

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 – May 21, 2019
 University of the District of Columbia
 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW
 Washington, DC 20008
 Building 38, 2nd floor Windows Lounge

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008, Building 38, 2nd floor Windows Lounge. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public. Copies of resolutions approved are available at www.anc3f.com.

Commissioners Present: Dickinson
 Molod
 Kuebler
 Nemeth
 Frelinghuysen

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the modified regular agenda.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution of appreciation for Theresa Cameron of VNMS	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding the Soapstone Project	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to send a letter of support to DCRA in support of the PEPCO construction	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion support the BZA application for a variance related to the Hearst Park/Pool project	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to be authorized to send letters to DDOT and DGS	5-0-0	

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the April ANC3F minutes.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn.	5-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:33 pm
Adjournment: 10:02 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Consent and Regular Agendas

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the modified regular agenda. The modifications to the regular agenda were the addition of an update from MPD, a resolution of appreciation for Theresa Cameron of VNMS, and motions to write letters to DDOT and DGS related to the Hearst Pool project.

Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Frelinghuysen: none

Commissioner Nemeth: Rich Harrington, Ward 3 Liaison from the Mayor’s office, reached out about an SMD walkthrough. Scheduled for Friday afternoon

Commissioner Kuebler:

1. Rich Harrington also reached out to do an SMD walkthrough.
2. There are a number of issues on Veazey Terr. (related to the sidewalk).
3. There are concerns about the Soapstone Park sewer project.

Commissioner Molod: DC Water will hold the Ward 3 town hall on May 29th at 6:30 PM at the Palisades Recreation Center, 5200 Sherrier Pl. NW

Commissioner Dickinson:

1. Beginning a dialogue about the status/future of Ft. Reno and the park with the Superintendent of Rock Creek Park park
2. There is a community meeting related to the Hearst Park project on May 7
3. Received a mailer from AT&T about installing 5g phone network towers in SMD01

3. Committee Reports

Parks and Trails (Bardin): The next Parks and Trails committee meeting will be on June 10 at 7PM at Forest Hills of DC. Commissioner Dickinson reported that at the last meeting they spoke about the Soapstone Rehabilitation Project.

Streets and Sidewalks (Kuebler): As to the issues related to the Connecticut Ave sidewalks: We need additional support from the Council to deal with the lack of response from DDOT/WMATA on these issues. Also, the committee wants to have quarterly meetings, and perhaps some community forums with city representatives.

Grants (Molod): We are out of cycle, so nothing to report. All the grant recipients acknowledged that they got the checks.

4. MPD Update

Commander Duncan Bedlion came to provide an update to the ANC. He began by telling the community about himself and his background. He spent time in the MPD Investigations Unit, and was Commander of the Youth and Family Unit.

As to crime in the 2nd District – he talked about the rash of theft from autos. There were 274 in one month in the 2nd district. MPD Officer Israel (in PSA 201) put out fliers telling people to lock doors, etc... In April the number of thefts from autos went down to 138. They are also making arrests. They would like to make people intending to steal think they will get caught. The public can subscribe to the listserv in the 2nd district, and can get a quick response to a report. There is also a lot of camera technology available in DC. Commander Bedlion passed fliers around about the Mayor's program as part of which residents can get reimbursed up to \$500 for the price of installing a camera. They would have to agree to give the footage to MPD upon request. There are also motion-activated cameras available for cars. MPD caught the perpetrators of a theft from auto that way.

The FY2020 Mayor's budget has a proposal to get the MPD police force back to 4000. There is also a proposal to cut the MPD budget and put a hiring freeze in place. Asks for support for an increased MPD force.

Commissioner Dickinson – Wishes to express thanks to MPD

From public: Why is MPD stopping people for speeding? A: Want to enforce traffic laws.

From public: Would like to see more speed cameras. A: Go to the DDOT web site to request a study for a speed camera at a particular location.

