

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 – William Sittig
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek, Vice Chair



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Public Meeting – April 17, 2018
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 17, 2018 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.

Commissioners Present: Dickinson
Molod
Adelstein
Rutenberg
Sittig

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the Consent agenda.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the modified regular agenda.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the grant application from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	5-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the modified grant application from the Rock Creek Conservancy	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the resolution to support extending the time of the prior BZA order regarding Sidwell School.	5-0-0	

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding the pending legislation about leafblowers	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the amended resolution regarding LED streetlights.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Adelstein made a motion to approve the ANC3F Quarterly Financial Report	5-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn	5-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:32 pm
Adjournment: 9:45 pm

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Consent and Regular Agendas

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the Consent agenda that includes approval of the resolution in support of the NEAR Act. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the modified regular agenda. Modifications were the removal of the discussion of the R-squared property, and the removal of the approval of past meeting minutes. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

2. Commissioner Updates

Sittig: This past Saturday there were Earth Day events sponsored by Rock Creek Conservancy. There were four projects, Commissioners Sittig and Rutenberg led two of them. They collected 32 bags of garbage at the Windom St. NW entrance to Soapstone Valley.

Rutenberg: There was a cleanup on 4/14, at the Albemarle trailhead. Thanks to participants.

Adelstein: none

Molod: none

Dickinson:

1. Trash Free DC this Saturday – 4/21 (Earth Day is 4/22). 10 am to Noon at Forest Hills playground – will be picking up litter, clearing invasive ivy, sweeping sand and raking leaves, etc at the playground. DPW will be there, thanks to Erich Crabe Realtor Group for the coffee = see foresthillsplayground@gmail.com
2. Similar effort at Hearst Park on Saturday – see Neighbors of Hearst Park

3. 4250 Conn Ave Update – Dickinson has wrote a letter in individual capacity supporting community engagement and initial design plans. Bernstein still hopes to file its updated modifications/application re the existing PUD soon followed by a community meeting and subsequent ANC3F consideration for a resolution in support.
4. Hearst Park Community Meeting (April 5), next steps
 - a. A Stormwater Management (SWM) Plan and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (where required) will be performed as part of the permitting process for the DPR projects and it is voluntary in the DDOT ROW. These plans are reviewed and eventually approved by DOEE as DCRA requires a Stormwater Management Plan and Erosion and Control Plan. Once these plans are approved, DPR can share them as public documents. DPR does not share them as final documents before they have been approved as there may be revisions required. Wiles Mensch will prepare the Park SWM documents.
 - b. A series of emails re environmental impact assessments, summer process, hiring contractor
 - c. Walkway lights, maintenance
5. Whittle School and Studios – community meeting (April 9 – see Forest Hills Connection article for summary. There will be a voluntary MOU – April 20
6. Public housing – vouchers, local incident. ANC3C holding a meeting tomorrow night 4/18 at Maret School.
7. Presentation on the DC Housing Choice Voucher Program and its Implementation in Cleveland Park (Presenters include the Department of Human Services; DC Housing Authority; Jane Lewis and Tony Towns representing the DC Office of the Attorney General, Public Advocacy Division; Carissa Barry, President, Daro Management Services; and the DC MPD, Second District.

3. Committee Reports

Parks and Trails (Rutenberg): The committee did not meet this month, as it conflicted with the Whittle School meeting. Will meet on May 14, where there will be a presentation on the Van Ness streetscape project. Commissioner Dickinson requests to have discussion of the Idaho Ave right of way.

Streets and Sidewalks (Sittig): The committee didn't meet this month, will meet in May. Still working with DDOT on following the 311 repairs.

Grants (Molod): Two grant applications will be voted on during the meeting.

4. Community Open Forum

Juanita Grey, UDC:

- a) Jazz ensemble concert on April 30, 8PM. It includes the UDC, UMD, Howard jazz ensembles.
- b) UDC is hosting embassy tours on Saturday May 5 - gather at the student center. Tour includes embassies of Cameroon, Kosovo, Panama, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Rwanda.

Ian Maggerd, Office of the Mayor:

- a) In honor of Earth week the Mayor announced the start of a new solar project at HD Woodson High School, that will be one of the largest municipal solar projects. It will be one of 50 government buildings that have a total of 670 Kw of solar
- b) Tomorrow there will be presentations of DC sustainability awards
- c) On Saturday there will be cleanups. Also teaming up with Forest Hills Park for trash cleanup, and also promoting trash pickup anywhere
- d) Last week kicked off the Pothole Palooza campaign. During the campaign there is a shorter response time for 311 calls
- e) Pave DC plan was announced – the idea is to eliminate bad roads by 2024.
ddot.dc.gov/pavedc

Q from Commissioner Dickinson: The metal detectors at Wilson High School were funded but not installed. Can you look into it? A (Mike Porcello, Office of CM Cheh): Money was allocated to DGS but needs to get to the school, they are still trying to get the funds transferred from DGS

Theresa Cameron, VNMS:

- a) Sat at 1 PM in the VNMS office they are hosting the public artists selected to do the wayfinding project. 4340 Connecticut Ave NW.
- b) Jazz at Van Ness, April 26, Allison Crockett at Tesoro
- c) They are partnering with cultural tourism dc on embassy tours.
- d) The farmers market will open on May 5. There will be a raffle to win various prizes, and there are new things at the market
- e) Every day you can see the Clean Team cleaning streets, they wear lime green vests. Funding was obtained with the help of CM Cheh.
- f) On June 23 there will be a fundraiser for VNMS at Park Van Ness. There will be wine and cheese, music.

