

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 – June 18, 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, June 18, 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
Rutenberg

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the modified regular agenda.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion that we voice objection to the Public Space application at 3564 Alton Pl. NW	4-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adopt the modified resolution regarding bike lanes	4-0-0	
Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to adjourn.	4-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:35 PM
Adjournment: 10:39 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 modification of Item 6 of the to refer to the closing of the comment period as August 2 (not August 8).

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

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Frelinghuysen:

1. Representatives from the Uptown Market will be presenting later – they have applied for Class B and C liquor license.
2. Forest Hills Playground has a non-profit board – they are looking for volunteers. Details are in an article in the Forest Hills Connection.

Commissioner Nemeth:

1. Walkthrough of SMD conducted with Rich Harrington, Ward 3 Liaison of Mayor's office.
2. The sink hole on Everett St. is still on schedule for June completion

Commissioner Rutenberg: none

Commissioner Dickinson:

1. There is sinking ground next to the Yuma St tennis courts.
2. Sidwell is occupying the Washington Home location. There will be another community meeting next Monday June 24 at 6:30 PM at Sidwell in the Rush room of Pearson Athletic center. There will be two more meetings in July - 8 and 16, another in the fall.
3. DGS and DPR are moving ahead on the Hearst Park project. The playground/soccer field is phase 1, the pool is phase 2.

Commissioner Kuebler:

1. Tilden Gardens residents are talking about Whittle School construction, need better communication.
2. Walkthrough of SMD conducted with Rich Harrington, Ward 3 Liaison of Mayor's office.
3. Veazey Terrace (related to the sidewalk) issues are still ongoing.
4. PEPCO did after hours construction on June 1, and a resident reported that it was too loud to sleep. This took place all night Saturday and Sunday. In response to a query, PEPCO identified a transformer that was going to blow so it was an emergency. PEPCO has a community liaison, and they could have notified the community better.

Commissioner Molod:

1. Walkthrough of SMD conducted with Rich Harrington, Ward 3 Liaison of Mayor's office.

3. Committee Reports

Grants (Molod): Regarding the VNMS sculptures project- Whittle School is paying for the first installation, and fundraising for the second project is in progress. ANC3F funds will match the funding raised for the second and third installation. (Cherrie Lester, the Interim Director of VNMS, reports that VNMS agrees with this approach.)

Streets and Sidewalks (Kuebler): The last was a short meeting, and they are still talking about the same issues – they need help from the Mayor’s Office and the Office of CM Cheh to move the Connecticut Ave study forward. There needs to be a process for community engagement.

Parks and Trails (Rutenberg): The Soapstone Valley EA was published, and will be talked about later on the meeting agenda.

4. Community Open Forum

David Luria, the President of the Brandywine Residents Association, wants to bring up the issue of voucher tenants. The Sedgewick had issues with one resident that resulted in the involvement of MPD. Now that person is back in jail, but the issue is related to the voucher program. The City is not putting in enough support services for people who need them. The residents of the Brandywine are concerned, so are residents of Sedgewick, and Van Ness. What can the DC government do/provide? There is a meeting with the management company (Daro) tomorrow. There is a question about whether this is happening elsewhere?

Commissioner Dickinson: The Sedgewick in his SMD and he is familiar with the issues. There is going to be a further attempt at screening, but the voucher tenants are still in need of services.

David Bardin. Would like to mention another opportunity the Whittle School is considering. They are thinking about planting shade trees in the large bricked area. It is now a historic landmark in DC, so they may need some understanding to be reached with HPRB to allow them to do this. He asks the ANC to keep an eye on this, and suggests that this would be a good time to do it. If it is done this year, Casey would bear the cost of the trees.

Steven Marencic with OPC, the DC consumer advocate for utilities, and now also DC Water. Wants to let the community know that they can call OPC with issues related to PEPCO, DC Water. He gave out pamphlets about how to go solar in DC, about third party suppliers of electricity (lots are misleading). He also wanted to tell us about a current PEPCO-related scam: People are calling residents, saying they must pay their electric bill, and that a truck is on its way to disconnect their electricity. They are using a technique called spoofing, as it looks like they are calling from a PEPCO number.

