

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



Box 244
4401-A Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
commissioners@anc3f.com
www.anc3f.com
Twitter: @ANC3F

Public Meeting – March 16, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 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.

Commissioners Present: Cristeal
 Appah
 Mehta
 Wall
 David
 Nemeth
 Buechner

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the consent agenda which included the February 16, 2021 minutes and the 3566 Alton Place Curb Cut.	7-0-0	
Commissioner Appah moved to adjourn.	7-0-0	

Call to Order: 7:00 PM
Adjournment: 8:48 PM

AGENDA ITEMS`

1. Approval of Regular Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the consent agenda which included the February 16, 2021 minutes and the 3566 Alton Place Curb Cut. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0).

2. Treasurer’s Report

No updates now. There will be a quarterly report at the next meeting.

3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Appah is still working with Ward 3 Mutual Aid, DC Fridge Collective, and UDC on the food pantry.

Commissioner Appah also mentioned that the grants cycle is currently open.

Commissioner Wall reminded everyone about the upcoming Community Clean-Up on Saturday, which Gloria Garcia put in the chat.

4. Committee Reports

Housing and Neighborhoods (David Cristeal): ANC 3F is currently looking for someone to chair this committee. If anyone is interested in taking a leadership role, please contact a commissioner.

Schools & Universities (James Tandaric): They meet the third Monday of each month. The first action item is getting in touch with schools in 3F and identifying budget priorities. Contact James Tandaric if you are interested in joining the committee.

Streets and Sidewalks (Bob Deyling): They meet every second Wednesday of the month and are open to having additional members join the committee.

Parks and Watershed (David Cristeal): The committee has been active with Melvin Hazen Park and Soapstone Valley Park, including removal of invasive species and other work.

5. DC Water Update on Soapstone Valley Park Rehabilitation Project

Information presented by Emanuel Briggs, William Elledge, and Burak Kaynak.

William Elledge said that the community has made clear that their primary concern for the project is tree maintenance. DC Water has changed their standard operating procedures to ensure that contractors will limit the removal of trees. They are using a qualification-based selection approach, rather than a lowest-bid selection.

The tree stipend is \$10,000 to evaluate how to reduce even more how many trees need to be cut.

There is a tree incentive to incentivize trees saved by paying the contractor for the number of trees present and not the trees cut.

The contractor will be chosen by a combination of these three factors.

Burak Kaynak said they have developed plans to allow for the natural scenery to regenerate. A maximum of 371 trees will be removed. The current plans say 245 trees will be removed. Even less due to the incentive and stipend, plus replanting of trees. The contractor will also be in charge of short-term tree maintenance (including watering) for 30 days. Long term maintenance will be split between NPS and DC Water: DC Water (2 years), NPS (3-5 years) and all funded by DC Water. Mechanisms will be in place to track tree survivability rates.

DC Water has done considerable outreach, including at least one person in many affected buildings. Any groups of residents that would like a briefing from DC Water should contact them to schedule a meeting.

NPS signed a No Significant Impact (FONSI) and MOU in April 2020. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in May 2020.

DC Water will take the next steps:

- Hire construction contractor
- Obtain remaining permits, including wetlands permits and DDOT permits
- Produce a monthly newsletter about the project
- Hold meetings with the public as requested

Pat Kasdan: Where in the park will the project begin? Elledge said the timing of the individual components is up to the contractor. They tend to work from upstream to downstream, however with this project it is a little more complicated. Once the contractor is on board, we will have more information here. This information would be included in the newsletter.

Kathy Sykes: Has anyone reached out to UDC or the community to tackle some of the weed and ivy issues prior to the work beginning? Elledge said they have yet to do any community outreach on these fronts but will keep that in mind as they do their outreach in the future.

Barbara Kraft: Should we expect any additional water quality issues associated with this project or the main replacement project? Briggs said that flushing activities will continue throughout the city and near construction projects to ensure the water mains remain functional and high quality. Maureen Schmelling said if there is any discolored water, please contact DC Water and they will conduct a flush of the lines.

Marjorie Share: It is good news that we'll minimize the number of trees to be taken down. Can you talk about how the design team has done that? Will we know where the final access paths will be? Kaynak said they opted to trim some of the trees for access paths, rather than cut them. The access paths are in the final plans and will be shared at a later date.

Lois Forster: On the Linnean outfall on the east end, will you be repairing that to eliminate erosion into Soapstone Creek? How are you considering flood zones in your plans? Kaynak said the outfall is outside the scope of work, but DOEE is planning to take on the entire area. Elledge said the design standard is a 15-year design storm (industry standard), using hydrological planning. The flood plane is increasing, but it should not impact any homes.

Forster: Any protections for bird nests? Elledge said there are some considerations being made for endangered species.

Commissioner Mehta: Soapstone—are all trees created equal in the selection process? Elledge said it is broken down by tree size and species.

Commissioner Mehta: Will the project be year-round or will it take breaks throughout the year? Kaynak said they can only cut trees in the winter because of the fauna. However, the construction will continue year-round. Heritage trees were also given preferential treatment during the planning.

