

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2024

Quorum call: Commissioners Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01) and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Two of the three sitting Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Commissioner Jeremy Del Moral (3A04) was also present after 7:13 pm.

Verification of Meeting Notice: The meeting notice was posted 7 days in advance of the meeting on the ANC 3A website, and local listservs in Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, Glover Park, and McLean Gardens, meeting the notice requirement.

Agenda: Chair Bradley-Lewis made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Resolutions Adopted

Resolution raising questions to the DC Public Service Commission about Washington Gas Light's proposed revised next phase for accelerated gas line replacement (FC1179). Chair Bradley-Lewis made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the resolution.

Resolution about DDOT's proposed guidelines for permanent streateries program to submit for hearing before DC Public Space Committee. Chair Bradley-Lewis made a motion to vote on sending the comments. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the resolution.

Administrative Matters

Minutes of October 15 Regular Public Meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes.

ANC 3A Annual Report (Dec. 1, 2023-Nov. 30, 2024). The Chair made a motion to vote on the draft annual report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the draft, with needed additions to cover the November meeting through the end of the month.

Next Public Meeting: December 17, 2024

The Chair made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn.

FULL SUMMARY

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and called the roll. Commissioners Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01) and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Two of the three sitting Commissioners make a quorum.)

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2024) www.anc3a.org

3A01	3A02	3A03	3A04	3A05
Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis	Vacant	Vacant	Jeremy Del Moral	Ann Lane Mladinov

Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that the meeting notice and proposed agenda had been posted 7 days in advance, using the ANC 3A website, email list and local listservs, which satisfied the notice requirement.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the agenda.

MPD Community Report

Captain Darren Haskis (MPD Second District, Sectors 1 and 2) presented an update on recent crime and public safety in Police Service Area (PSA) 204, which includes McLean Gardens and much of ANC 3A. He reported there had not been any robberies or assaults with a deadly weapon in the previous 30 days in PSA 204. There had been 2 burglaries, 1 stolen auto, 19 thefts from auto and 27 general thefts. This was a reduction in all categories except thefts from auto, a category that includes several reported thefts of air bags and wheels from vehicles.

For the year to date in PSA 204, Captain Haskis reported crimes had gone down in all categories in 2024 compared to the same time period in 2023 except general thefts, which had gone up 26%. Captain Haskis said that the top 5 locations where thefts in that category of general thefts had been reported in PSA 204 were CVS stores.

Captain Haskis said that recently more thefts from autos had been reported in the area, especially in AU Park, North Cleveland Park, Glover Park, and McLean Gardens. Those were areas MPD had focused on in the past few weeks. He said there had been 9 wheel thefts in the previous month but only one in the past week so he was hopeful MPD was making progress, through added patrols as well as increased public outreach. He encouraged residents to use wheel locks and “club” locks on their vehicles.

He also encouraged residents to use the new Amazon Locker to receive package deliveries or other locations that offer secure deliveries, to avoid package thefts from their porches or vestibules.

The Chair asked about a recent arrest at the Giant in Cathedral Commons. Captain Haskins reported that MPD had gotten a 911 call about an altercation between two employees. MPD responded quickly and arrested the suspect. The Captain encouraged businesses to call MPD if they had problems of that kind.

He spoke specifically about the carjacking on November 11 in the 4400 block of Van Ness Street, just west of ANC 3A. He reported that two individuals aged about 30-40, armed with a knife, had approached a woman who was loading her vehicle. They took her vehicle, drove it across the city, and abandoned it. Because the driver had an “air tag” in the vehicle, MPD was able to trace the vehicle and get additional evidence. Captain Haskis said he expected to have more news on that crime at the ANC 3A December meeting.

Commissioner Del Moral arrived at 7:13 pm. He asked Captain Haskis about wheel thefts, including the two that had been made from vehicles parked at the Greenbriar. One had been parked against a curb and the theft was made by jacking up the vehicle and then taking the wheels. The other had been parked between two other vehicles. The Commissioner said the building was considering increased lighting, checking the security cameras on site, and discussing potentially locking part of the parking lot.

Commissioner Mladinov thanked MPD for its Community Walk-through on October 23 beginning at the intersection of Garfield Street and 38th Street. The residents were able to share concerns about car break-ins and other local crimes. The MPD representatives on the walk-through had also taken several requests for assigning traffic enforcement officers to key location in the area, including new areas where they could warn or ticket offenders, including Garfield Street between Wisconsin Avenue and 39th Street, and

the intersection of Tunlaw Road and Fulton Street, where Stoddert Elementary School students are crossing without a traffic signal or HAWK or other clear way to halt traffic.