Dr. Mindy Reiser – wants to tell the ANC that someone wrote on the bench in the WMATA bus shelter near the Italian Pizza Kitchen, and that someone should clean it up.

5. Soapstone Valley Project Environmental Assessment Report

Commissioner Rutenberg presented an overview and provided information about the EA and the community opportunities to comment. The ANC3F Parks and Trails committee will draft a letter/resolution, and spoke about this at their last meeting. The committee will bring recommendations to the full commission in July.

Notes from Alex Sanders, chair of the P&T committee: On June 24 the EA was released. The DC Water/NPS goals are to replace/repair the aging 18" pipes, improve the structural integrity, reduce the chance for overflow, and meet other requirements. The EA identifies the potential environmental impact and is NOT a design document. That one will come later.

The EA includes the impact of two alternatives (it must): 1) do nothing, 2) trenchless alternative (this one recommended). The pumping stations option has been dismissed. Construction will

take between 18-24 months. This means lining pipes with a new liner, which will be cured in place.

The impacts: Removal of 371 trees and the trimming of 74. They need access because the lining will be done in pieces and equipment access paths are needed. The work will also will modify stream beds/water route. The park will be closed for the full 18-24 months, and there is the potential for some locations to be closed for an additional 2 years.

The public can submit comments through the PEPC website of NPS. The public is also welcome to attend the P&T meeting on July 8 at 7PM at Forest Hills of DC. A representative from DC Water will be at the July meeting.

Commissioner Rutenberg – We need to distinguish between issues related to the EA (the scope of which is limited) and other concerns about impacts outside the scope of the EA that need to be addressed separately. We need a process to address these other concerns.

From public - lives in Van Ness East. They are having a meeting the night of the scheduled meeting about the EA. They will want to engage on the EA and on other issues not addressed in the EA.

Commissioner Dickinson: We will keep all the documents posted on anc3f.com. The P&T committee will also collect documents, and post them to issues page.

David Bardin – The EA meeting on June 26 at Forest Hills of DC will be in three parts. 1) Open house, where DC Water will have posters and the public can ask questions. There will be no record of this, it will just be informational. 2) Presentation by the DC Water engineer - Louis Arguello will show slides. 3) Q&A. The slides and posters will be made available after the meeting – the public should get hold of them. There is no plan to record the Q&A. Perhaps ANC3F can record this? There is a hard stop time on the meeting at 8PM because of their arrangement with FH of DC. Perhaps the ANC could intervene on this as well?

Pat Casdan - lives in PVN. He is looking at the trees planned for removal, most behind PVN and Park Connecticut. He says that living there during the work will be impossible and that they won't be able to rent those apartments. Many other alternatives that were dismissed should be reconsidered. As regards to the noise during the construction, this should be raised at public meeting.

Kate Dell – A member of the P&T committee. They were aware of another alternative that was dismissed, that of pumping stations. The trenchless choice is the least invasive choice. Appendix C of the EA deals with the mitigation of impacts on residents.

[Commissioner Kuebler had to leave the meeting]

6. Uptown Market Liquor License

Francis McDonald and Adam Leichtner (managing partner) came to the ANC and showed slides.

The owners have stores in two locations in Bethesda - Pesca Deli (there for 30 years), and Butcher's Alley (there for 4 years). They asked the ANC to please ignore the license request for hours from 7AM to 3AM, as the Settlement Agreement has much reduced hours. The idea of the Uptown Market is to have a local feel, with a butcher, fishmonger, deli, and coffee shop. The Market will also have prepared food and groceries, and local craft beer/wines/cocktails. They will have a farm to table program for dining. There will be seating for 100 inside and outside, the 60 inside using a community table, 40 outside. They anticipate the Market as a hang out place with free wifi. On the retail side they will be selling wine/beer/specialty liquors.