Commissioner Mehta: When the water runs cloudy, is it still okay to drink, as it relates to outages and main flushes? When will the roads and curbs be repaired? Briggs said any infrastructure that is disturbed as part of the water main project will be fixed prior to the contractor leaving. They are also trying to fix issues as they arise on a block-by-block basis.

Commissioner Wall: Are there any upstream impacts of the Soapstone projects related to sewer backups? Elledge said none are expected.

Commissioner Appah: Will the park be closed during the project? Kaynak said it will be closed during the duration of the project for safety and parts are closed for up to two years afterward to ensure that it can come back effectively.

Briggs said run the water if it is cloudy for 15 minutes at the lowest part of your house. And if it is still not clear, call the drinking water department of DC Water.

Commissioner Nemeth: Has the RFP already gone out and have responses come in? Elledge said yes, a short list will be determined based on technical proposals. Once the short list is created, they will get bids from the contractors.

Commissioner David: Can you send us information about the community specialist that you're hiring? Elledge said they are still hiring and will send information when it is available.

Elledge: What would you like in the newsletter? Commissioner Buechner said what parts of the park are being impacted, where we are in the timeline, and are we on track? If behind, what are we doing to get back on track. Commissioner Cristeal said forward looking would be ideal.

6. DDOT Reversible Lane & Safety Study Draft Resolution

Commissioner Cristeal said this project has been going on for a while. DDOT has gone to ANCs and the business community. The first community-wide meetings will be held March 31 and April 1. The Streets and Sidewalks Committee has prepared a draft resolution for the ANC to consider.

Bob Deyling presented the draft resolution, including the background of the process, analysis of the build concepts, safety considerations that DDOT could do regardless of the options that they choose, and the recommendation that DDOT does the following:

- Implement corridor safety improvements
- Remove the reversible lane
- Implement Concept C

Commissioner Cristeal said this is a draft and we'd love to hear feedback from the community. We encourage folks to attend the March 31st and April 1st meetings. We are hoping to consider this resolution at our April 21st meeting.

Commissioner Mehta: To what extent has the committee taken feedback from businesses along Connecticut Avenue? Deyling said the committee attended some of the DDOT events with businesses and looked at how DDOT is addressing parking concerns in their build plans. They have not had any official business representation on the committee, but they did take that concern into consideration. Commissioner Cristeal said Concept C does include one side of the street that has parking in the major business areas from Woodley Park to Chevy Chase. Gloria Garcia said they have been working with DDOT for a year. They have distributed the survey at least 10 times and have had 3 meetings with businesses. The input has been low from businesses along the corridor. They seem to not know what is happening and Garcia is urging them to participate in the public meetings. They seem to be engaged and asking questions once they become engaged. Businesses in ANC3F do have more parking behind their properties than in Cleveland Park and Woodley Park.

Commissioner Wall said we should also make sure that DDOT has strategies to mitigate any adverse effects of the Connecticut Avenue plans to the neighborhood.

7. Community Forum

Cory Levine said the negative impact of the construction projects and parking due to no ticketing for neighborhood permits and will become a larger issue as schools reopen. Commissioner Nemeth said phased enforcement is planned, starting with schools and loading zones.

Juanita Gray (UDC) –

- Performance hearing tomorrow at noon.
- Tennis courts on schedule for completion in mid-summer. The athletic director can come to the meeting once they are closer to reopening.
- Urgent care will open, TBD, based on renovation needs.
- Approached about hosting a vaccination site and are currently in negotiations.
- Ward 3 Mutual Aid Food Bank – partnered with International Women's Democracy Center. The MOU will be with IWDC because they have the insurance required.
- Campus Master Plan submitted to the zoning commission. Hearing date TBD.
 - Asking for resolution for support, if possible.
 - Commissioner Cristeal said we would absolutely look at it, if you give us time to review it and have a meeting about it.
 - Gray said they will set up a meeting with the ANC and the contractor. The plan is to also place it on the UDC website for the public to review.
 - Commissioner Mehta said we should put the UDC Campus Plan on our website and promote it prior to the meeting/presentation.

Cory Levine said NPS/DOEE does not have any money for invasive removal for Melvin Hazen Park. Is it possible to submit a grant for this? They are removing the English ivy and bamboo and

planting native species. Commissioner Nemeth said apply for a grant! We're currently in the grant cycle.

Gloria Garcia (Van Ness Main Street) –

- Joined forces with Forest Hills Connection, which is becoming a program of VNMS.
- New website is up with a new directory!
- Spring Now – fundraising, spring activities, and events just launched.
 - Partnering with #TrashFreeDC; handing out trash bags at the office from 10:30-11am

8. Other Business

Commissioner Appah said make sure that you pre-register for the COVID vaccination! If you have issues, please do let us know, so we can funnel that back to DC Health.

Commissioner Nemeth said the Commission passed a resolution in November in favor of renaming Melvin C. Hazen Park. We sent to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and she said she would take action. She wrote the National Park Service and is urging them to rename the park.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Appah moved to adjourn. Motion was approved with 7 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (7-0-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.