

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

COMMISSIONERS

3/4 G-01 - Abraham Clayman
3/4 G-02 - Chanda Tuck-Garfield, Treasurer
3/4 G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair
3/4 G-04 - Rebecca Maydak, Secretary
3/4 G-05 - Gerald Malitz
3/4 G-06 - Dan Bradfield
3/4 G-07 - Christopher Fromboluti, Vice-Chair

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Minutes: ANC 3/4G Public Meeting, February 26, 2018, Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20015

Present: Speck, Fromboluti, Tuck-Garfield, Maydak, Malitz, Clayman, and Bradfield A quorum was declared.

Attendance: Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. Commissioner Speck acknowledged Boy Scout Troop 52 and a contingent of American University journalism students who attended this meeting.

Adoption of Agenda (video at 00:00): Commissioner Speck noted that a possible resolution to support the March 24 March for Our Lives was added to the agenda at the end. With that modification, the agenda was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Announcements (03:00)

Commissioner Speck:

Community Center Modernization — The Commission approved its report and recommendations for improvements to the Community Center on January 22, 2018. Since then, the Commission sent the report to the Mayor, to Councilmembers Cheh, Todd, and Bonds, and to DPR, DGS, and the Library. The Chevy Chase Citizens Association has joined us with letters in support to the Mayor and the Council. Commissioners had meetings with Councilmembers Cheh and Todd, and we have a scheduled meeting with the Mayor on February 27 to discuss our recommendations. Commissioners also met with the Director of Public Libraries about coordination with the Chevy Chase Library and discussed ways to plan for a transition during modernization, which were two of the ANC's recommendations. The Mayor's budget goes to the Council on March 21, and the Commission will continue to press for implementation of its recommendations.

New Seniors' Services Coordinator — At a meet-and-greet on February 23rd, DPR introduced Brittany Miller as the new Senior Services Coordinator for the Chevy Chase Community Center. Her office is on the second floor of the Community Center, off of the Multipurpose room.

Department of Public Works Outreach — On February 22, Commissioner Speck reported that he attended a DPW “listening session” with a small group of ANC Commissioner from across the District as part of its effort to “rebrand” that agency. Many residents don’t know the range of services that DPW provides — e.g., garbage and recycling collection, leaf and snow removal, parking enforcement. The commissioners who attended went through many of the concerns that have plagued ANC 3/4G — e.g., poor performance in leaf collection, initiation of ticketing for garbage/recycling cans in the alleys without warning, and a general failure of communications. DPW told the commissioners that it is committed to improving its performance across the board.

Murals DC — Murals DC — another function within DPW — offers free murals on walls. These art works can create an identification for a business, capture the character and history of our community, and enhance the aesthetics of our community. To get murals contact mural.dc@dc.gov, 202-673-6833 or the MuralsDC coordinator, nancee.lyons@dc.gov, 202-671-2637.

Commissioner Maydak:

Street Lighting — The District’s Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) and the Department of Transportation held an informal town hall on February 24, 2018, to get input from the public about the installation of new LED street lights. The manufacturers were at the meeting. OP3 and DDOT will be designating an advisory board with representatives from each ward to advise on what lights to install. More information should be available on OP3’s website (<https://op3.dc.gov/node/1195519>).

Commissioner Malitz:

Video Recording of Meetings — The Commission began video recording its meetings, and the the February 12 meeting can be viewed on ANC 3/4G’s YouTube channel (ANC3G). Since the video was posted, it has been viewed 83 times, compared to only 15 people who attended in person. By that measure, the video recording has been a success in making the meetings more available. (The video for the February 26, 2018 meeting may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2Ezm6UuvRQ>, though an equipment malfunction stopped the recording at 1:23:00)

Community Announcements (11:00 and 24:00)

Ian Maggard, from the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations, announced that the District welcomed its 700,000th residents this last week. On Saturday, March 3 at 11:30 am, the Mayor and the Council will unveil a statue of Marion Barry at the Wilson Building. The Mayor’s Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives will give the Women of Excellence Awards on Sunday, March 4 at 4:00 pm to celebrate and honor outstanding women of achievement in the District of Columbia. It will take place at the Pearl Street Warehouse, 33 Pearl Street SW.

Jackson Carnes, Councilmember Todd's Director of Constituent Services, announced that oversight hearings continue before the Councilmember's Government Operations Committee with hearings for the Chief Technology Office and the Executive Office of the Mayor. He also noted that there will be a block captain training on Tuesday, March 13 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Fourth District police station, 6001 Georgia Avenue, NW. Finally, he suggested that potholes can be reported through 311 or to him at jcarnes@dccouncil.us.

Anthony Castillo, Councilmember Cheh's Deputy Director for Constituent Services, announced that the oversight hearing for DDOT will be held on February 27 at 2:30 pm. He also noted the unveiling of the Marion Barry statute at the Wilson Building on Saturday, March 3.

Presentation by Dr. Robert Holman, the DC Fire and EMS Department's Medical Director to discuss the Right Care, Right Now initiative (14:00)

Commissioner Speck introduced Dr. Holman, the Medical Director for the District's Fire and EMS Department. Dr. Holman practiced Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases for 24 years in Arlington, Virginia, has been a Professor of Medicine at Georgetown, and served as an Associate Dean of Clinical Education for Georgetown at the Virginia Hospital Center.