5. Resolution in Appreciation of Theresa Cameron

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution of appreciation for Theresa Cameron of VNMS. He read the main clauses into the record. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

6. Community Open Forum

Juanita Grey, UDC:

1. UDC wishes to express thanks and appreciation for Theresa Cameron
2. UDC graduated over 800 on May 10 (Maxine Waters, Jessie Jack were bestowed with honorary degrees)

Theresa Cameron, VNMS:

1. Cherrie Lester is the Interim Director of VNMS (searching for a new executive director).
2. Theresa Cameron is taking a job with BSO Strathmore
3. VNMS is moving its purview up to Nebraska Ave NW. They got funding for the expansion from CM Cheh
4. They obtained matching funding from the Whittle School to match ANC3F's commitment to get the first canopy sculpture built
5. June 22, at the UDC Ballroom is the VNMS fundraiser
6. There will be more popups in the VNMS office to come

7. Update Sidwell Renovation Project

Russ Friedson, the Assistant Head of School for Finance and Operations and Hellen-Holm Diamond, the Chief Communications Officer came to the ANC with an update on the project.

Mr. Friedson - ANC3F was supportive of the last application, and Sidwell is grateful for the support. The application that was approved was to move the Lower School into the purchased property. The new master plan is to move the Upper School to the new property and move the Lower School to where the Upper School is now.

The design team is from Perkins-Eastman Architects. They will update the master plan and update the changes with BZA. Sean O'Connell is the representative of Perkins-Eastman, Matt Bell is the lead of the design process, and Jamie Milanovich is the Traffic Engineer from Principal-Wells+Associates.

Mr Friedson is here because Sidwell wants engagement from the community about the school and the renovation project.

Commissioner Dickinson: Thank you for coming. There are many traffic issues around Sidwell, and ANC3F will reach out on this.

Chuck Ludlam: I appreciate the discourse on the traffic study during the last go-through. A (Friedson): Sidwell will honor those commitments.

8. Update on Whittle School Construction Project

Ron Corrado, the director of Construction and Facilities at the Whittle School, came to update ANC3F and the community on the construction project.

Mr. Corrado - many new permits have been granted - all the ones needed. The site was designated a historic site, but that has little impact on the construction plans. They are looking to "green up" the Van Ness/Connecticut corner. The Whittle School will have a reduced enrollment this year, 150- 200 expected. They are working with the residents of Tilden Gardens to work out the noise issues related to the construction. The schedule calls for a September 3 opening of the School. In addition, they are looking for green solution to the mosquito problem in park.

Commissioner Dickinson: Would you describe the National Capital Commission's role? A: We have always interacted with them to let know what is going on in the building. Now there is a new layer with the need to work with the Historic Preservation Board. They also work with CFA.

Commissioner Molod: In terms of greening up the Van Ness/Connecticut corner, will the Historic Preservation Board allow you to make changes there? A: Perhaps not.

Janet Sten – President of the board of one of the buildings facing Whittle.

Q: She has been engaged for 9 months, been to meetings, and was recently told that all permits were granted. She was told that they got a permit to work 24/7 for the next 3 1/2 months until the Whittle School opens – is this correct.

A: There will be no noisy work on the Tilden St. side after 11 PM. Perhaps some work with no noise will want to continue after 11 PM (will come back to Tilden Gardens representatives about this).

Q: What is the ANC role? Was told that the ANC supported the extension of hours.

A (Commissioner Kuebler): We were told that the noisy work would be during day. A letter of support from ANC3F was written to DCRA after seeing the MOU with Tilden Gardens. The last MOU includes the 24/7 work.

A (Corrado) – The late night work will only be for painting.

Commissioner Dickinson: There will be a meeting with representatives from the ANC, Tilden Gardens and Whittle later this week.

Corrado – Wants to remind all that the MOU is 60-day rollover process.

From public (Ludlam) - Want to know how much property tax will be paid by Whittle. Also wants a traffic study done - by a company like Wells. Recognizes that Whittle doesn't have to do either since the property is on Federal land.

