

MINUTES
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
NORTH CLEVELAND PARK, FOREST HILLS & TENLEYTOWN
PUBLIC MEETING

January 14, 2008
Capital Memorial Church
3150 Chesapeake Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

1. CALL TO ORDER [7:38 PM]

Chair Wiss called the meeting to order and, finding Commissioners Frank T. Winstead, Karen Perry, Cathy Wiss, Mital Gandhi, Jane Solomon, Susan Banta, and Daniel Klibanoff present, declared a quorum.

2. AGENDA [7:39 PM]

Chair Wiss presented the meeting agenda and Commissioner Winstead seconded. The agenda was adopted 7-0-0.

3. MINUTES [7:40 PM]

Chair Wiss presented the minutes of the October 15, 2007 meeting, which had been tabled at the November 19, 2007. Commissioner Perry introduced an amended paragraph for the Wilson High School Football field discussion. Commissioner Perry moved approval of the minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Banta. The minutes were approved 7-0-0.

Chair Wiss moved to table the November 19, 2007 because of many typos and lack of response from other Commissioners. This was seconded by Commissioner Perry. The motion passed 7-0-0.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS [7:43 PM]

A. Announcements by Commissioners:

Commissioner Gandhi announced the DC Neighborhood College. DC Government and George Washington University are partnering to offer a 12-month program to train DC residents to lead, organize, and influence positive change in the community. To learn more about DC Neighborhood College, go to their website, www.dcneighborhoodcollege.org.

Chair Wiss announced that there will be a meeting at the Temple Sinai on January 27 from 2-4 pm to discuss the potential for "daylighting" or uncovering a buried portion of the Broad Branch tributary of Rock Creek, near the intersection of 36th St. and Nevada Ave. NW. This project could be a small but significant step in the effort to improve the health of Rock Creek. The meeting will be held in the Bet Am. Please contact Steve Dryden at 301-656-0049 or jsdryden@comcast.net for more information.

Commissioner Wiss announced that on January 17 at 7 pm there will be a meeting at the Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church at 3920 Alton Place to discuss the church's BZA application.

B. Announcements by members of the community:

Dee Smith, Director of Constituent Services of Ward 3 announced that on Thursday, February 7 at 10 am and Saturday, February 9 at 11 am Councilmember Mary Cheh will hold public hearings on the quality of service provided by Pepco, Verizon and Washington Gas. The hearings will be in the John A. Wilson Building.

Dee Smith announced that Councilmember Mary Cheh will host a community town hall forum on pedestrian safety on January 19, 2008 at the Second District Police Station from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Representatives of DDOT and MPD will be there. If you are able to attend please send email to dsmith@dccouncil.us.

Dee Smith introduced Thomas Moir, Committee Counsel for the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. He can be reached at 202-724-1388. She also introduced Abigail Petersen, the new Outreach and Services Coordinator for Ward 3 in the Mayor's office.

Dee Smith introduced and passed out the first issue of Councilmember Mary Cheh's Newsletter to Ward 3.

Commissioner Perry asked Dee Smith if she had any information on the Rock Creek Academy buses and asked for help with the buses and student conduct. Others agreed that this problem has been going on for too long. Sergeant Jackson stated that another officer has been added to this area because of incidents with the students. Commissioner Perry questioned the use of taxpayer dollars to pay for two officers. She asked that a task force be set up and that Mary Cheh's office set up a meeting to include DCPS, the Mayor's office, and other relevant agencies. Commissioner Solomon asked that ANC commissioners of the affected SMDs be involved. Dee Smith agreed, saying that Councilmember Cheh will ask for someone from DCPS and the Mayor's office to get a meeting together.

5. OPEN FORUM [8:03PM]

No one raised any issues.

