GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A

Minutes of ANC 3A Public Meeting
April 15, 2025

The meeting was held in hybrid format, by Zoom and in person at McLean Gardens Ballroom.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Quorum Call: All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03) participating by Zoom, Claire McCafferty (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05). The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

Verification of Notice: The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda had been shared 7 days in advance of the meeting as required, using the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor, which met the notice requirement.

Approval of Agenda: The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Resolutions:
Vote to Support Application for Zoning Special Exception for addition at 3822 Van Ness Street NW (BZA Case 21286. Commissioner Bowers made a motion to vote on submitting a position to the BZA in support of the application for a Special Exception. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Next Meeting
The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 in hybrid format, in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom and virtually by Zoom. (NOTE: That date is the second Tuesday of the month rather than the usual third Tuesday of the month.)

Adjournment
The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

FULL SUMMARY

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The meeting was held in "hybrid" format, both in-person and virtual by Zoom.

The Chair asked for a roll call. All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03) by Zoom, Claire McCafferty (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05). The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

The Chair called for confirmation that the notice requirement had been met. The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda had been shared 7 days in advance of the meeting via the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor Neighborhood e-network. That met the notice requirement.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

MPD Community Report
Captain Haskis of MPD Second District reported on crime statistics in ANC 3A. In the previous 30 days, there had been no violent crimes, no burglary, no thefts from autos, but 13 thefts mostly at the CVS on Newark and in that retail/commercial corridor. In the year to date, the total reported crimes had been up by 3 over 2024. There had been 2 ADWs and the homicide at City Ridge, 1 burglary, 5 thefts from autos, 3 motor vehicle thefts and 50 general thefts. He said that MPD had been working on reducing thefts from retail establishments and also thefts from auto (including thefts of wheels) which had seen a great improvement.

Commissioner Mladinov asked about an assault misdemeanor at 4100 Massachusetts Avenue reported in the MPD Arrest Report for April 14. Captain Haskis said that was a domestic incident and an arrest had been made.

The Chair reported that he was scheduling a community meeting with MPD to talk about marijuana use at the corner of Rodman Street at the edge of McLean Gardens and City Ridge.

Discussion and vote on Special Exception for addition at 3822 Van Ness Street (BZA Case 21286)
At the ANC 3A public meeting in March, Martin Sullivan of law firm Sullivan & Barros had presented the application for a zoning Special Exception for construction of a rear addition and side addition to a private semi-detached home in the R-2 zone, in ANC3A03. Mr. Sullivan and Simon Ley, managing member of the owner 3822 Van Ness LLC, were both participating in the meeting. The applicants had asked the DC Bureau of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to consider the case under Expedited Review (a shorter timetable, without a BZA hearing). Mr. Sullivan briefly summarized the application and explained that the Special Exception was needed not for the size or dimensions of the addition but only because the size of the rear yard measured from the garage to the new rear wall of the addition would be less than the 20-foot rear yard requirement in R-2. He also noted that the Zoning Commission has just adopted a change in zoning regulations for the R-2 zone to change the way that the rear yard is measured. The 20-foot requirement will relate to the distance between the principal dwelling and the rear lot line, not the accessory structure, so this type of application will no longer require zoning review.

Mr. Sullivan said Mr. Ley had sent the proposal to all the neighbors as required but had not received any comments from neighbors, and the Commissioners stated that they had requested comments throughout the previous month but also had not received any comments on the proposed project. Commissioner Bowers made a motion to vote on supporting for the application to the BZA. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve a statement of support. The Chair said he would sign the BZA

ANC Report (Form 129) expressing that position and get it submitted in time for the BZA public meeting on the application on April 23.

