

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

3F01 – David Cristeal, Chair  
 3F02 – Alexandria Appah, Vice Chair  
 3F03 – Dipa Mehta  
 3F04 – Stan Wall, Treasurer  
 3F05 – Claudette David  
 3F06 – Monika Nemeth  
 3F07 – Matt Buechner, Secretary



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**Public Meeting – April 20, 2021**  
 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**MINUTES**

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 over the internet at <https://zoom.us/j/93710420949?pwd=MFpweFBFRVR1dGdzbGEyUytkekNkQT09>. Meeting number: 937 1042 0949 Password: f107JL. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public. Copies of resolutions approved are available at [www.anc3f.com](http://www.anc3f.com).

Commissioners Present:      Cristeal  
    Appah  
    Mehta  
    Wall  
    David  
    Nemeth  
    Buechner

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Appah made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the consent agenda which included the March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes and the Q2FY21 Financial Report (January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021).	6-0-0	
Commissioner Buechner made a motion to approve the grant request of \$3,000 submitted by the Rock Creek Conservancy	7-0-0	
Commissioner Wall made a motion to approve the grant request of \$23,500 from Van Ness Main Street.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Appah made a motion to approve the Connecticut Avenue reversible lanes resolution in support of Concept C, including the amendment made by Commissioner Wall.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Nemeth moved to adjourn.	7-0-0	

Call to Order:                      7:04 PM  
 Adjournment:                      9:06 PM

## AGENDA ITEMS`

### **1. Approval of Regular Agenda and Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Appah made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the consent agenda which included the March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes and the Q2FY21 Financial Report (January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021). Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Wall informed the public that expenses during the second quarter amounted to \$1,777.98 and the ANC has a remaining balance of \$81,773.96. The quarterly report will be posted to the website upon approval.

### **3. Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Appah: DC Parks & Recreation is still looking for feedback on their Ready2Play initiative and encourages the community to remain engaged in this initiative to help guide the DPR priorities in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Wall: The fence at the Forest Hills Park has been fixed. DPR has committed to monitor the park and ensure that the park is maintained.

Commissioner Nemeth: Tennis courts at UDC are also coming along and it appears that they will be available soon.

### **4. Rock Creek Conservancy Grant Request (Cory Levine, Jeanne Braha)**

The Rock Creek Conservancy submitted a proposal for \$3,000 to fund plants to be used as part of the restoration and maintenance of Melvin C. Hazen Park. The Conservancy is working with the National Park Service to mobilize community volunteers to ensure that the invasive species are removed, native plants are added to the area, and the park is maintained.

Commissioner Buechner made a motion to approve the grant request of \$3,000 submitted by the Rock Creek Conservancy. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

### **5. Van Ness Main Street (Gloria Garcia)**

Van Ness Main Street (VNMS) submitted a proposal for \$23,500, the entirety of which would be used for programmatic purposes focused on beautification, wayfinding, and public art. None of the funding would be used for administrative costs.

Ms. Garcia noted that Van Ness Main Street's recent focus has been on supporting businesses during the pandemic and as the community comes out of the pandemic, they hope to begin supporting additional programmatic efforts, including those proposed in the grant application. VNMS is one of the only main streets in Ward 3 that does not have any wayfinding infrastructure to brand the neighborhood, like banners and signs. VNMS is hoping to engage local artists in their public art plans to reflect the diversity and culture of the neighborhoods of Van Ness, Wakefield, and Forest Hills. VNMS intends on working with the community to design

the wayfinding branding, to be completed by June 30. If anyone is interested in engaging with VNMS on this issue, they should consider joining their design committee.

Commissioner Wall: Asked for clarification on other funding sources for Van Ness Main Street's planned programs, which will amount to an additional \$26,000 of funding. Ms. Garcia: Additional funds will be secured via individual giving, major gift donations, and some corporate giving from businesses in the corridor. VNMS still has \$9,000 to go to meet their goal by June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Wall: Inquired about how wayfinding infrastructure will direct the community to existing parking in the area. Ms. Garcia: VNMS is working with an urban planner and designer to identify the best ways to do this, but this is one of the priorities.

Commissioner Mehta: Inquired about additional details about the timeline for the beautification and public arts efforts. Ms. Garcia: Beautification efforts are currently ongoing. Led by Kathy Sykes, the master gardener for VNMS, they have spent the past three weekends installing plants in tree boxes and planters.