Presentations on Washington Gas Light (WGL) revised plan for accelerated gas line replacement

Commissioner Mladinov introduced the speakers and topic. As the ANC had discussed in November 2023, WGL has been working on accelerated replacement of vintage gas pipes for 10 years through its “PROJECTpipes” Phase 1 and Phase 2, and had proposed a \$672 million 5-year Phase 3 which the DC Public Service Commission rejected in June. Instead the PSC ordered WGL to “submit a restructured pipes plan that ensures the safe and reliable operation of the natural gas infrastructure to meet the energy needs of all District consumers in the District as well as aligns with the District’s climate goals.” To review the revised plan, the PSC opened a new Formal Case 1179. Jessica Rogers, Washington Gas Vice President for Regulatory and Climate Strategy, described the revised plan WGL had submitted to the PSC in September for \$215 million over nearly 3 years, with the purpose of replacing gas pipes that are old and vulnerable to breaks or leak. She explained that the largest share of vintage gas pipes in the District are cast iron, and the federal Pipeline and Hazard Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has told all utilities to remove vintage iron pipes as soon as possible. She said in the previous phases of PROJECTpipes, WGL had worked where there was excavation to place electric lines underground (DC PLUG) so the vintage pipes including cast iron pipes were already exposed. In the revised plan, Ms. Rogers said WGL is not proposing to continue that process. It will be replacing mains and services lines on a risk ranking basis, aimed at addressing pipes most likely to leak.

Ms. Rogers also said that with the current mix of fuel sources for electricity in the District, shifting from gas to electric could increase carbon emissions. She also observed that whether or not you believe electrification will happen, it will take decades.

Ade Adeniyi, Assistant People’s Counsel, spoke on behalf of the DC Office of the People’s Counsel (OPC). Because WGL had just submitted its revised plan in FC1179 on September 27 and the formal parties to the case such as OPC had not yet submitted their official filings in the proceedings, she could not present an official position. She outlined OPC’s participation and recent petitions in the PSC proceedings related to PROJECTpipes and noted several general points. The PSC had dismissed WGL’s proposed Phase 3 and ordered a new proceeding for several reasons including concerns about the high cost and low number of pipes being replaced, as well as cost-effectiveness of the pipe replacement program, which to date had not met the claims of the company or the expectations of ratepayers. She also noted that it was almost impossible to separate considerations of gas pipe replacement and leak reductions from questions of methane emissions.

She said OPC will be tracking WGL performance on replacing vulnerable pipes and reducing leaks, and also paying attention to which parts of the gas infrastructure remain used and useful. WGL is under obligation to develop a new approach that will address high risk pipes and avoid dangerous leaks before they happen, and also meets climate laws and goals. The plans for the future have to balance the need to remove leak-prone pipes with the interest in minimizing stranded assets. Though there may be some difference in views on electrification, Ms. Adeniyi noted the importance of coordinating with other agencies and interests to address the process of decommissioning pipes.

Commissioner Del Moral noted the significant cost to shift from gas to electric heating or appliances, which place a particular burden on low income households. The Chair noted that many multi-family residences and commercial buildings are already considering investments to get away from fossil fuel use, in order to meet the District’s Building Energy Performance Standards.

Commissioner Mladinov expressed concern that the PSC was asking for comments from the public before the OPC or other parties’ briefs were available or there had been any evidentiary hearings, but she urged

that the PSC conduct full evidentiary hearings and allow for additional public comments at a later point in FC 1179. She also emphasized that it will be essential for the government, private sector, and non-profits to work together for the DC Clean Energy and climate change goals to be met. If the utility company had responsibility for both gas and electric distribution service, the company might have the motivation to facilitate the electrification but that is not the case in the District. The PSC may not be structured in a way to encourage that kind of coordination, and no agency or organization has the authority to organize that process, but it has to be done.

The Chair noted that while it may be expensive to get to the goal of ending fossil fuel use and shifting to electricity from renewable sources, people who have the funds to electrify their homes will be able to do so, but the least able to pay will be left using gas and covering all the costs of the WGL distribution services. That is why every dollar spent on the WGL system deserves scrutiny, so we aren't replacing infrastructure that won't be needed.

The PSC had asked for public comments in FC 1179 by November 20. Commissioner Mladinov proposed a resolution summarizing the points that had been raised including questions about WGL's plans, including efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and effectiveness at reducing leaks and methane emissions. The Chair made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approved the resolution for submission to the PSC by the due date.

DDOT Draft Permanent Guidelines for Continuing Use of Public Space for "Streateries"

Commissioner Mladinov presented the topic of DDOT's proposed new guidelines for a long-term program to allow use of public space such as curb lanes of roadways for "streateries" in order to expand the outdoor space available for restaurants and other food establishments to serve customers. She presented a summary of comments received from residents, the four local establishments that had been using streateries in the curb lanes of Wisconsin Avenue and Macomb Street at the northwest corner of the intersection of Wisconsin and Macomb Street, under the temporary streateries program created during the COVID-19 emergency. DDOT had extended all the permits to July 31, 2025, and hoped to be able to have the new guidelines and permits in place by that time.

