

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

3F01 – David Cristeal
 3F02 – Carolinn Kuebler, Vice Chair
 3F03 – Naomi Rutenberg, Treasurer
 3F04 – Leah Frelinghuysen
 3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary
 3F06 – Monika Nemeth, Chair
 3F07 – Vacant



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Public Meeting – October 20, 2020
 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 over the internet at <https://zoom.us/j/94415242622?pwd=VDJHZ0pFekZ2VzFXejUyK1pqVjdYUT09> Meeting number: 944 1524 2622 Password: 7F2DQV. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public. Copies of resolutions approved are available at www.anc3f.com.

Commissioners Present: Molod
 Nemeth
 Kuebler
 Rutenberg
 Cristeal
 Frelinghuysen

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to approve the regular agenda and the consent agenda.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Cristeal made a motion to request an additional 30 days for public review and comment on the Broad Branch Environmental Assessment document	6-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to authorize Commissioners Cristeal and Rutenberg to speak on behalf of ANC3F regarding the Broad Branch Environmental Assessment.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Cristeal made a motion to support the resolution regarding DC's Comprehensive Plan update.	3-0-3	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to support the resolution regarding rent control.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to table the renaming of Melvin Hazen Trail until the November meeting.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the FY2021 budget.	6-0-0	

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the FY20 Q4 Quarterly Report, knowing that totals will be corrected (receipts and disbursements are correct).	6-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made a motion to adjourn.	6-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:34 PM
Adjournment: 11:11 PM

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Regular Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to approve the regular agenda and the consent agenda, which includes the approval of June, July and September 2020 Meeting Minutes and the 2717 Chesapeake Street Curb Cut. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

2. Commissioner Updates and Announcements

Commissioner Molod: Ongoing noise issues at the Essex and potential drug trafficking issues on Nebraska Ave NW.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen: None

Commissioner Cristeal: Hearst Park construction is ongoing. They are pumping water from the spring. Sign still says completed Spring 2020.

Commissioner Kuebler: Followed up with the Comprehensive Plan related to Howard University's use of the land. They asked for high density and construction has been reported there.

Commissioner Rutenberg: Wants to draw attention to the draft Environmental Assessment for Broad Branch that has been released. There is only a 30-day comment period.

www.broadbranchrdea.com. Since the document is from DDOT, any action that ANC3F takes unanimously would have great weight with them. Commissioner Cristeal made a motion to request additional 30 days for public review. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0). Commissioner Rutenberg will send an email telling of our motion. [Commissioner Molod said it turns out that USDOT and FHA set the comment period not DDOT, so DDOT cannot change it. Commissioner Molod made a motion to authorize Commissioners Cristeal and Rutenberg to speak on behalf of ANC3F regarding the Broad Branch EA. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).]

Commissioner Nemeth: The UDC Gymnasium is our local voting precinct. Additionally, said that ANC3F would not take any action on the current group of ABRA renewals and will let the process go without comment.

3. Committee Reports

Streets and Sidewalks (Deyling): The committee will be able to help commissioners draft comments on the Broad Branch Environmental Assessment (EA). They want to ask DDOT to make the Slow Streets signage better. They will meet with DDOT to talk about needed sidewalks. [Note from Commissioner Rutenberg they should coordinate with ANC3/4G who are also interested.]

Parks and Trails (Cristeal): Erica Rosenberg is not here. There is lots of energy about local trails.

Question from public: They noticed that the area of the Rock Creek Conservancy work near Broad Branch/Linnean has been taken over by invasives. A: DDOT and DPW are in charge of maintaining it and it has been a fight to get them to take care of areas. From Marlene Berlin: Linnean and Broad Branch streams are daylighted. Last year DDOT did Broad Branch and this year the focus was on Linnean. The project manager hopes to have some funds for the Broad Branch cleanup this fiscal year. The maintenance will always be an issue with DC government. The Parks & Trails committee and ANC3F could try to get them to commit to regular maintenance. Question from public: What about the little park at Connecticut and Tilden? Now it says it is closed due to the hazard of a large tree falling. Will the park reopen? A from Commissioner Cristeal: They are working with local residents to get a note about the trees. There is a discussion about who owns or is responsible, the Whittle School perhaps or the State Department. Question from Commissioner Kuebler: What about the Soapstone rehabilitation? A: They have not posted a plan yet and are in the tender process.