District of Columbia Proposed Budget for FY 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026)
The Chair explained that the Mayor had planned to release the proposed FY 2026 budget on April 2 but it was held up because of the uncertainty over whether the Congress would allow the District to continue to operate under its FY 2025 budget through September 30, 2025. The Senate had passed a bill to fix that but the House had not yet taken action on it. The Chair said that in past years the Mayor's office had sent representatives to speak about the budget in April, but that was not possible this year. The time would also be very short for hearings or public comments on the budget. Commissioner Bowers asked if someone from the Councilmember Frumin's office could come to the ANC's May meeting to talk about the budget, and Santiago Mendoza said he would ask. The Chair also suggested that the Councilmember's newsletter was a good place for constituents to get information and find issues that the Council is hoping people will weigh in on, working toward the final Council votes on the FY 2026 budget.

Potential projects to use the Go Vocal Citizen Engagement Software under new ANC 3A contract
After the Commission's vote to approve the contract for Go Vocal Citizen Engagement Software and initial training, the four local ANCs working with Go Vocal had begun to plan for using the service, for sharing information, conducting surveys, and brainstorming on local challenges. The Chair noted that ANC 3/4G is developing a feedback page for feedback on the "civic core" in Chevy Chase including a new Chevy Chase Community Center and Library. Commissioner Mladinov mentioned some options that had been suggested included information sharing on the WMATA "Better Bus" network; asking community members about priority areas to seek traffic safety improvements in ANC 3A; the Office of Planning proposed zoning changes or the new Comprehensive Plan that will be developed in 2025-2026.

Commissioner Bowers asked if there was a way to use the website or agenda to direct people to the Go Vocal pages, and suggested alerting people to what may be coming and get people to register to use the new software. The Chair said updates on projects on the ANC 3A Go Vocal page would also be shared at meetings, on meeting agendas, and by email. He asked if information on the Better Bus network or the District budget timeline would be ready to share first, but there was no good basis for estimating that.

Commissioner Updates
- Proposed New Bus Stop on 39th Street NW at Klingle Place NW as part of the planned D96 bus route
Commissioner Mladinov thanked constituents including David White for their comments and petitions to DDOT on the Notification of Intent NOI# 25-27-CPD proposing to install a new bus stop on 39th Street NW just south of Klingle Place NW. ANC 3A also had submitted detailed comments to DDOT for the April 1 deadline. The bus stop was proposed to serve the planned D96 Metrobus route which is part of the Better Bus network scheduled to go into operation starting June 29, 2025. The proposed bus stop is across Klingle Place from Annunciation School which serves Pre-K to 8th grade students. Numerous residents as well as school officials had raised significant concerns about safety risks the bus stop would create for pedestrians and others using 39th Street and Klingle, by blocking sight lines. In addition, the bus stop would remove the only loading and parking spaces in front of the single family home at that intersection. The ANC also concluded that the bus stop would not be necessary because the proposed bus stop would be within 600 to 700 feet of two existing bus stops, which is close to half the standard distance between stops. Those stops are used by students from Annunciation and the large buildings on adjoining blocks, using protected crosswalks. As a result, the ANC had opposed the location of the proposed bus stop and was awaiting official word from DDOT.

- Better Bus Network: WMATA will be introducing new system-wide route numbers, route maps and schedules for all its Metrobus services on June 29 as part of the "Better Bus" redesign approved by the WMATA Board in November 2024. Commissioner Mladinov announced that WMATA had invited ANC Commissioners to a briefing on May 10, and the new "Better Bus" schedules and route maps were expected to be released shortly. WMATA had committed to continue to share more details on its website at: https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/index.cfm

Jim Linde noted that WMATA had announced that a bus stop was being eliminated on Wisconsin Avenue at Van ness Street as part of the shift to the "Better Bus" system. News stories reported a total of over 500 bus stops were being eliminated. See: https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/upload/Bus-Stop-Consolidation_2025-Better-Bus-Network.pdf

