

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

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



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Leif A Dormsjo, Director
District Department of Transportation
55 M St SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

July 14, 2017

Re: Mini-Park at 36th Street and Reno Road

Dear Director Dormsjo-

On June 20, ANC 3F adopted a resolution (attached) requesting DDOT investigate the possibility and implications of closing the length of 36th St NW between Reno Road NW and Warren Street NW to create a mini-park in conjunction with an adjacent parcel of National Park Service land. Such a mini-park would directly support the District's Comprehensive Plan goals to "preserve and enhance parks and open spaces within the District of Columbia" and "encourage the use of landscaping to beautify the city, enhance streets and public spaces, reduce stormwater runoff, and create a greater sense of character and identity."

I therefore ask you to direct your staff to study the traffic, safety, and environmental feasibility of this proposal, in conjunction with other relevant agencies and the National Park Service, and report initial findings to the ANC by September 19, 2017.

When conducting this study, we specifically ask that you assess and report on:

- the traffic and pedestrian safety implications on the surrounding streets, including Reno, Van Ness, Windom, Warren, Yuma, and 36th;
- safety data from the nearby intersections, including the crosswalk at 36th and Reno;
- ADA and Safe Routes to School standards and guidelines that might apply; and
- any environmental impacts (positive and negative) that the removal of impervious pavement at this location would have.

Please feel free to have your staff contact me directly with any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Malachy Nugent
Chair, ANC 3F

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RESOLUTION REGARDING A MINI-PARK AT 36TH ST AND RENO RD NW

June 20, 2017

WHEREAS, ANC 3F supports and wholeheartedly embraces the District’s stated goals to “preserve and enhance parks and open spaces within the District of Columbia”¹ and “encourage the use of landscaping to beautify the city, enhance streets and public spaces, reduce stormwater runoff, and create a greater sense of character and identity;”² and

WHEREAS, the creation of mini-parks across the city – small parks accessible to the public on irregular pieces of land, such as those created by the intersection of grid and non-grid streets – has successfully turned unused land into public spaces that enhance the beauty, character, and environmental quality of District neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of 36th St NW, Warren St NW, and Reno Rd NW creates such an irregular piece of land (see map below), which is owned by the National Park Service (NPS);

WHEREAS, the section of 36th St bordering this land on the east is owned by the District and managed by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), with no homes or businesses directly adjacent; and

WHEREAS, closing the District-owned stretch of 36th St between Reno Rd and Warren St, replacing the current impermeable surface with natural landscaping, and connecting it to the existing NPS-owned piece of land, would

- a) create a new ADA-accessible “mini-park” of roughly 12,300 sq. ft. that could feature benches, public art, landscaping, and/or other amenities;
- b) eliminate 1,300 sq. ft. of impermeable surface and reduce accordingly the volume of stormwater and pollutants running into Soapstone Creek and Melvin Hazen Creek;
- c) reduce vehicle speed and increase safety along 36th St north of Warren St without reducing vehicle access; and

WHEREAS, the District could name a mini-park at 36th and Reno to honor a prominent historical District resident, and could partner with nearby institutions (embassies, University of the District of Columbia) to design and care for the park;

