

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A Public Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023 McLean Gardens Ballroom, 3811 Porter Street NW and via Zoom

Quorum call: Chair Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Judy Havemann (3A02), Hans Miller (3A03), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

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

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 Adopted

Resolution to Support Zoning Request for a Special Exception for National Presbyterian Church at 4120 Van Ness Street NW to convert one floor of the Agencies Building from offices to use as part of the child development center (BZA Case 20970). The Chair made a motion to vote on a proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

Resolution regarding DDOT Notice of Intent to install a Micromobility Corral on the south side of Fulton Street west of Wisconsin Avenue. Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution urging DDOT to remove parking spaces on the north side of Fulton Street before installing the proposed micromobility corral. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

Resolution regarding DC Office of Planning Draft Development Guidelines for Wisconsin Avenue from Western Avenue to Rodman Street. Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution conveying summary comments and recommendations on the draft development guidelines. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

Votes on Administrative Matters

Minutes of October 17 Regular Public Meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

ANC 3A Draft Annual Report for January 1-December 2023. Secretary Mladinov presented the proposed annual report to the community. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the draft annual report as presented.

Next monthly public meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2023

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

FULL SUMMARY

Chair Bradley-Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. The meeting was held in “hybrid” format, virtually via Zoom and in-person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom.

The Chair called for a roll call. In addition to Commissioner Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Commissioners Judy Havemann (3A02), Hans Miller (3A03), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

MPD Community Report

Captain Darren Haskis who oversees MPD 2D Sectors 1 and 2 reported on crimes in ANC 3A for the year to date and for the most recent 30 days. Fewer crimes had been reported in 2023 to date in ANC 3A than in 2022 at the same point in the year, though he noted there had been 12 violent crimes in 2023 v. 11 violent crimes in 2022. He expressed particular concern about the 4 robberies. In the past month, ANC 3A had not had any reported robberies but there was an assault with a deadly weapon on Massachusetts Avenue, inside an apartment, which was domestic in nature and had been closed. He also noted a burglary at a residence, and recommended that if people are going to be away, they should let him or one of his lieutenants know so they can check the property during that time. He also recommended keeping vehicles locked and using a club-like device for older vehicles. Thefts from autos and thefts in general in ANC 3A were down from 2022, but motor vehicle thefts were close to double the number in 2022.

The Chair mentioned incidents at the McDonald’s at Wisconsin and Van Ness. Captain Haskis said he had assigned a traffic enforcement officer to that location and several other officers were increasing their presence to try to address that.

Commissioner Miller thanked Captain Haskis for his participation in the Cleveland Park Citizens Association meeting and discussing the unhoused individual who had been spending time in the vestibule at the Wells Fargo at Cathedral Commons. The bank had learned that it has the authority to bar the individual from the premises. Captain Haskis said he would follow up on that matter.

Commissioner Miller also noted aggressive panhandling and public drug on the plaza near the Giant on Newark Street. Several other Commissioners and residents also described experiences with being followed into the parking garage and pressured to give money or buy something for the individual. Captain Haskis said MPD would get on that, and he could assign an officer to specific problem areas based on those reports. Commissioner Miller also encouraged Captain Haskis to work with the stores and landlords on these safety concerns.

Commissioner Del Moral asked who residents should call if they have an AirTag in a vehicle and the vehicle is stolen. Captain Haskis recommended calling 911 and letting the dispatcher know where the AirTag indicated the vehicle was located, so investigators could pursue it in that particular location. Second District officers wouldn’t be sent to another District so citywide 911 is the best place to call, though if the resident is speaking to a Second District officer, that officer also could take the information and get an officer routed to the right area. Captain Haskis encouraged using Air Tags, which have been helpful in tracking stolen vehicles and property.

Commissioner Mladinov asked about reports of carjackings. Captain Haskis noted that there had been several carjackings in nearby areas but not in ANC 3A to date.

Discussion and vote on zoning request by National Presbyterian Church at 4120 Van Ness Street

At the October meeting, Allison Prince of Goulston & Storrs had presented the National Presbyterian Church’s application to the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment for a Special Exception (BZA Case 20992)

to allow conversion of one floor of office space at the Agencies Building for use as part of the already existing child development center on the property. The BZA is scheduled to hold a hearing on the case on November 29. There had been no questions or comments from the public. The Chair made a motion to vote on a position on the case, which was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0-1 to support the zoning request to the BZA. Commissioner Del Moral recused himself.

Discussion and Vote on DDOT Proposed Micromobility Corral on Fulton Street west of Wisconsin

Commissioner Mladinov described the DDOT Notice of Intent (NOI) to place a new “micromobility corral,” with racks for scooters and bikes in what is currently the first parking space on the south side of Fulton west of Wisconsin, which is an RRP space. That is just west of the location of the original scooter corral DDOT installed in April, directly adjoining Wisconsin Avenue, without an NOI, but neighbors and the ANC had gotten DDOT to remove that corral for safety reasons. Fulton Street has parking on both the north and south sides, which makes the roadway too narrow for westbound vehicles entering Fulton from Wisconsin to proceed when there is an eastbound vehicle at that block. That is why several residents had developed a 311 request in 2022 asking DDOT to remove several parking spaces on the north side of Fulton Street just west of Wisconsin. The Commission heard comments from several residents expressing concerns about the location of the proposed micromobility corral, with the current narrowness of the roadway. Susan Spencer advocated that DDOT open an investigation into the 311 request for removing parking spaces on the north side. Erik Metzroth and David White also spoke against the DDOT NOI. Commissioner Mladinov presented a resolution advocating that DDOT look into the removal of parking spaces on the north side of Fulton as recommended, and not install a micromobility corral on the south side of Fulton in that block unless the other parking changes are made. Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Discussion of Washington Ballet zoning request and Transportation Demand Management Plan