9. Resolution Regarding Soapstone Renovation Project

David Bardin to summarize the status of the Soapstone Project for the ANC and the community, and to present the text of a resolution he proposes, as a member of the ANC3F standing Parks and Trails Committee, that ANC3F adopt in response to the report.

Bardin – The project is almost 10 years old. It concerns the pipes that carry sewage through the ANC and two of the stormwater outfalls into Rock Creek. The proposed resolution tries to ask for clarification about some things but doesn't take a stand. We have all been told that the Environmental Assessment report (EA) will come out "any day", and are being asked to wait and see. It is a complicated project, some pipes are on NPS land, some on DDOT (DC) land, and most were laid before the NPS existed. The ground rules for the project about whether an EA or an EIS must be issued have been changing. The new rule says that EAs should be sooner and shorter. This ANC has hosted two public forums on issue. The current ANC3F chair tried to get a relationship with DC Water and NPS about this and been rebuffed. NPS says they should be in charge of all public outreach/forums regarding the EA. DC Water is not fighting them on this. This resolution lays out the process, and proposes what to do going forward. NPS says that there will be one meeting during 60 day comment period. The chair suggest there should be a second meeting a week or two later to give people time to stew over and follow up with questions.

Commissioner Dickinson read the operative clauses of the resolution into record.

Commissioner Kuebler: Would like to ask a question of clarification. Since there is no EA yet, are there proposals on the table for what DC Water and NPS want to do? A (Bardin): Nothing concrete, the different options are still open. Q: We should be strong about not letting a pumping station go in (it is DC land) without community input. A: NPS says there will be a public meeting and public comment period.

Commissioner Nemeth: Under what authority can NPS tell DC Water not to tell us what is in the EA? A: Don't know the answer, should raise this question with CM Cheh.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding the Soapstone Project. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

10. Discussion of Road Diets

George Branyon and Will Hansfield from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) came to the ANC to speak about the Road Diets and Vision Zero programs and how they impact residents of ANC3F. The presentation is designed to go over Road Diets, and show some plans for bike lanes on Reno Rd. NW. In summary, from Tilden St. NW to Rodman St. NW there will be no change, and in other places they will remove a car lane to put bike lane.

DC Vision Zero - all road deaths preventable. The "Move DC" plan is to enact Vision Zero.

Road Diet plan - In general, a 4 lane road becomes 3 lanes, and the middle lane is for left turns from either side. This plan has been shown to reduce crash rates. There are guidelines about the volume of traffic for a road to be suited for road diets. Reno Rd. is within those guidelines. In general there has been little change in traffic volume after road diets were implemented elsewhere. But the 85th percentile speed went down by 1-3 mph, and the 95th percentile speed went down by more.

The specific plan for Reno Rd. NW: From Van Ness to Upton Sts NW do a road diet, and add a shared bike/car lane. This would mean the loss of one lane of traffic. From Upton to Tilden Sts NW add a full bike lane and add left turn pockets. The plan also adds a left turn lane on Tilden St. for turns onto Reno Rd, and moves the median. The plan calls for the same configuration going all the way to Porter St. This plan is in place and the comment period deadline is today.

Commissioner Dickinson: Would like to ask for clarification of the administrative process and what documentation there is about a notification with a comment period through today. The request is based on a desire for a community process, to give a chance to introduce the concept to the community, but wants a longer public comment period than was given. A public meeting will take place on June 4 to give the bike groups and others the chance to weigh in. ANC3F can also weigh in at the June meeting.

A: There are many deliverables related to this plan city-wide. If they extend this courtesy to the ANC for a community meeting it will delay other city projects. This is a cut and dried project and a road safety issue. Not sure what more the community needs from DDOT to be ok with this project. The changes to this plan were made at the request of the community.

Q: I appreciate all these points and think Vision Zero should be enforced. I am aware of the crash issue but want a transparent public process.

