

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

3F01 – Adam Tope, Chair
3F02 – Karen L. Perry, Vice Chair
3F03 – Mary Beth Ray
3F04 – Sally Gresham
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary
3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Treasurer
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek



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Public Meeting – June 16, 2015

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

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened its regular public meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 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.us, 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: Tope
 Nugent
 Molod
 Ray
 Gresham
 Jakopchek

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Motion to approve the agenda	6-0-0	
Jakopchek: Motion to support the historic designation of Tilden Hall	6-0-0	
Ray: Resolution to support the designation of the public alley from Brandywine Street to 4600-4650 Broad Branch Road homes as a named public alley, to be called Fieldstone Lane.	6-0-0	
Tope: Resolution to withdraw Councilmember Cheh's handicap parking bill.	6-0-0	

Tope: Resolution honoring Commissioner Karen Perry.	6-0-0	
Nugent: Motion to approve the quarterly report.	6-0-0	
Nugent: Motion to authorize the technology committee to spend up to \$2500 on the design of a new website.	5-0-1	
Nugent: Motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015 meeting.	Tabled	
Motion to adjourn	6-0-0	

Financial Status: \$129,981.80
Call to Order: 7:30 pm
Adjournment: 10:37 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Announcements (00:02:48)

Jakopchek: None

Molod: None

Gresham:

- Park Van Ness Construction Project Update: Construction activities include ongoing concrete operations at the main roof penthouses, panel installation on west elevation, masonry installation, setting of windows, interior work, and utility work in public space including water line tie in and installation of electrical vaults. Related to the sidewalk closure, Saul and Clark Construction submitted possible sidewalk accessibility options to DDOT's PSRA/TOA departments in May. As of this ANC meeting, Saul has not heard back from DDOT as to the validity of the submitted options from a public safety standpoint.
- Forest Hills Park update: The Friends of Forest Hills Playground will be hosting a Picnic in the Park' concert series at the Forest Hills Park amphitheater on the last Friday evenings during the summer months - June to August and tentatively in September.

Tope:

- Can still file petition to run for Karen Perry's seat by next Monday June 22. Election set for end of July timeframe.
- HPV approved Sedgwick Gardens

Ray:

- Update from Paul Hoffman at DDOT about Broad Branch – The dropped gutter area was repaired on the weekend of June 5-7, 2015. Alternatives for a more permanent solution are being explored this summer, and they will continue to keep up repairs until a major rehabilitation is funded.

- Historic landmark application was filed for 3020 Albemarle St. NW, hearing is July 23
- Historic landmark application expected for 3101 Albemarle St. NW, currently on market.
- VNVC Main Street update – City Council in a first vote has approved \$200,000 for creation of Van Ness Main Street, the corporate shell was created and the first Board of Directors meeting will take place on Thursday, June 17.
- ICSC Panel – Ray will serve on panel to discuss upper Northwest opportunities for retail. Panel meeting is on Tuesday, June 23
- UDC Jazz Concert was last night in the UDC Auditorium.

Nugent:

- Murch Elementary School Renovation Update: On June 10 the architects presented the plan, and overall the community is relatively pleased about the design. Another community meeting will take place next month to reveal 2nd round of plans.
- Forest Hills Row Business Association (5000 block of Connecticut Ave NW) was officially established. They are setting up a 501©(3) designation. The dues schedule was set up with 3 different levels of dues for different sized businesses, and the Board of Directors will include owners, Commissioner Nugent and some members of the public.
- DDOT has given notice that it plans to change the parking signs in front of the Montessori school (can't drop of kids easily) to allow 15 min parking during dropoff/pickup times and no parking the rest of the time.

2. Announcements / Open Forum (00:15:46)

David Donaldson: Raised a list of issues relevant to the Van Ness St. NW – Conn. Ave. NW intersection: There is concern about traffic from new UDC Student Union. In addition, said that the timeline for WMATA closures was not announced to the community. Also raised the issue of access to the tennis courts at UDC. Finally, Mr. Donaldson wants to see the voting for ANC Commissioner for SMD 3F02 near the SMD.

Ann Schneider on Fessenden St NW wants a sidewalk on the North side 3300 block. Lots of foot traffic, but the sidewalk only goes ½ down. She was advised by Commissioner Ray to collect a neighborhood petition.

3. Update from WMATA (00:29:52)

Ann Chisolm and Cedric Watson of WMATA announced that the West entrance of the Van Ness METRO station will close on June 22nd and be closed until mid September. In response to some questions from Commissioner Gresham, Ms. Chisolm said that she would send the signage as a PDF to Commissioner Tope to put on our website, and Mr. Watson said that the station would only close completely in an emergency and in that case shuttle buses will be made available. He clarified that although the original schedule called for closure of the West entrance for 5 months, the current estimate is that by mid September there would be an assessment of the stairs and the station may reopen then. Commissioners Gresham and Jakopchek reminded Mr. Watson and Ms. Chisolm that a written project timeline was promised and not yet received. Mr. Watson replied that the timeline would be provided when the contractor starts (June 22). At the

request of Commissioner Nugent, Mr. Watson committed to a quarterly briefing of the ANC as the project progresses.