The Washington Ballet had made a presentation at the July meeting about its zoning request (BZA Case 20970) to raze and replace the original Washington Ballet building at 3515 Wisconsin Avenue and another presentation at the October meeting about the proposed Transportation Demand Management Plan, submitted to the BZA on October 2. At this meeting, Paul Tummonds of Goulston & Storrs presented the new Transportation Statement which incorporated several changes requested by Commissioners in discussions with the applicant about demand management approaches, as well as the queuing plan. Commissioners had posed questions about how the Washington Ballet would handle large events in the planned new building and its 184-seat performance area, and also contingency plans if the demand for pick-up and drop-off spaces exceeded the maximum number of vehicles projected.

Commissioner Miller said he and Commissioner Mladinov had met with Mr. Tummonds and Jim Lawson from the transportation consultant Wells & Associates to discuss possible approaches to the concerns, and they were very positive about the responsiveness of the applicants. Mr. Tummonds outlined the new additions the applicant had agreed to make to the Transportation Demand Management plan to accommodate those interests, including a regular monitoring program and a report to the ANC every 6 months about how the queuing plan was working, and a system to require registration for large events at the new building and also provide more information about transportation and parking options for guests participating in large events. The agreed provisions also specify that when the Washington Ballet reports to the ANC and there are problems with aspects of the Transportation Demand Management Plan, the Washington Ballet would make needed adjustments as soon as possible. Commissioners Miller and Mladinov expressed support for the new Transportation Statement, with addition of those provisions, and also shared their support for the building plans in general and for the Washington Ballet as a good neighbor in the community. Commissioner Miller made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Discussion and Vote on DC Office of Planning Draft Development Guidelines for Wisconsin Avenue

After several years of public discussions, the DC Office of Planning (OP) had issued a draft in October for public comment on guidelines for future development on Wisconsin Avenue between Western Avenue in Friendship Heights and Rodman Street in ANC 3A, consistent with the changes in the amendments to the DC Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2021. OP's plan would be to propose specific zoning changes including height and massing, and also incorporate design considerations such as plazas and streetscaping in public space regulations and Department of Building reviews. Commissioner Mladinov presented a resolution summarizing the recommended guidelines with a focus on the portion of Wisconsin Avenue within ANC 3A, and urging that OP pursue the design and development guidelines and principles in proposed regulations, and work to increase affordable housing including at lower levels of household income. Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Mladinov reported that DDOT had announced that a Capital Bikeshare Station would be installed on Idaho Avenue near the intersection with Massachusetts Avenue, at the northeast corner of the 4000 Massachusetts Avenue. This is public land, within the "phantom" Hamilton Circle, which was never built. DDOT had said it is aiming to have the bike racks installed at the new station by the end of 2023.

Commissioner Del Moral noted a lot of erosion along the sidewalk, on the edge of the tree boxes, on Massachusetts Avenue from Ward Circle to Glover Archbold Park, which is creating safety risks for pedestrians, bicycles, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices, and asked for the District to look into addressing the problem and closing the wide gap.

Community Announcements

Matthew Barclay of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) reported on the plans for Leaf Collection. In a change from previous years, DPW has not published the expected dates of leaf pick-ups at the beginning of the season, but was going to provide hangtags at doorways and post the dates online two weekends before the crews are likely to be arriving in each area. He also announced several initiatives by the Mayor to combat organized retail crime and also to clarify rules on police body-worn cameras and hold law enforcement officers more accountable. He noted milestones in DC's Smart Streetlighting Program, and new appointments at DOB, DGS, DC Health, and Youth Rehabilitation and Services. He provided his contact information: matthew.barclay@dc.gov or 202-340-7853.

Gwen Coleman of AU Community Engagement, announced a quarterly meeting of community liaisons on November 28, open to all community members.

Laura Lipsey, Councilmember Frumin's Constituent Services Director, announced a Work Day in the Ward on Sunday, December 3, at Black Coffee in Palisades, coinciding with the Farmers Market, and encouraged residents to participate and share any issues. She also noted that there would be a hearing on December 8 about CM Frumin's proposed law to release properties west of Rock Creek from restrictive racial covenants adopted in earlier years.

Open Forum

Resident David White said he would like to write to the Mayor asking the District to address safety problems at the intersection of Fulton and Wisconsin, and urging that DDOT not put in a scooter corral that would make the safety problems worse.

Administrative Matters

The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes of the October 17 regular monthly meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Del Moral read the monthly ANC 3A financial report for October:

ANC 3A October Financial Report

Opening Balance (October 1): \$11,397.86

- Income: None
- Cash Withdrawals: None
- Expenditures:
 - Checks
 - #1011 – \$31.80 to Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis – Business Cards
 - Bank Fees: None
 - Monthly Fee waived

Ending Balance (October 31): \$11,366.06

The Chair introduced the draft ANC 3A annual report, which the Commission is required to publish by December 1 each year summarizing its activities for the community. The Chair made a motion to approve the draft annual report prepared by the Secretary, with the resolutions and other actions of the Commission at the November meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the annual report with the requested additions.

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A regular public meeting would be Tuesday, December 12. (This is the second Tuesday of the month, not the third Tuesday as would usually be the case.)

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 5 - 0 at the duly noticed public meeting on December 12, 2023, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)