traffic issues and do a new study. The BZA hearing is on June 6. We will have a chance to discuss this again and hear from DGS and DDOT.

Commissioner Rutenberg: Is it possible to get Sidwell School to contribute parking spaces?

Public meeting on May 7th at Hearst Elementary School gym at 6:30 PM to discuss the project. We will ask DDOT to be there.

11. Consideration of Grant Applications for March/Spril 2019 Cycle

Commissioner Molod reviewed the current cycle of grant applications and presented the recommendations of the ANC3F Grants Committee: Recommendations are to grant:

- Wilson Tiger Athletics - \$1500 towards the cost of T-shirts for the Tenley Tiger Run.
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club - \$2500 for the construction of a new bridge on Melvin Hazen trail.
- Rock Creek Conservancy: \$3000 for the plantings in a new Melvin Hazen trail project.

Commissioner Molod made a motion that the recommendations of the Grants Committee be adopted and that the three grants be awarded. Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

12. ANC3F Action on ABRA Renewals

Commissioner Dickinson read the list of pending ANC3F ABRA renewal applications. The standing Settlement Agreements that will continue with the new liquor licenses are all still satisfactory and will stand with no commentary from ANC3F.

13. Approval of March Minutes

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the ANC3F minutes from March, 2019. Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

14. ANC3F Q1 Quarterly Report

The details of the ANC3F Q1 Quarterly financial report were read into the record by ANC3F administrative assistant Rachel Worsham.

During the quarter, \$2669.91 were spent, mostly on personnel. The current balance is \$89427.60. \$8000 was budgeted for grants, and ANC3F is on track with the budget plans.

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the Q1 quarterly report. Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0).

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