

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
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**ANC 3F Resolution Urging Coordinated Action to Save
Hearst Park Heritage Willow Oak Trees and Improve
Community Engagement
September 20, 2022**

Whereas, Hearst Park and Pool (Hearst Recreation Center and Hearst Pool) recently opened after a multiyear construction period, on an approximately a four-acre site located at 37th Street, Idaho Avenue, and Quebec Street, NW, and Hearst Elementary, Hearst Playground, Hearst Pool, and Hearst Recreation Center Cottage at the southwest border of ANC 3F and adjacent to ANC 3C.¹

Whereas ANC 3F supported the Hearst Park and Pool through resolutions of its design and construction phases and called for continued and coordinated communication between DGS, DPR, DOEE, and DDOT and ANC 3F and affected community members to ensure the effective completion of the project including protection of the existing heritage trees (Resolutions passed unanimously at the April 18, 2017, and January 16, 2018, ANC 3F meetings).

Whereas the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project included design and construction including, but not limited to, new playground area, new tennis courts, renovation or replacement of existing soccer fields, new pool and pool house, ADA renovations to site, storm water management, remediation of site drainage, runoff, erosion issues, landscaping, fencing, site furnishings amenities, signage, and hardscaping.

Whereas the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project started with the fencing of the park and the removal of approximately 80 trees in June 2019 and was delayed repeatedly until eventual completion in Spring 2022.

Whereas, in addition to delays, the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project was mired with a lack of transparency in construction decisions and implementation.

¹ ANC 3C has been active in this matter throughout the process and has a parallel Resolution for its September 19, 2022 meeting.

Whereas, a report prepared by Ms. Munevver Ertem, DDOT-Urban Forestry Division (DDOT-UFD) dated July 25, 2022 identified the death of one tree due to water inundation, the significant decline of a second tree due to construction activity, and vulnerability to other trees and proposed a meeting with the general contractor and other District stakeholders in order to preserve the remaining trees and determine if District code was violated during construction.

Whereas DGS held a meeting but did not inform the community or the ANC of this meeting and did not invite the community or any of the ANC Commissioners.

Whereas, in an email sent to community members by DGS, DDOT-UFD requested that a few test pits be installed around the trees to pinpoint the exact location of the water intrusion and DGS offered that it intended to procure a contractor to complete this work. And

Whereas DGS has not publicly released any details of this plan and has no schedule in place for when this will happen.

Be It Resolved that ANC 3F urges DGS to publicly announce the death of one heritage tree and the risk to others and post the July 25, 2022, DDOT-UFD report on the Hearst Park & Pool improvement project webpage.

Be it further Resolved that ANC 3F urges DPR organize a community meeting that includes all relevant agencies and community stakeholders (neighbors, DGS, DOEE, DDOT-UFD, ANC) by October 15, 2022, to describe the reasons for the death of one heritage willow oak tree and the risks posed to the remaining trees in the park and a plan with an explicit timeline for saving the remaining trees.

Be it further Resolved that should DPR fail to organize the above-described community meeting, that knowledgeable representatives of DPR and DGS, appear at the October 18, 2022 ANC 3F meeting to describe the reasons for the death of one heritage willow oak tree and the risks posed to the remaining trees in the park, a plan with an explicit timeline for saving the remaining trees and a plan to keep the community informed on the progress of the city's plan.

Be it further Resolved that ANC 3F urges DPR to present its determination for violation of the District's Heritage Tree Law and accountability for failures in the project's oversight and execution of construction work.

Be It Resolved that the ANC authorizes ANC 3F Chair David and ANC 3F 01 Commissioner Cristeal to represent the Commission on this matter.

This Resolution was presented and then discussed and voted on by ANC 3F 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained; at the regularly scheduled ANC 3F meeting held via Zoom on September 21, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudette P. David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Claudette David, Chair
ANC 3F