From public (Chuck Ludlam): The plan is fatally flawed. They have fixed some issues in the earlier plan, but some elements of the same plan are still a problem, ie., they had not done traffic study (issues with turns into driveways). If he had not intervened the ANC would have voted on a bad plan.

From public: There are two concerns. First - Reno Rd should not have bicycles. Second is the same problem as before with entrance to properties from Reno Rd.

Mr. Branyan: DDOT wants the interaction and input from the community, will adjust the plan if necessary.

From public (Steve Selig, lives in ANC3E): Is a cyclist and supports bike lanes. DDOT should hammer home that there is a missing link in Ward 3 bike lanes for folks to go downtown. The present plan is not ideal, a protected bike lane would be better, but this plan will work out. This discussion has been going on for 4 years. He sees the idea for a community process, but the vocabulary "fatal flaw" suggests flat-out opposition to bike lanes.

From public: Representing bike interests and likes the plan. It is multi-modal – it will help traffic, bikers, and pedestrians. Supports neighbors getting access to their driveways and wants all to work together.

From public: Appreciate the focus on public safety. For example, when the fire department decides where hydrants should be located they decide themselves as they are the experts. Likewise DDOT personnel are experts on this.

From public: Uses Reno Rd. to bike and supports the plan. It is a vast improvement over current status.

Commissioner Molod: Will DDOT extend the public comment period?

A (Branyan): Yes, until June 18th.

11. PEPCO Request to Extend Construction Hours

Linda Greenan, the External Affairs manager at PEPCO came to ask ANC3F support for an after-hours permit to work at 4201 Wisconsin Ave NW. They need 24-hour work in the manhole. The purpose of the work is to commission the transmission lines at the Harrison St. substation.

Commissioner Dick: Tells the ANC that ANC3E has written letter of support to DCRA for this work, and poses some questions. Q: Which week in June will this take place? A (Greenan): Not sure yet. PEPCO will let everyone know 3 days in advance. Q: How many lanes north and south will be impacted? A: 2 lanes south, 1 north. They will have a digital message board giving instructions, but will probably not have flaggers.

Commissioner Kuebler: What is the distance of lane closure north and south? A: Van Ness to Veazey streets. The work will last 5 days approximately.

Commissioner Nemeth: Later in the month would be better, near early July there is less traffic, as DCPS lets out on June 15.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to send a letter of support to DCRA. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

12. BZA Special Exemption Request related to Hearst Park/Pool Project

Chirock Gerramani, the DGS project manager, and Peter Nohrden, the DPS project manager, came to ask ANC3F support for a BZA application they submitted. They have asked for a BZA special exemption not to have to add 3 parking spaces.

They informed the ANC that DDOT had agreed to do a traffic study. There was a community meeting on May 7, where they talked about the project and also about the need for a construction management plan.

DGS sent a community notice that ground breaking will start soon – in the first week of June. DGS/DPR also sent a proposed traffic control plan to cover parking and traffic routing during construction. At present a contractor is working through plan. The community had issues with it and they will work with DDOT to work out the community concerns.

Commissioner Dickinson: ANC3F wants to work with DGS, DPS on traffic control during construction. ie., where the trucks go, etc... It is a tight schedule to make the final plan in two weeks if breaking ground on June 3. In the future they need to do the plan earlier, need the community to know about this with a week before groundbreaking. There are some specific questions, like when is the first truck? A: Need to meet with DOEE, and talk about sediment erosion. There will be no trucks until later, like the second week of June. Q: DCPS lets out June 15, it would be good to delay the first truck until after then.

Commissioner Dickinson: We would like CM Cheh to send a letter to DDOT asking for traffic study to support our letter.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to send a letter of support to BZA in favor of the special exemption. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

13. Letters to DDOT and DGS related to Hearst Park/Pool Project

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to be authorized to send a letter to DDOT asking them to do traffic study related to the Hearst Park/Pool project, and to send a letter to DGS asking them to do a construction management plan. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

14. Approval of April Minutes

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the ANC3F minutes from April, 2019. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

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