6. MPD SECOND DISTRICT REPORT [8:03 PM]

Officer Lo Conte reported for PSA 203. There were 2 robberies, an increase of 44% from last year. This is low compared to rest of the District of Columbia. There was one assault with a deadly weapon. Eight burglaries occurred last month, compared to 3 burglaries the year before. There were three thefts from auto this time last year and 6 this year. There were no stolen autos. Commissioner Winstead asked if there was a stolen auto around Brandywine. Although there were no stolen autos, there was a burglary at the Gold's Gym. The suspect was caught, and the case was closed. Commissioner Perry questioned the 8 burglaries at 4601 and 4607 Connecticut Avenue. Officer LoConte did not have any information other than all 8 burglaries happened under two addresses. This could have been a staff member or service person who committed the crimes..

Officer Shannon Williams reported for PSA 202. She can be reached at shannon.davis@dc.gov. Lieutenant Lindsay is the new lieutenant. She can be reached at 202-715-7339. The three Sergeants in PSA 202 are Sgt. Webster Jackson, Sgt. Hayes, and Sgt. Finkleman. For the most part, crime for 2007 decreased from 2006. Increases were seen in thefts from auto (70 in 2006 and 126 in 2007) and thefts, up from 240 to 306. 18 stolen autos were reported in 2006, and 40 in 2007. Officer Williams will check the numbers to see if some of the stolen autos were cars that were relocated.

At the Best Buy there is an officer on foot beat. Also, police are working on closed circuit surveillance system (crime camera) on the east side of the 4500 block of Wisconsin Avenue.

Commissioner Gandhi asked about pedestrian enforcement. During the last month, Office Jackson gave out about 8 pedestrian violations from Van Ness to the 4800 block of Connecticut. The police are setting up pedestrian check points on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Commissioner Gandhi requested statistics at the next ANC meeting.

Commissioner Solomon asked about the next steps in the discussion about reconsidering the reversible lanes during rush hour on Connecticut Avenue, originally brought up at the November ANC meeting. Jeff Jennings of DDOT said they will need support from the ANCs as well as from the community. DDOT will issue a study and draft alternatives. Commissioner Wiss announced that DDOT has developed a draft Pedestrian Master Plan for Wisconsin Avenue, which can be viewed at www.tooledesign.com.

7. BZA Application No. 17709 for a special exception to build a garage addition in the side yard at 3425 Garrison Street, NW [8:24 PM]

Commissioner Solomon reviewed the BZA application for a side yard addition. The small strip lot adjacent to Ms. Rosenman's lot is owned by the National Park Service. The discussion was tabled at the November meeting to get an opinion from NPS. The proposed addition is one foot from the common lot line. Commissioner Solomon received an e-mail from Adrienne Coleman, Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, saying she had not seen the plans, but that NPS would not support an addition so close to the property line. Commissioner Solomon called Ms. Coleman to get more detail. Ms. Coleman told her that staff were reviewing the plans and that there would be a discussion on January 15. She said that NPS would accept a 3 ft side yard, but not a 1 foot side yard. This would allow space for workers not to step on parks property. There will not be any problems with the trees. Only a small tree will be chopped down but it is not health anyways.

Commissioner Solomon said that the NPS opinion was their default opinion given without regard to the specifics of the plan. The garage is only 17 ft wide and cannot be reduced by 2 feet without making the inside space too restrictive. She supports Ms. Rosenman. Ms. Rosenman has looked at alternative options. The ANC had supported Ms. Rosenman's bid to have the alley behind her house closed with the intent of using that for access to a garage. Unfortunately, because Ms. Rosenman only received half the width of the alley (8 feet) there is

not a sufficient turning radius to come and go without driving on NPS property. The alley is not secured and it would be safer to have an attached garage. A meeting at the property with Joe Kish of NPS determined that the construction of the garage will not impact trees on NPS property.