Housing and Neighborhoods (Hofmann): The committee met on October 12 and spoke about two relevant hearings coming up in Council; one on rent control and one on the Comprehensive Plan. Two resolutions were assembled and are proposed tonight. There are now 9 members and they can split the committee into subgroups and will continue to work that way. They need input on education and are also working in security and wellness. They used to call this "vetting." [James Tandoric said he works as a teacher and can help with education issues].

Grants (Molod): None.

4. Community Forum

Juanita Gray from UDC: Community Task Force meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5th at 7:30pm. Will send agenda when it is ready.

Gloria Garcia from Van Ness Main Street:

- i. Wants everyone to be aware of the Spring Forward campaign going on now through November 8th. They are planting 1000 bulbs in 61 tree boxes led by our Master Gardener, Kathy Sykes and volunteers. You can donate on www.vannessmainstreet.org and volunteer to do socially distanced planting by emailing info@vannessmainstreet.org.
- ii. They are also planning the 5th Annual Virtual Holiday PopUp and more information to come.
- iii. Businesses are still struggling so please keep buying and gifting locally.

5. Update from MPD on Recent Violent Crime – Commander Duncan Bedlion

Commander Duncan Bedlion of MPD's Second District came to the ANC to speak about and address questions related to the recent number of violent crime incidents in or near our ANC.

On Sunday October 4th at 11:30pm an incident occurred at the 4300 block of 40th Street NW. The call came on Monday October 5th to 911 saying they heard a gunshot. They saw a victim near there with a gunshot wound. The victim saw two males approaching him, he ran away, and was wounded. Two hours later they got another call from the 4900 block of Connecticut Avenue NW about gunshots. A person died at the Shell station at 4940 Conn. Ave NW and was identified as Alexander Nwogu, a recent college graduate from Blacksburg, Virginia.

Question are the two incidents related? A: They know this - both incidents were perpetrated by two African American males, about 20, and one of them was armed. The case is progressing

well and detectives are working on it. There is a high case solution rate in DC. They will announce when they know if they are related, and if there is an arrest. Call MPD with any info at 202-727-9099 and or text 50411.

MPD is saturating the area with a strong visible police presence. They are using bicycles, Segway scooters, and a light tower in Muhlenberg Park. The crime suppression team was deployed, e.g., to read license plates in the region. They had a description of a white car, so the team is stopping white cars with unmatched plates. They are also doing an informational blitz with local businesses. They provide information about how to get cameras and illuminate businesses. They encourage people to make use of the mayor's camera program (Office of Victim Services).

They come to the ANC to ask us to help them since we know the area. We are mostly in PSA 203 where Lashawn Alexander is the Lieutenant. They want to do an outdoor community meeting.

MPD is also on the Nextdoor web site regarding the Fort Reno Park robberies. MPD also has a Citizen's Advisory Council and they meet with Commander Bedlion monthly. Anyone can join and you only have to commit to attend one meeting a year.

Question from Commissioner Nemeth: Are you also talking to other Districts about the connection to crimes outside the Second District? A: Yes, homicide detectives are working with other Districts. They are exploring robbery as a motive. Armed robberies are rare and it is rare for a robbery suspect to shoot someone. They are recovering many guns in DC this year. Violent crimes are down in DC, but more people were shot in 2020. MPD is facing budget cuts and will reduce the police force size.

Questions from Commissioner Kuebler: Do you know how suspects got away? A: In a car. Q: We are concerned about the proximity to the park system. There is a lot of activity in the parks and NPS is not patrolling. There is an uptick in robberies in the park. What is MPD doing in terms of interacting with NPS and policing the park? A: They do work with NPS. They share info about crime activity in the region. Lt. Allan Stone from NPS has partnered with MPD about the Fort Reno Park robberies. They also share BOLOs. MPD will not patrol the park areas unless asked for assistance explicitly. Q: Who do we go to if we suspect drug activity in the park? A: Lt. Allan Stone at allan_stone@nps.gov.

Question from Commissioner Molod: There were what appeared to be drug exchanges a few times late at night on Nebraska Avenue NW. Was this a drug exchange? A: MPD is seeing spike in marijuana "popups" in DC. It is still illegal. The crime suppression teams got warrants and exposed perpetrators. The incidents have gone down over the last few years. The 5100 block on Nebraska Avenue is one location, Muhlenberg Park is another. Please share any information with MPD, any photos, etc. Arrests are hard now. They work to improve visibility. In September there was a homicide related to a marijuana popup.