Anne Cauman: Expressed concern about whether public funding would be used for non-native plants and whether there are barriers between existing parking and the plants, to allow for accessibility. Kathy Sykes: They are planting about 80% native plants plus some other keystone plants to promote sustainability and ensure pollinators have plants that they need to thrive. They are keeping plantings to tree boxes and close to the sidewalk and putting down mulch between the street and the plants to meet accessibility concerns.

Commissioner Wall made a motion to approve the grant request of \$23,500 from Van Ness Main Street. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

## **6. DDOT Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lane Study**

Commissioner Cristeal: A draft resolution has been on the website for approximately a month and we discussed it at the last public meeting.

Commissioner Wall: Walked meeting attendees through an updated draft resolution, which includes amendments made following community feedback about additional traffic on surrounding streets. The ANC 3F resolution supports Concept C, because it best meets criteria of the Connecticut Avenue study. ANC 3F urges DDOT to implement efforts that mitigate spillover into surrounding streets and immediate implementation of traffic calming efforts, consistent with goals of the Safety Study and Vision Zero.

Bob Deyling (Streets & Sidewalks Chair): DDOT study has been data driven and has been the basis for the resolution. DDOT is still analyzing the parking that would be retained as part of Concept C. It seems like the amount of parking to be retained may be increased upon further analysis.

Commissioner Nemeth: Strong supporter of Vision Zero and elimination of the reversible lanes on Connecticut Avenue.

Commissioner Appah: Particularly supports the resolution because it involves supporting steps that DDOT can take now, in addition to the protected bike lane.

Commissioner Mehta: Thank you to the Streets and Sidewalks Committee and the engaged community-at-large. A lot of passion on both sides of this issue and it's important to acknowledge that views are not just pro- and anti-bike and/or pro- and anti-business. Hearing a lot of concern about cut-through traffic. Committed to ensuring that issues of cut-through traffic will not just move the safety issues elsewhere and that it's a holistic solution.

Commissioner Wall: Looking forward to encouraging stakeholders to take action on issues to make safety efforts now. Also, businesses and Van Ness Main Street are essential partners in our community. Grant approval earlier shows that and we look forward to continue efforts to partner with the business community, as they remain essential partners to the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Commissioner Cristeal: Concept C is also an opportunity to make the sidewalks safer for our neighbors who have accessibility concerns. The resolution process has evolved and taken into consideration community thoughts and concerns about traffic diversions. Enforcing rules is also essential.

Steve Seelig: Supports the resolution. Working on wayfaring parking will be helpful, DDOT should inventory parking spots available and work to promote the available parking to the community. Encourages the ANC to work with DDOT to identify safe streets that are closed to through traffic post-pandemic. Encourages the ANC to pressure DDOT to implement additional safety measures.

Ryan Keefe: Supports Concept C and the resolution, particularly to ensure greater safety in the neighborhood. We need to take a continued look at how the transit infrastructure intersects, particularly with bus stops. Council-level funding will also be essential and Mary Cheh leads the Transportation Committee.

Josh Rising (Ward 3 Bicycle Advocates): Ward 3 lags behind other parts of the city for protected bike infrastructure. Connecticut Avenue bike lanes are a priority for the community.

Barr Weiner (President of Cleveland Park Business Association): Supports the resolution.

Anne Cauman: Has concerns about accessibility due to removal of the parking in non-commercial areas.

Maura Duffy: Supports Concept C; Connecticut Avenue is difficult to bike on and has experience getting side-swiped by a car. Excited about this proposal from a pedestrian perspective, as well.

Beau Finley: ANC 3C passed a resolution last night in support of Concept C. We should create policy, not in reaction to trauma, but to prevent trauma from happening. The vast majority of

community feedback that the ANC received was in support of Concept C. It is essential that local ANC commissioners work with Councilmember Cheh to make sure that this plan is implemented.

Matt Birnbaum: Was hit by a car while cycling and this has prevented him and members of his household to bike in the corridor out of fear. He supports the resolution and Concept C.

Dave McGuire: Supports protected bike lanes. Reducing vehicle use is also an opportunity to take action on climate change.

Garrett Hennigan: Concept C is the compromise position—nobody is getting exactly what they want, but this is the best option for pedestrians, people with mobility issues, and active transit issues.

Paul Harrison: Supports Concept C. Lives in a multi-generational household and a bike lane will improve safety for his family as they commute to school. He strongly supports traffic calming measures and encourages the ANC to work with DDOT to make the parking times shorter, to ensure availability of accessible parking for the people visiting local businesses.