The SA calls for selling beverages 11AM-11PM and for grocery sales during the same hours. The present plan is to close the Market at 9PM. There will be no happy hours. They are seeking a Class B retail license, valid 8AM-9PM, and a Class C restaurant license, valid 8AM-11PM. They also applied for a stipulated license to sell before the full application, but may not need it.

Q (Commissioner Molod): Will there be hours of liquor service with no food service? A: No, the SA calls for both to have the same hours.

Q (Commissioner Dickinson): Is it ok to adopt the SA on July 16, is that timeline ok? A: Yes, the placard is for an opening on Aug 14, asking for stipulated to begin service on Aug 1 (may be 15th).

From public: Where will there be parking? Are there plans for bike racks to encourage people to use alternative transportation? Also - will there be a place for strollers? Maybe we can ask the ANC to use these things as leverage for supporting a stipulated license? A: We have more room than needed for the outdoor café and could easily make room for strollers. Not sure about the regulations on bike racks. They will also be pet friendly where health department allows. Q: How will people get there? Bethesda is different from this space. A: People will arrive like they did for Soapstone Market - on street parking, some will park in the building below.

From public: This is a high density area, and there are also college students - what is going to be done about monitoring sound? In particular, how will you monitor sound later at night? A: The SA calls for compliance with the DC sound ordinance. There will be a manager there to keep noise reasonable. Also, all servers are TIPS trained (To ImProve Service), we don't want noise and litter out there.

Commissioner Dickinson: What about public space permits? A: The landlord has the permits.

7. Eaton School Swing Space

Tussant Webster from DCPS (standing in for Oni Hinton) and Patrick Maloney from DGS came to speak to the ANC about the plans for the Eaton School swing space. Information can be found at: <https://bit.ly/dcpsmods-eaton>

The plan is to refurbish UDC's swing space. They will have 480 students (Murch School had 100 more), so the swing space will have smaller footprint than the Murch space. They are calling it Eaton Cottages, but the space is trailers and decking. They will be there until late spring/summer of 2021. They are starting to build now, due for occupancy this fall (2019). They will be ready by late July 2019. They have hired school buses to take students from the Eaton

neighborhood to UDC. DCPS and UDC have to come together to draft an MOU. It is almost done. In the next few weeks they will remove the current Murch-related structures. The white structures are multi-purpose bubbles, and will be moved around. Construction will take place from 7AM-7PM weekdays and Saturdays, and as needed they will request after hours permits. There was a mention of parking along Yuma/Reno streets - Oni Hinton asked for a clarification of what is needed there. There will also be a safe routes to school walk. This is how to drop all/walk safely.

Commissioner Dickinson: Welcome to the community. Our commission has looked into the DC school overcrowding issue, and has experience with other DCPS school construction projects in our ANC (Hearst, Murch...). We have to overcome local opposition to building bigger schools at time of renovation.

As to the parking on 36th St. NW between Reno and Yuma – These are highly underutilized parking meters. DCPS should get drop-offs and teachers to park there. They should consult with DDOT on how to incentivize this. This would mitigate traffic on Reno Rd. NW and in residential neighborhoods. Perhaps they should try to get the meters covered or removed. This could also perhaps help with safe routes. They should also look into DCPS crossing guards there.

[Commissioner Frelinghuysen had to leave the meeting]

8. 3564 Alton Pl. NW

Commissioner Nemeth: Michael Cross and Tory Gundrun from Michael Cross Designs are the architects representing the owner.

Cross: The location is on Alton St. NW just east of the 36th St. intersection. They submitted a public space application to repair an existing curb cut and add an additional one. This application will be heard at this month's public space hearing. Because they are doing construction on both homes on the site at once, DDOT wants there to be one curb cut with shared access to the two homes. They owners want two curb cuts. They can keep more trees on the property with two cuts and are concerned about safety if there is only one.