The new guidelines for the first time call for the establishments using the streateries to pay fees for the permit and an annual rental fee of \$20 per square foot of streateries space. The guidelines also incorporate some new design standards for safety and design quality or appearance. In addition, the proposed guidelines would prohibit streateries in curb lanes where there are signs restricting parking during rush hour, as is the case on Wisconsin Avenue in ANC 3A. (That rule would not affect the streateries space on Macomb Street west of Wisconsin Avenue.) DDOT's proposed guidelines were posted at:

<https://publicspaceactivation.ddot.dc.gov/pages/streateries>

Several meeting participants shared comments, including some concerns about the appearance of the barriers and inconsistent street furniture and coverings, as well as loss of driving space at rush-hour and loss of curbside parking. Some residents said that streateries on Wisconsin had been useful during COVID-19 but in the past year were not being used. The Chair noted that the fees could have the benefit of causing restaurants to think about whether they wanted to use a streateries or not.

DDOT was planning to present the new draft guidelines to its Public Space Committee at a public hearing on November 14, but postponed the hearing until December 5, and was asking for public comments by that date, including from ANCs. Commissioner Mladinov offered a resolution to submit for the hearing, summarizing the comments the ANC had received and questions and suggestions for clarifying the guidance and allowing for community interests to be heard and accommodated including opportunities to submit additional comments at a later date. The Chair made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Updates

The Chair reported that the ANC is continuing to work on a contract for citizen engagement technology with Go Vocal, after hearing the presentation on options at the October meeting. Each proposed contract has to be reviewed to ensure compliance with DC laws governing contracting, and that was still in process.

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the WMATA Board was going to be voting on the proposed Better Bus plan at its November 21 meeting, after the proposal was approved by committee the previous week. While the Better Bus network achieves many worthwhile transit service and accessibility goals and stays within the budget for the coming fiscal year, some services important to the ANC 3A area are not going to be continued. The onus will be on the ANC and residents to keep monitoring how the changes work and make their voices heard if there are major gaps in the new routes and services.

The Chair noted that the results of the November 5 General Election were not yet certified. The Board of Elections was still finishing the counting and results would be finalized on December 2. He thanked everyone who ran for Commissioner this year, including those on the ballot and write-ins.

Based on the number of voters, Commissioner Del Moral noted that it appeared more people from the American University community had voted this year. The Chair also observed that his Single Member District 3A01 has clearly grown in population since redistricting, as there were much higher numbers of voters there than in any other Single Member District in ANC 3A, mostly because of the opening of City Ridge and Upton Place after 2020 when the Census counts were made. That growth was expected during redistricting but the ANC and Single Member District boundaries have to be drawn based on the Census and under that system, there is no way to accommodate population growth that is projected to occur between the time that one decennial Census is completed and the next Census is conducted.

Community Announcements

Joe Dweck from Councilmember Frumin's office announced that the Councilmember had proposed a Ceremonial Resolution in honor of Commissioner Judy Havemann who served ANC3A02 until her death in July 2024, and the Council had voted to adopt the resolution. He had copies of the official resolution to share with the family, and would be sending those copies to her family members when the office had the full addresses.

Kendall Gibson introduced herself as the new Ward 3 Service Manager for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS). She provided her contact information for any constituent concerns or questions kendall.gibson1@dc.gov. She said she would be working with a new colleague in MOCRS for the Ward, William Owen Cox, who would be participating in future ANC meetings.

Joe Dweck reported on Councilmember Frumin's first roundtable as Chair of the Council's temporary subcommittee on Recreation and Community Affairs, which was held the same day as the ANC 3A meeting, hearing from witnesses for 5 hours to discuss permitting, access, use, and capacity of athletic fields owned by the District. He also announced two important hearings or roundtables over the next month, including a hearing about out-of-school programs for young people in the District and Councilmember Frumin's proposed legislation, the "Universal Out-of-School Time Amendment Act," which was scheduled for November 21, and a roundtable the Councilmember was chairing on opportunities for collaboration with the National Park Service which was scheduled for December 4.

Open Forum

There were no other comments.

Administrative Matters

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared draft minutes of the October ANC 3A public meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Del Moral presented the ANC 3A October financial report.

ANC 3A October Financial Report

Opening Balance (October 1): \$24,326.30

- Income: None
- Cash Withdrawals: None
 - Expenditures: None
 - Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)

Ending Balance (October 31): \$24,326.30

Commissioner Del Moral announced that the December meeting would be his last, so someone else would have to be designated to handle the December account statement, which would be available early in January.

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared a draft of the ANC 3A Annual Report, which is supposed to cover ANC activities between December 1, 2023, and November 30, 2024. The draft includes a narrative summary and also a list of actions including resolutions and presentations during the 12 months. She explained that the report would have to be updated to reflect the votes and activities through the rest of November. The Chair made a motion to vote to approve the draft Annual Report, with any additions to bring it up-to-date and publish it for the community by the statutory due date of December 1. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the draft, with needed additions.

The Chair announced that the next public meeting would be Tuesday, December 17, on the regular third Tuesday of the month.

The Chair made a motion to vote on adjournment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

The minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 3 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on December 17, 2024, at which a quorum was present. (Two of the three sitting Commissioners constitute a quorum.)