Questions from Public: David Donaldson voiced complaints about the timeline. Marlene Berlin asked about the timing of repairing the stairs if the assessment of the stairwell showed structural problem. Mr. Watson replied that it would take 30 days.

Matthew Marcou of DDOT stated that DDOT and WMATA were “on the same page” regarding the plans to assure pedestrian safety. In response to questions from Commissioners Gresham and Nugent, Mr. Marcou explained that alternatives to constant closure of the sidewalk in from of the Park Van Ness construction were considered but rejected. The alternatives considered included closure of the sidewalk only during certain days/times as well as extending the crossing time.

4. Police Report (00:59:51)

Lt. Ralph Neal ralph.neal@dc.gov 202-715-7348, Sgt. Ben Firehock
Crimes in the precinct are down 17% in the last month.

Commissioners want to know how we can ensure pedestrian safety during the WMATA & Park Van Ness closures. They want an added foot officer during peak times (Officer Franchek in the mornings & beat officers in the afternoon). More visibility of the officers is needed. Franchek monitors traffic and homeless people. Commissioners want an officer to stand on Windom Place and Veazy Place.

5. Resolution (01:25:49)

Commissioner Jakopchek made a resolution to support the historic designation of the Tilden Hall. Resolution was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

Discussion: Tilden Hall is located on the SE corner of Tilden & Connecticut. They have the support of the residents. The property is rent controlled based on TOPA. Steve Schwat of UIP said the tenants organized and contacted them to do the work and they have worked together. The building has never been upgraded and it is still burning oil. The fuses, single paned windows, and window AC units need upgrading (replacing windows is a matter of right – no variances needed). They do not need any additional parking or a traffic plan and do not anticipate needing any shutdowns of either street (Connecticut or Tilden) for construction. Tilden Hall was built as a suburban apartment building and designed by Pyle. It was built in 1932-3 and it sits on a prominent corner. The addition will be to the back of the building and not to the roof. The historic background information has been compiled by Traceries (who designed the property, historic occurrences at the building in order to meet the HRPB standard).

6. Resolution (02:04:19)

Commissioner Ray made a resolution to support the designation of the public alley from Brandywine Street to 4600-4650 Broad Branch Road homes as a named public alley, to be called Fieldstone Lane.

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

Discussion: Bill proposed by Mary Cheh's office in support of the named public alley because it is the only way for homeowners to reach their house including emergency vehicles. This would place it on GPS, etc.

7. Resolution (02:12:56)

Commissioner Tope made a resolution to withdraw Councilmember Cheh's handicap parking bill.

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

Discussion: Transportation Committee (Mary Cheh's committee) Bill 21175 revamps handicap parking in DC. The bill would only allow one handicap parking spot per block. They would have to pay for parking and would not get double time at meters as of this bill. The argument behind the bill was that it would prevent fraud, but the commissioners think that fraud should be addressed in a better way than removing access of handicapped persons to parking.

Commissioner Ray suggested that language should be added to the resolution to advocate a study of the fraud.

8. Presentation (02:44:49)

Forest Hills Connection (FHC) would like a grant for the development of their mobile website. FHC is requesting an \$850 grant to create a new website to make it mobile compatible. It makes sense for the ANC and how people are accessing web services. Currently FHC has about 10,000 hits per month and an average of 3,500 unique users per month. The grant will be discussed at next month's ANC meeting.

9. Discussion (02:50:53)

Funding of start-up costs for Van Ness Main Streets: The Attorney General says the ANC cannot fund start-up costs. There is no public purpose until it has been started.

10. Resolution (02:52:27)

Commissioner Tope made a resolution honoring Commissioner Karen Perry. The resolution was approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions (6-0-0).

11. Miscellaneous (02:55:39)

Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2015 Meeting

This will take place at the next meeting.

Quarterly Financial Report

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the quarterly report.

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

Financial Update

Commissioner Nugent gave a Financial Update, noting a balance in the ANC 3F account of \$129,981.80. The ANC has received all of its district allotment and will not be setting up a savings account.

Technology Committee Update

Commissioner made a motion to authorize the technology committee to spend up to \$2500 on the design of a new website.

Motion was passed with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 1 abstaining (5-0-1).

The Committee is working on technical specifications. Based on non-responsiveness to good faith communication attempts, they will sever ties with City Aperture.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 PM