Greyson Mann, Sarah Scott, from the Whittle School:

Are here to say hello and tell the community that they are opening Whittle School in fall of 2019. Want to say thank you for the welcome to the community.

Q (Commissioner Adelstein): What is best way to communicate questions to you? A: sscott@whittleschool.org gmann@whittleschool.org

Commissioner Dickinson: There are thank-you notes from the Whittle School to the commissioners for hosting the community meeting.

Tracy Johnke, Resident of the Essex and member of Friends of Forest Hills playground:

There is a big cleanup at the park, 10A-noon, this Saturday April 21. There is lots of trash. RCC is helping to organize, and the Office of the Mayor adopted the cleanup as part of the Mayor's citywide cleanup. This is also an English ivy cleanup. Soapstone market is donating snacks, and the Eric K Realtor team is supplying coffee.

Jamal Jordan, Public affairs representative for PEPCO/Exelon, and Raja Samudrala, PEPCO ambassador:

Here to talk about PEPCO/Exelon activity in the community

Commissioner Dickinson: What is the status of the undergrounding project, in particular the line near Sidwell School and 36th St. NW? A: Please send email and we will send the projected timelines

Q: What is current law on RPC standards? A: not sure

5. Presentation from Lucinda Babers of DMV

For the last year DMV has been working on and has recently completed and rolled out the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. There were five major goals that include items ranging from the Mayor's priorities down to items like employees performance review. There will be a townhall meeting soon at Georgetown University. The Strategic plan is available on the DMV on web site.

Some important items:

- a) DMV introduced a gender neutral identifier
- b) As of Jan 2018 they put vehicle recall info on inspection report
- c) Real ID was rolled out on May 21, 2014. The rules say that they have to request certain identification documents. Look at the website to see acceptable documents. DMV also needs proof of residence, again only certain documents are accepted. See the web site or call 311. As of October 1, 2020, everyone will need the new credential. They are currently at 67% compliance with Real ID.

Commissioner Sittig: Thank you for the efforts to improve customer service

Commissioner Dickinson: Manufacturer recalls are part of the inspection check, so why are they not required before passing? A: It is a matter of state rights. There are no federally mandated recalls. Commissioner Dickinson: There are federally mandated recalls. DC can require the recalls for inspection and has refused. Also DC recently got rid of safety inspections, they have not been proven to do anything to help safety.

Q from public: As to Real ID, is there any way for undocumented immigrants to get it? A: DMV has also rolled out a document for anyone without a SSN. So far they have issued almost 5000 of these, but it says "not a federal credential" on it, so cannot be used to fly, etc...

6. ANC3F Grant Applications

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the grant application from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for \$795 to purchase and install trail signs. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

Commissioner Molod made a motion to approve the modified grant application from the Rock Creek Conservancy for \$1500 to pay part of the salary for a summer student to water the new plantings. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

7. Sidwell School Update

Kate Lindsey, Assistant Head of School and CFO

Commissioner Dickinson: Sidwell School has engaged with the community about their plans. As of now they bought the Washington Home, and want to move the Lower School to that location.

Lindsey: Three years ago representatives of Sidwell began negotiations with a neighborhood committee about the desire to reunify their campus by bringing the Lower School (now in Bethesda) together with the present DC location. This came about because Fannie Mae said they were going to put their property on the market. It turned out that the Fannie Mae property was too expensive, then they found out that the Post Office building might be available, but subsequently found out that it won't be. Then the Washington Home said they were talking about moving. Sidwell and the Washington Home then came to an agreement on price and timing, and Sidwell bought the property in December of 2016. Sidwell wanted to repurpose the property and began making a strategic plan. The development of the plan is still ongoing, will finish in fall of 2018. They are also still evaluating which buildings will house which ages of students. They did a comprehensive traffic management plan in collaboration with neighborhood residents. The school must take some steps to move forward. They agreed with what the neighbors asked. At the time they got a unanimous vote from ANC3F and subsequently from the zoning board to move ahead. They need fundraising to proceed at this point. The zoning order lasted until April 1, and they went back to get a two-year extension to give the time to get the finances in order.

Sidwell School is therefore asking for support from ANC3F for 2 year extension of their prior BZA order

Commissioner Dickinson: We have spoken about the Fannie Mae property development and also the development at 4000 Wisconsin Ave NW, both across the street. In addition, Hearst Park is on the back side of Sidwell. There are traffic concerns for all this development at once. The resolution therefore also recommends to DDOT to have a more uniform comprehensive approach to traffic in this area.