Commissioner Solomon moved to support the BZA application No. 17709 and Commissioner Gandhi seconded. Commissioner Perry wanted to support the application but she had a problem with having only a one-foot side yard. Commissioner Gandhi thinks the ANC should support the application because Ms. Rosenman has the support of her neighbors, who attended the ANC meeting; she has been taking care of the property so she should be grandfathered in, and the construction will not go on NPS land. Commissioner Wiss could not support the application without approval from NPS. She noted that several years ago, ANC 3F supported closing the public alley behind the property so that Ms. Rosenman could have vehicular access through the rear of her property. With the alley closed off and two very narrow side yards, fire access to the rear of the property would be difficult. She suggested that Ms. Rosenman contact NPS about a possible land swap. Commissioner Perry also noted that she felt particularly uncomfortable with the size of the side yards in the Tree and Slope overlay district. Commissioner Solomon said many people opposed the tree & slope overlay because they feared residents would have to jump through hoops in order to make reasonable modifications to their homes and that if the ANC was incapable of discerning the difference then they were correct in their opposition. The ANC needs to make accommodations for residents. The motion did not pass with a vote of 3-4-0. Chair Wiss, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Klibanoff and Commissioner Winstead were opposed.

8. Request for an automatic “walk” signal at Connecticut Avenue and Fessenden Street [8:55 PM]

Commissioner Gandhi moved to adopt a resolution requesting an automatic crosswalk signal and repainting of the high visibility crosswalk on Fessenden St and Connecticut Ave. Commissioner Perry seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0. Commissioner Gandhi stressed that they request action within 30 days and if this is not possible, commissioners would like a report at the next ANC meeting.

9. BZA Application No. 17703, Sidwell Friends School [8:58 PM]

Mike Saxenian, Assistant Head and CFO for Sidwell, and Jim Wilson, Project Manager, presented the plans for Phase 2 of the Sidwell Friends School. Phase one, renovating the middle school and building a parking structure on Wisconsin Avenue, is complete. Now Sidwell is applying to build an underground gymnasium along 37th Street where the track and football field are now, to renovate the existing Kenworthy Gym for a Meeting House, and to establish a child development center on campus.

After the gym is built, the track will be 1-2 feet higher than it is now. The entrance to the gym will be toward the center of the campus. The Wisconsin Avenue frontage of the campus will be upgraded by building a brick wall along the tennis courts to mirror the wall along the parking structure to the north. Sidwell would like to establish a child development center for up to 16

children, aged 8 weeks to 4 years, in the Sensner Building. This would be primarily for children of faculty members. There would be a maximum of 6 staff members. Construction of the gym will start in the summer 2008 and last through fall 2009. Construction for the Meeting House will start in the fall 2009.

Commissioner Winstead asked about use of the field, the type of surface, drainage, and access of fire/EMS vehicles to the playing field. The field will be used for football and lacrosse. It will be made of artificial turf. Drainage will be treated with a sand filter. There will not be any lights installed and the seating will be on the slope toward the Zartman House. The new gym will support the weight of ambulances, but not fire trucks.

Commissioner Gandhi asked about LEED rating. The Lower School (in Bethesda) has a gold rating, and the Middle School has a platinum rating. To save energy, a heating plant has been installed in the Middle School to serve the entire campus.

Martha Black of Quebec Street stated many concerns, such as the adverse impact of lights from the parking garage on Wisconsin Avenue, failure to mention the height of the solar chimneys on the middle school during the last BZA hearing, the use of 37th Street for traffic and parking for the new gym, potential harm to the roots of existing street trees from construction, lack of mention how the retaining wall and landscaping along 37th Street will be treated, and the height of windows of the gym.

Chris O'Brien, who works in solar energy, is impressed with Phase 1. He supports this project as a model for other projects.

Bill Coe, who has lived on Van Ness Street for 16 years, asked whether neighbors would still be allowed to use Sidwell's track after the construction. Mike Saxenian confirmed that they will. The field will be out of commission for about 15 months. During the construction, students will practice/play on other fields. Mr. Coe was concerned that there is only one emergency entrance and would like the architects to consider making an access route on the east side.