Question from Commissioner Frelinghuysen: At the 3000 block of Appleton Street 4-5 times a week, when it is dark, there is a group gathering around a car, smoking marijuana, not wearing masks, smoke blowing. This is a health and safety concern. What can be done? A: Smoking marijuana is still a crime in public spaces. You can call MPD.

Question from Commissioner Cristeal: This is related to traffic - since Covid there has been a reduction in traffic everywhere, but an uptick in speeding. What can be done? A: It is always worth consideration by DDOT to request a lower speed limit. See DDOT's website. They are also seeing more speeding with less traffic and will enforce. If you see hotspots, let Lt. Alexander know.

From the Public:

Q: What was the result of pulling video from the fire stations and DDOT and other public cameras? A: They did get helpful info. Q: What about the 5200 block of Western Ave. homicide? A: They will have info on that one soon.

Q: Asking for more details about the shootings on Oct 4-5. A: They cannot share more info at this point.

Q: Are you looking at drug connections also? A: MPD is exploring robbery as a motive. If you see someone in mental health crisis, use the DBH mobile crisis number at 202-673-9300.

Q: The stabbing at Brandywine? A: It was domestic violence.

Q: There were also 3 shootings in Ward 3 recently, 5200 Western Ave and the October 4th and 5th shootings. This has never happened before. Why is it happening now? Is it a change in housing? A: Sometimes it is one perpetrator related to a handful of crimes, the 4500 block of Connecticut Avenue had such a person. The problem resolved itself. If you are seeing a hotspot please call MPD so they can work together to resolve it.

Q: How to reach out? A: The issue is with 4607 Connecticut Avenue, so reach out to Lt. Alexander.

Comment from public: Worries that Commander Bedlion says to call 911 if you see someone suspicious. It happens to African American men a lot.

6. UDC Van Ness Campus Master Plan

Avis Russel presented some key changes for the Master Plan. Alyssa Huminski and Erica Wright also presented. The Plan will go to the board committee on October 27th and will go to the full board on November 10th.

They presented slides, focused on slide number 3 with a campus map. They are not adding any more buildings to the area between Van Ness, Yuma, Connecticut, and International Court, in contrast with previous versions of the Master Plans that called for a new building. At present the housing will be at the Building 44 site. A potential site for housing is also above the tennis courts. They have also identified areas to be made green. The plan is to make the Windom Street entrance better and also to install wayfinding signage.

The Plan will go to zoning next year and hearings at the end of 2021.

Commissioner Cristeal: There is a lot of information to digest and it is not feasible during tonight's meeting. The ANC will look at big picture issues. It struck him in reading the plan that there is little specificity about future enrollment. It seems odd for there not to be a projection about enrollment. The Plan focuses more on physical space. There are less than 4000 students now, and the capacity is for 10,000. A (Russel): They were at a 4500-student body before Covid, now it is down. They can get enrollment back to 10,000 students. They are trying to create infrastructure to support that size of a student body. In this 10-year period, they do not

envision enrollment going beyond 6000 students. Commissioner Cristeal said he would like to see this amount of specificity in the Master Plan. A (Russel): They do not believe that plans to increase enrollment are relevant to the Master Plan. They will address it at the community meeting.

Please email questions to Juanita Grey, she will forward to Avis - avis.russel@udc.edu.

7. 4410-4420 Linnean DDOT Application 06-065c-DC

David Landsman, engineer of the project presented information on the DDOT application. The site consists of two vacant lots now. They want to build two houses, one on each lot. The driveway will go from the street and split before going to new homes.

Commissioner Rutenberg said she has no questions. The lot has been vacant for a long time, it is sort of a social trail connecting with Soapstone. She has no objection to the curb cut, but it has been green for awhile and hikers have been using it.

There is lots of topography there. There will also be difficult logistics because it is next to the Soapstone project. There were statements from the neighbors. Landsman said the project is required to do stormwater management.

Commissioner Cristeal said that adding more impermeable surface is not good, particularly in this location near Soapstone Valley. A: It is a matter of right, which allows 50% impermeable, these are 30% and 35% impervious. The regulations make sure not to increase runoff.

Commissioner Nemeth asked what is the timeline? A: It is on the December Public Space committee agenda.

Commissioner Rutenberg said they would like to leave time for public comment and take a vote next month and wait for the neighbors to weigh in.