Commissioner Wall: DDOT design process is still relatively early. There is still time to engage DDOT to preserve parking spaces for accessibility purposes.

Jacob Deering: Supports Concept C, particularly to add another layer of barrier between the sidewalk and cars.

Barbara Bates: Supports the resolution and continued work with DDOT.

Commissioner Cristeal: Plans are easy to pass, but implementation is the hard part. The ANC commits to working with DDOT to ensure that the issues that are important to our community are implemented in a way that works for us all.

Commissioner Wall: Proposed an amendment to encourage Councilmember Cheh and the Council to fund and implement the resolution.

Commissioner Nemeth: At this point, we would encourage DDOT and the Mayor to fund it now.

Commissioner Buechner: Supports adding the amendment to allow us time to ask for funding multiple times.

Commissioner Mehta: We should be clear that we are asking that DDOT funds Concept C, as well as the immediate traffic calming measures.

Michael Porcello (Office of Councilmember Mary Cheh): Recommends including the language to the Mayor, in advance of her budget in late May.

Wall Amendment: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 3F urges DDOT, Councilmember Cheh's Office and the Mayor's Office to:

- i. Immediately fund traffic calming measures on Connecticut Avenue and on streets in neighborhoods adjacent to Connecticut Avenue as proposed by ANC 3F in future resolutions;
- ii. Fund the design and implementation of Build Concept C; and
- iii. Simultaneous with implementation of Build Concept C, fund traffic safety and calming measures needed to mitigate the impacts of diversion traffic as a result of Build Concept C.”

Commissioner Appah made a motion to approve the Connecticut Avenue reversible lanes resolution in support of Concept C, including the amendment made by Commissioner Wall. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

## **7. Committee Reports**

Streets and Sidewalks (Bob Deyling): DDOT is continuing their efforts to fill sidewalk gaps and identifying priorities. The committee discussed the UDC Campus Plan and hopes to provide input to commissioners in the coming weeks, in addition to budget issues.

Schools & Universities (James Tandoric): Current priorities include engaging neighborhood schools in ANC 3F and Ward 3, as well as drafting a budget resolution focused on education issues in the area.

Commissioner Appah: Currently looking for additional participation on our committees.

## **8. Community Forum**

Gloria Garcia, Van Ness Main Street: May is Small Business Month and they will hold their annual meeting on May 7th. They will also be hosting a corridor-wide event on May 16th to encourage the community to come to the Main Street.

Phil Waggoner: Expressed concerns over issues brought up at the last meeting, particularly on issues related to the parking and trash littered throughout the neighborhood between Sidwell and Hearst. Mr. Waggoner also raised a concern about why there are no COVID vaccination locations in Ward 3.

- Michael Porcello: The Councilmember is happy to engage DCRA on behalf of the community but needs additional details about what is occurring.
- Commissioner Mehta: Inquired about what pressure Councilmember Cheh will put on the developer, given that workers are parking in areas that they should not be and leaving litter and bottles with urine in the neighborhood.
- Porcello: They will reach out to DCRA, particularly with issues related to litter and issues where violations exist. Parking violations are not currently being enforced by the city until June 1st, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- Commissioner Mehta asked whether Councilmember Cheh can reach out to the developers to determine if they can have a conversation about a near-term solution that does not involve waiting for individual parking enforcement.
- Commissioner Cristeal clarifies that there are multiple construction companies and developers working in the area.

- Commissioner Nemeth clarifies that this would normally be a question for Tony Donaldson, the Ward 3 MOCR, who is not currently present.

Michael Porcello (Councilmember Cheh's Office): The mayor's budget process is delayed until May 27<sup>th</sup> to give them time to incorporate federal funding in the plans. The related Council hearing schedule will be forthcoming and hearings will take place in June.

DC Public Schools currently has a working group on the two new schools that are opening in Ward 3—neither of which is in ANC 3F. They will be releasing a survey in the coming weeks for the public-at-large. All community members should fill this out to have input on how the schools are used.

Juanita Gray (UDC): The farmers market will be opening in May in front of the UDC Student Center. UDC will continue remote learning for the summer semester, but is working on a reopening plan for the fall semester. The tennis courts are on track for an on-time completion for the middle of the summer.

## **9. Adjournment**

Commissioner Nemeth moved to adjourn. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0). The meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.