- Relocation of Metrobus stop on Wisconsin Avenue at Porter Street
The Chair provided an update on continuing discussions in response to concerns of residents after DDOT moved the bus stop alongside the Washington Ballet to a location in front of the main entrance to the Crestview Condominiums. Some constituents had recommended moving the bus stop closer to Quebec Street, where there had previously been a bus stop, but that would be very close to the Metrobus stop at Rodman Street. The Chair said he had been in communication with WMATA Board member for DC Tracy Hadden Loh about the concerns of residents at the Crestview and had shared the community concerns and ANC ideas for alternate locations for the bus stop. Abigail Demopulos said that there was no space in front of the Crestview for bus riders. Commissioner Bowers also asked about trespassers in the vestibule, thefts and other crimes reported at the Crestview. There were no new reports on that. Ms. Demopulos expressed support for shifting the bus stop back to a location on the block with the Washington Ballet, potentially closer to Idaho Avenue.

- DC Public Service Commission (PSC) community hearings on Washington Gas proposed rate increase
Commissioner Mladinov shared the information that the PSC would be having public hearings for members of the community to share views on the rate increase that Washington Gas has requested in Formal Case 1180, which were scheduled for April 10, 21, and 29 in-person in Wards 4 and 7 and at the PSC headquarters (and also virtually). Comments were directed to PSC-CommissionSecretary@dc.gov

- Applications for Liquor License renewals
The ANC shared the list of restaurants that had applied for a renewal of their liquor license in or adjoining ANC 3A. Public comments were invited on the applications, sent to abralegal@dc.gov

Announced at March ANC 3A Meeting
1. Silver, 3404 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-105729) in ANC3A03. Class C. Endorsements: Entertainment, Sidewalk Cafe. Petitions/Letters due 4/28/25; Protest Hearing 5/19/25.
2. Giant Food, 3336 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-095376) in ANC3A03. Class D. Petitions/Letters due 4/28/25; Protest Hearing 5/19/25.
3. Two Amys, 3715 Macomb Street NW (ABRA-060352) in ANC3A03. Class C. Endorsement: Summer Garden. Petitions/Letters due 4/28/25; Protest Hearing 5/19/25.
4. Surfside, 4200 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-113253) in ANC3A04. Class C. Endorsement: Summer Garden. Petitions/Letters due 5/5/25; Protest Hearing 5/27/25.
5. Al Dente, 3201 New Mexico Avenue NW (ABRA-087728) in ANC 3B (adjoining ANC3A04). Class C. Endorsement: Summer Garden. Petitions/Letters due 5/5/25; Protest Hearing 5/27/25.

New Applications since March ANC 3A Meeting
1. Cactus Cantina, 3300 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-014225) in ANC3A03. Class C. Endorsement: Sidewalk Cafe. Petitions/Letters due 5/12/2025; Hearing 6/2/2025.
2. La Piquette, 3712 Macomb Street NW (ABRA-093706) in ANC3A02. Class C. Endorsement: Sidewalk Cafe. Petitions/Letters due 5/19/2025; Hearing 6/9/2025.
3. Chef Geoff's, 3201 New Mexico Avenue NW (ABRA-060249) in ANC3B (adjoining ANC3A04). Class C. Endorsement: Sidewalk Cafe. Petitions/Letters due 5/19/2025; Hearing 6/9/2025.
4. Wagshal's, 3201 New Mexico Avenue NW (ABRA-092731) in ANC3B (adjoining ANC3A04). Class D. Endorsement: Summer Garden. Petitions/Letters due 5/19/2025; Hearing 6/9/2025.
5. Barcelona, 3310 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-097610) in ANC3A03. Class C. Endorsements: Entertainment, Sidewalk Cafe. Petitions/Letters due 5/27/25; Hearing 6/16/25.
6. King Street Oyster Bar, 7 Ridge Square NW in ANC3A01 (ABRA-124751) in ANC3A03. Class C. Petitions/Letters due 5/27/25; Hearing 6/16/25.