8. Comprehensive Plan Changes related to Howard University's campus

Barbara Kraft lives on the 2900 block of Upton. She is here tonight at the suggestion of Commissioner Cristeal to let the ANC know the views of the neighbors about this part of the proposed Comprehensive Plan. She attended the office of planning meeting about the proposed Comprehensive Plan changes.

She heard from Howard U. about the proposed use and it was medium density. Later they changed the specification to high density. The area is mostly single-family homes and the neighbors are concerned about having high density in the part of the campus where it is proposed. She plans to testify about this at the hearings that begin on November 12. They are concerned about loss of green space and the possibility of high-density development. Howard University says they have no immediate plans to develop the property. She asks that ANC3F support removing the high-density provision from the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Cristeal was contacted by Barbara Kraft and is wondering why Howard University campus was switched from medium to high density. They say they have no plans to develop, but

they should justify the high-density designation. There must have been some reason for the request. Kraft said they have spoken with them. They seem unwilling to share their plans.

Commissioner Kuebler asked the contact information for the people at Howard University to please be send to her and she will pursue this.

Commissioner Molod asked why is medium density different from high density in terms of preserving green space? A (Kraft): There is a parking lot there that could be used for medium density. High density would mean taking some green areas to build.

From public: They think Howard's plan is ok.

From public: Howard should let us know their plans.

Commissioner Kuebler is disturbed that they want to go from mixed zoning (high density on the North side, low on the Upton St. side) to all high density. This could open the door to inappropriate development. She would like to see more appropriate delineation of planned use for that site and wants to get more information.

Commissioner Nemeth asked what the ANC is being asked to do tonight? A(Kraft): They would like to see formal support from the ANC of the view that the proposed change is premature and changing to high density is inappropriate for this site.

Commissioner Molod proposed that ANC3F submit testimony saying that as long as Howard University does not give explicit plans, we do not support the change in the Comprehensive Plan to high density.

Commissioner Cristeal then asked what would we say the land use should be?

Commissioner Nemeth said we could submit written testimony before the Council takes up a vote, but recommends that we table this, consider what approach we want to take, and ask the Housing & Neighborhood Committee to set up a community meeting.

Commissioner Kuebler said she will meet with Howard University and see if they can give us their plans. She said they should set up a meeting with them, the Upton residents and the ANC. She will work with Barbara, David, Alex Appah and anyone else from the Housing & Neighborhood Committee.

9. Resolution on Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Cristeal said their January 2020 resolution about the Comprehensive Plan draft was met by the Office of Planning agreeing to include some things that were included and saying that others were "not a part of the Comprehensive Plan". The resolution before the ANC tonight essentially recommends the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Cristeal read the operative clauses into the record. The resolution calls on the Council to adopt the Comprehensive Plan by the end of December.

From public: They like the resolution.

From public: Why pass a resolution now when there are still some pieces that will affect us as an ANC? A: Commissioner Cristeal said if all the open questions have to be answered before passage, the Comprehensive Plan will never be passed. He thinks it is good enough to pass, and that is why there is a resolution.

Commissioner Cristeal made a motion to support the resolution regarding DC's Comprehensive Plan update. Motion was approved with 3 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 3 abstaining (3-0-3). A discussion ensued about confirming whether 3-0-3 constitutes an affirmative vote.

10. Resolution on Rent Control

Commissioner Molod read the operative clauses into the record.

Commissioner Rutenberg said she is not sure if she agrees with the substance, the final text of the resolution came too late for her to consider it all. Q: When is the hearing? A (Casten): The hearing is to be held on November 9th.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen said she agrees with Commissioner Rutenberg's comments. It came late, but she proposed to vote on the resolution.

Commissioner Nemeth said she is sympathetic to Commissioner Rutenberg's concerns, but the November 9th date suggests we should act tonight and the resolution has been vetted by the Housing & Neighborhood Committee.

Commissioner Molod made a motion to support the resolution regarding rent control. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

11. Resolution on Renaming Melvin Hazen Trail

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to table the renaming of Melvin Hazen Trail until the November meeting. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

12. ANC 3F FY2021 Budget

Commissioner Rutenberg shared the budget spreadsheet.

Commissioner Nemeth asked where will we capture the Zoom cost of \$150? A :(Commissioner Rutenberg): It is captured in the communication line item by recommendation of the ANC office.

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the FY2021 budget. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

13. ANC 3F FY20 Q4 Report Approval

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the FY20 Q4 Quarterly Report, knowing that totals will be corrected (receipts and disbursements are correct). Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

Commissioner Molod made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).