ANC 3C adopted a construction management agreement with Sidwell at their December 2007 meeting. Commissioner Banta moved to adopt the same construction management agreement as ANC 3C. Commissioner Gandhi seconded. Commissioner Perry moved an amendment on page two to make it gender neutral. Commissioner Gandhi agreed to represent ANC 3F at the BZA hearing along with Commissioner Banta. Resolution 08-02 passed 7-0-0.

Commissioner Banta moved a resolution supporting the BZA application similar to the resolution passed by ANC 3C with some minor word changes. This was seconded by Commissioner Perry. Resolution 08-03 passed 7-0-0.

10. Elections of ANC officers for 2008 [10:20 PM]

There is a two year limit on Chair therefore Chair Wiss can not be reelected.

Chair: Commissioner Solomon, nominated by Commissioner Banta and seconded by Commissioner Gandhi, was elected 4-2-1.

Vice-Chair: Commissioner Klibanoff, nominated by Commissioner Perry and seconded by Commissioner Winstead, was elected 4-3-0.

Secretary: Commissioner Wiss, nominated by Commissioner Gandhi and seconded by Commissioner Solomon, was elected 6-1-0.

Treasurer: Commissioner Gandhi, nominated by Commissioner Solomon and seconded by Commissioner Perry, was elected 6-1-0.

11. ANC Meeting Dates for 2008

Chair Wiss, seconded by Commissioner Klibanoff, moved to accept the following dates for monthly meetings in 2008:

January 14	July 21 (if necessary)
February 25	August 18 (if necessary)
March 17	September 15
April 21	October 20
May 19	November 17
June 16	December 15 (if necessary)

The motion passed 7-0-0.

12. Participation in the ANC Security Trust Fund [10:31 PM]

Commissioner Wiss moved to participate in the ANC security fund for 2008. Commissioner Gandhi seconded. Resolution 08-04 was approved 6-1-0, with Commissioner Winstead opposed.

13. Use of the Bank of America to maintain the ANC bank accounts [10:32 PM]

Chair Wiss moved to accept the Bank of America as the ANC's bank. Commissioner Gandhi seconded. Resolution 08-05 was approved 5-0-1, with Commissioner Winstead voting "present".

13. Treasurer's Report [10:33 PM]

Commissioner Solomon reported that the Fourth Quarter Report is due at the end of February. She will help Commissioner Gandhi. The last bank statement shows that the DC government deposited \$9,500 into the ANC's account for two full quarter allotments. Commissioner Solomon reported that there is about \$100,000 in savings account and \$25,000 in the checking account.

14. Discussion of ANC administrative assistant [10:37 PM]

Commissioner Perry has found a sample job description for an administrative assistant. Commissioner Klibanoff recommended that the ANC develop a job description by next month. He offered to help Commissioner Solomon in this task.

Hollie Nelson agreed to take the February minutes but will not be available for March.

15. Discussion of ANC web site [10:37 PM]

Commissioner Wiss moved to spend up to \$500 to hire someone to update the ANC web site by posting the 2008 meeting dates, updating the information about Commissioners, and adding meeting minutes, resolutions, and other documents approved. This was seconded by Commissioner Gandhi. The motion passed 4-2-1. Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Winstead opposed, and Commissioner Klibanoff voted present.

16. ADJOURNMENT [10:44 PM]

Commissioner Gandhi moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Klibanoff seconded. The vote passed 7-0-0.

These minutes were approved 6-0-1, with a quorum present, at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC 3F on February 25, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cathy Wiss

Cathy Wiss, Chair

Attachments:

Agenda

Res 08-01 – Requesting automation of the crosswalk signal and repainting of the crosswalk at Fessenden Street and Connecticut Avenue

Res 08-02 – Endorsing the construction management agreement with Sidwell Friends School

Res 08-03 – Supporting BZA Application No. 17703, Sidwell Friends School

Res 08-04 - Approving Participation in the ANC Security Trust Fund

Res 08-05 – Maintaining ANC Bank Accounts at the Bank of America