7. Shinwa Izakaya, 11 Ridge Square NW (ABRA-128816) in ANC3A01. Class C. Petitions/Letters due 5/27/25; Hearing 6/16/25.
8. Taco Bamba, 3930 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA-125203) in ANC3A01. Class C. Endorsement: Summer Garden. Petitions/Letters due 5/27/25; Hearing 6/16/25.
9. DeCarlo's Restaurant, 4000 Cathedral Avenue NW (in the Westchester) (ABRA-001750) in ANC3B (adjoining ANC3A05). Class C. Petitions/Letters due 5/27/25; Hearing 6/16/25.
Comments or protests along with the case number were directed to go to: abca.legal@dc.gov

The ANC did not take a position on the applications for liquor license renewal because there had not been any reports of disturbances to the "peace, order and quiet" of the community or violations of law, regulations, or an ANC settlement agreement with the establishment.

Community Announcements

Kendall Gibson, Service Manager for Ward 3 in the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), shared updates on activities including support for workers who have lost their jobs through federal cutbacks, and maintaining their health insurance www.dchealthlink.com/lostcoverage
She also highlighted:
DPR Summer activities including internships. www.DPRprograms.com
Spring Cleaning with DPR partner organizations such as at Forest Hills Park on April 19
Roll-off dumpster to collect furniture, mattresses, etc., at Turtle Park on May 10 from 10 am-2 pm

Santiago Mendoza from Councilmember Matt Frumin's office recommended reading their latest newsletter covering DC budget and programs as well as effects of federal government policies and potential resources for residents. He also reported that CM Frumin's next Work Day in the Ward would be in Palisades on Sunday April 27 from 9 am-1 pm during the Farmers' Market, and would include chances to talk with him and his staff about legislation, constituent services, and other District programs.

Open Forum
Abigail Demopulos mentioned that the DC Council was working on a "bottle bill" which some ANC resolutions are covering. The Chair said that ANC 3A is working on having a presentation and discussion about the proposed legislation, which was being considered by two committees: first, the Committee on Business and Economic Development led by CM Kenyan McDuffie and next the Committee on Transportation and the Environment led by CM Charles Allen beginning in early summer. The ANC will be watching to see if there are any changes as the bill moves forward, so any comments can be made on the most current version of the legislation. Mr. Mendoza said he would check with his office as well.

Maria Perisic provided an update on problems with DC Water over very high water use. The utility had released the lien on the house and sent a letter saying that was a mistake; had a technician check the water meter; and said a hearing date would be scheduled once the meter check was completed.

David White thanked Commissioner Mladinov for letting neighbors know about the DDOT proposal to install a bus stop on 39th Street, and putting together a community meeting for residents. He recommended that DDOT or WMATA should notify affected residents about changes of this kind that they are proposing--including informing a person whose front door would be only a few feet away from a proposed bus stop--rather than leaving that responsibility to ANC Commissioners.

Administrative Matters
1. March Minutes: Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes of the March 18 ANC 3A public meeting. She also suggested the Commission follow the language recommended by the Office of ANCs (OANC) to vote to approve meeting minutes with a provision that the Secretary can make needed technical corrections before posting the final minutes. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes with that language. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

2. Monthly Financial Report: Treasurer Gracemary Allen presented the ANC 3A March financial report:

ANC 3A March Financial Report

Opening Balance (March 1): $31,694.20
- Income: $ 3,305.96 District allotment for 3rd Quarter FY2025
- Outgoing $2,227.08

Cash Withdrawals: None
Expenditures: 23.17 Check to GoDaddy for ANC 3A domain name for 12 months
203.88 Check to GoDaddy for ANC 3A website development for 12 months
2,000.00 Check for Go Vocal community engagement software for 12 months
Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)
Ending Balance (March 31): $32,773.11

3. Quarterly Report: Treasurer Gracemary Allen presented the ANC 3A quarterly report for the Second Quarter of FY 2025. The Chair made a motion to vote on the quarterly report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the quarterly report as presented.

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, at the McLean Gardens Ballroom, in hybrid format.

The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

The minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of **5 - 0** at its duly noticed public meeting on May 13, 2025, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)