Commissioner Nemeth: Right now there is one lot, and one home. A raze application been filed, and a new public space application was filed yesterday. Are you subdividing the lot? Has it been subdivided already? A: We are in the final phase of it – the subdivision has been approved by all agencies.

Commissioner Molod: The subdivision was by right? A: yes

Commissioner Rutenberg: Why is DDOT saying they want you to do one cut? Can you tell us more about the tree? What is the impervious area for a combined vs a single cut? A: The tree is a Scots pine, it will have to be removed. DDOT's rationale is that there is provision saying that when two properties are developed at the same time there should be a shared curb cut. As to the perviousness, the total is close, but there is a little more pavement with two cuts. We often recommend pervious pavers to the owners, and will do so now.

From member of public who lives next door: I understood that there was not enough distance along the street for two houses. A: The regulation on this is nuanced. The width of the subdivision is within the rules if it is measured along the street facing the side of building. It has been approved.

From public: I hope the ANC considers as their policy not to add curb cuts.

From public: They should not have curb cuts for pedestrian safety A: it is pedestrian safety that is of concern with a single curb cut.

From public (next door neighbor): At present the main issue is with the swimming pool. It is a health hazard due to the standing water. A: We are getting rid of the pool. Q: What about until then? A: Will pass the message on to owners. Q: The owner should be willing to drain pool and treat for mosquitoes.

The public space hearing is next Thursday the 27th of June.

Commissioner Nemeth recommends that we do not support the request for two curb cuts, and support a plan with one curb cut.

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion that we voice objection to the public space application based on the grounds we spoke about. The motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 opposed (4-0-0).

9. Resolution Regarding the plans for Bike Lanes on Reno Rd. NW

Commissioner Dickinson gave some background on the issue and the resolution:

Representatives from DDOT came to the last ANC meeting to speak about Vision Zero. The specifics of the current plan relate to the section of Reno Rd. NW between Tilden and Van Ness Sts NW. Local residents (Chuck Ludlam and others) made it clear that it was a priority for them to be able to turn right from Reno Rd. NW to Upton St. NW.

The main issue of contention is the length of the left turn pocket, and the length of the bike share section. The plan for the northbound lanes is one car lane and one bike lane next to it. The problem is that if there is only one car lane (now there are two), left turns into driveways will block traffic. The current solution is to have a dotted line so cars can enter the bike lane to get around cars waiting to turn left. The same issue exists for cars wanting to turn left onto Tilden St. NW.

The text of the proposed resolution acknowledges Vision Zero. It also recognizes the need of residents to get into their driveways (DC law says it is legal to turn across a double line to turn into a driveway). The text of the resolution says that DDOT should look into the possibility of a left turn pocket for northbound lanes. This would come at the expense of shortening the left turn lane for southbound lanes on Reno Rd. onto Tilden St NW. We also ask DDOT to extend the green light to avoid the backup with a shorter left turn lane. This timing should be done during the morning and evening rush.

The proposed resolution also authorizes Commissioner Dickinson to speak on behalf of ANC3F on this issue.

Commissioner Rutenberg: Is the plan to just add a bike lane for this small section of Reno Rd.? Rhere are already bike lanes elsewhere on Reno. A (Commissioner Dickinson): The idea is for the bike lanes to continue beyond Reno Rd. and Van Ness onto 36th St. There are also plans to continue the bike lanes toward the south. And there is also a plan for 36th St. to have a contraflow bike lane. The idea is that this piece will connect to other segments.

Commissioner Nemeth: 36th St. and Reno Rd. is a dangerous intersection. Proposing a friendly amendment to the resolution adding a clause recommending adding some poles to get cars to slow down to make the turn.

From public (local resident): Please explain the issue of access to driveways. A (Commissioner Dickinson): Explained the language in the resolution. The resident lives in one of the houses with the driveways in question and thinks this is reasonable plan. Proposes that islands in other areas of Reno Rd. would be good also.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to pass the resolution as amended to add a clause to look at putting in plastic pylons on 36th St. Motion was approved with 4 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (4-0-0). 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).