Commissioner Dickinson: What is occupancy of the Washington Home at present? A: The hospice is still there. Sidwell wants to move some offices into the building. They are also considering asking the hospice to stay, and add an end of life care to the curriculum of the school. This was done at the Harley School in Rochester, NY with a hospice nearby.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve resolution to extend the time of the prior BZA order by two years. The motion was approved with 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

8. Resolution regarding DC Council Bill about regulation of leafblowers

Dick "Griff" Johnson was here last month to discuss leafblowers and other motorized lawn care in DC that pose nuisance concerns for residents based on noise and air pollution. ANC3F heard about the desire for electric leafblowers, but probed and found that not all electric leafblowers are equal.

In addition, Commissioner Dickinson made it clear that local ordinances banning leafblowers based on pollution levels are illegal under the Clean Air Act. However, rules based on noise are allowed.

CM Cheh and other members of the DC Council are supporting the Bill banning gas leafblowers from a year or two ago, and the vote may come in June.

It was suggested that ANC3F make recommendations about how to fine tune a Bill rather than approve a specific one. ANC3F commissioners believe that it should be a performance standard not a design standard, and that any Bill should consider the equity/affordability issues.

Questions/Discussion about the current phrasing of the resolution:

Commissioner Sittig: We are providing speaking points to the Council that are all good. From the community there is feeling in favor of changing to quieter leafblowers.

Commissioner Rutenberg: We should ask for amendments to the Bill based on our recommendations.

Griff Johnson on behalf of Quiet Clean DC: OSHA says there should be an 85 db noise standard for the workplace, but current science is pushing towards considering the frequency and how far out the noise impacts.

Commissioner Rutenberg: What we are asking for in the current resolution is opaque.

A (Dickinson): We want to recommend that legislation be based on noise level and that it consider equity issues.

Johnson: Current rules are for 70 db at 50 feet, but they are hard to enforce. It is easier to enforce a “no gas blower” law.

Commissioner Rutenberg: The Council could pass this Bill, but all owners of leafblowers could move to corded electric and it would do nothing about noise.

Commissioner Dickinson: The law can't use a design-based standard – it will be seen as a ban on high emissions.

Commissioner Adelstein: Have other places with local ordinances against gas had issues with legislation? A (Dickinson): One place in Texas, and it is still in litigation

Commissioner Dickinson: Will amend first operative clause to say we want performance based standards not design based ones, also that they define good enforcement metrics. Will leave leave 3rd and 4th operative clauses as is.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution with recommendations to the Council regarding leafblower legislation as amended. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

9. LED Streetlights

Dolores Bushong, DC Streetlight Taskforce: (slides from a presentation on ANC3F issue page)

There is a Request for Proposals (RFP) coming out at end of this month related to converting to Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lights from High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. HPS is what is out there today. LED lights have harmful blue light that has more glare and reduces melatonin.

There are LED streetlights with high Kelvin rating that are harmful, but those with a lower Kelvin rating are better. The AMA recommends 3000 Kelvin or below, and the DC Streetlight taskforce is advocating for 2700 Kelvin lights rather than the 4000 K ones currently in use.

The higher lumens rating bulbs are considered acceptable for brighter street lighting, but the taskforce wants lower Kelvin bulbs. In addition, the higher lumens bulbs are dimmable under certain conditions. At some point DDOT was saying that 2700 Kelvin lights were not available, but the taskforce has evidence that they are. We recognize that it will cost some money to remove the 4000 kelvin bulbs and replace them with 2700 ones.

The taskforce has been meeting with the director of DDOT to discuss this, and have discussed the health concerns. We have also collected resolutions, and advocated that civic associations pass them. There seems to be agreement from DDOT, but there is nothing in writing. We want it to be put into upcoming RFP. In addition, also CM Cheh spoke about the community desire not to have 4000 Kelvin lights.

Q (Commissioner Molod): Who is issuing the RFP? A: DDOT and OP3 are issuing the RFP. They had issued an RFQ and reduced the RFP to 3 vendors. Q: What is the Kelvin measuring? A: glare (blue light....), the lower Kelvin has thicker coating. They need more energy to get the same light. Q: What is the additional cost? A: No difference in cost of bulbs, 5% additional energy cost (still half of HPS).

Q (Commissioner Dickinson): I was under the impression that you are here to educate us, I didn't realize you were asking for a resolution from us. I didn't see an example of a resolution from another ANC. A (Bushong): I did send a copy of an example resolution.

Commissioner Rutenberg: The ANC4A resolution language (June 9, 2017) was read into the record; it says that DDOT should use 2700 Kelvin bulbs. We adapt the language and add to the language of our resolution that we want DDOT's RFP to specifically call out 2700 kelvins or lower.

Q from public: We need bright enough lights to keep drivers awake. A: HPS lights have 1900 kelvins or so, and that is enough to keep people alert.

Commissioner Dickinson: With regard to ambient light into bedrooms, will there be directional shielding? A: We want "full cutoff" lights that can only send light down.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding LED streetlights as amended. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions (5-0-0).

10. Other Business

- a) Commissioner Adelstein made a motion to approve the ANC3F Quarterly Financial Report. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

- b) Treasurers report: Received \$4.01 in interest, spent \$1495.32 excluding grants. \$90457.13 is the current balance.

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