Dr. Holman said that he'd been with EMS for two years. He announced that EMS's new nurse triage program — "Right Care, Right Now" — would begin April 19. He said that currently, an ambulance is dispatched for a 911 call even though the caller's condition does not warrant use of those resources. Under the new program, if the dispatcher determines that the call is not an emergency, a nurse will evaluate the caller and arrange for the appropriate care. That may mean referral to a community health center for those on Medicaid or referral to a personal physician. The nurse can also arrange transportation through a contractor. Dr. Holman said that this new system will have three benefits: (1) it provides relief for the EMS ambulance system; (2) it reduces the number of emergency room visits, and (3) it gets residents to a primary care physician who can provide the necessary treatment.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked how those who are not covered by Medicaid will be treated in this system. Dr. Holman said that they would be advised to go to their personal physician. In the future, they expect to add a feature that will include private insurers. Commissioner Malitz asked whether this program will be coordinated with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, which sometimes responds to calls in the District. Dr. Holman said that the Rescue Squad would not be involved because they do not respond to emergency calls for District residents. Stefanie Van Pelt asked how the decision will be made whether to refer the call to the nurse. Dr. Holman said that the dispatcher will make that determination and only the least serious calls — e.g., headache, sore throat, mosquito bites — would go to the nurse. Everyone would agree on the least serious calls that should be referred to the nurse. In the beginning, they expect only about 65 calls a day to go to the nurse, and all other calls would receive standard treatment. In response to a question from Commissioner Clayman, Dr. Holman said that they expect to ramp up to 200 calls a day.

The Commission thanked Dr. Holman for his presentation.

Discussion and possible vote on Public Space Permit application (No. 275813) to close existing driveway, and to construct a new driveway, leadwalk with steps, and landscaping at 7076 Oregon Avenue, NW (25:00)

Commissioner Clayman indicated that this application seeks to divide the existing lot into two lots. The application is subject to a number of reviews, including by the Commission of Fine Arts and the Public Space Committee. The developer made a presentation to the ANC on January 8, 2018, about the public space permit application, but a number of questions remained, so they agreed to return for another presentation.

David Landsman and Greg Davis represented the developer, McCullough Residential. Mr. Landsman summarized the plans to close the existing driveway and to construct a shared driveway on the property line between the two new houses. The new driveway will have pervious pavers in public space, and they plan to plant new trees in public space.

Commissioner Clayman asked how many trees would be removed. Mr. Landsman said that five trees on private property will be removed. They are also removing 12 trees in public space and planting 11 new trees. They now plan to retain the heritage cherry tree, which is 14 inches in diameter but are consulting with the Urban Forestry Division, which has agreed to reevaluate the tree in the spring, before any new construction that would affect the tree. They will be restoring the grade near the tree and will prune its roots to install the new driveway, all with the assistance of a certified arborist. There will also be periodic checkups after the work to assure the health of the tree.

Commissioner Speck asked whether it is possible to move the driveway away from the tree, as Mr. McCullough suggested might be possible at the Commission's January 8 meeting. Mr. Landsman reported that the arborist believes the tree will not be damaged. He also indicated that moving the shared driveway would be difficult because it straddles the property line between the two houses. Commissioner Speck expressed reservations about relying on the opinion of the developer's arborist because the Commission had accepted the arborist's opinion that the street trees at 5333 Connecticut would be protected during the installation of a circular driveway, but the trees were damaged anyway. Commissioner Speck asked whether the Urban Forestry's arborist had signed off on the application, and Mr. Landsman said it was still being reviewed. Commissioner Speck also noted that the drawings being provided to the Commission — showing that the heritage cherry tree was not to be removed — were not yet on TOPS, and Mr. Landsman said that the new drawings would be posted.

Commissioner Clayman asked whether the Commission of Fine Arts review is complete, and Mr. Landsman said that it was except for some detailed drawings that do not affect the Commission's review. He expects CFA's final approval in March. The Department of Energy and Environment has also requested some additional soil testing. They are also doing some further work on storm water management. The application is scheduled for hearing before the Public Space Committee on March 22, 2018.

Beth Lansbrough, a nearby neighbor, asked whether the back retaining wall would be removed, and Mr. Landsman said it would not. Only the low retaining wall on Western Avenue would be removed and the slope regraded. Ms. Lansbrough also asked whether the grade on the lot will change in light of the elevation of the current house. Mr. Landsman said that the existing driveway will be filled in, and cuts will be made into the hill to construct the new driveway. The new houses will be at a lower elevation than the existing house. Ms. Lansbrough asked how the height of the new houses compares with the existing house. Mr. Landsman said that the new houses will be three stories, but because they are at a lower elevation, the height will be similar to the current height. The new houses will not be built on any fill.

Connie Chang asked whether there will be any penalty if the heritage cherry tree is destroyed. Mr. Landsman said that the penalty is \$300 per circumference-inch or about \$13,000, which would be a substantial incentive for the developer to protect the tree. They will install a tree protection fence and will fertilize the tree during construction. Ms. Chang asked about the reason for removing the other trees in public space, and Mr. Landsman said it was generally to clean up scrub trees and replace them with canopy trees.

Allen Beach asked where the dumpster will be placed and what accommodations would be made for construction workers' parking. Mr. Landsman said that the dumpster will be placed in the existing driveway, and workers would park there as well. Mr. Beach asked whether they had planned for DDOT's rehabilitation of Oregon Avenue. Mr. Landsman said that they were aware of those plans, and, in response to a question from Commissioner Fromboluti, he said that the leadwalk would be designed to meet the planned sidewalk. In terms of truck traffic during construction, he expected it to be along Western Avenue, not Oregon Avenue. Commissioner Speck noted that because DDOT plans to do the northern portion of Oregon Avenue first, it could coincide with construction of these houses (which Mr. Landsman said would start in June or July 2018 and last for six to eight months). Commissioner Speck suggested that the developer attend the Commission's April 9 meeting when DDOT and DC Water would make a joint presentation on the plans and timetables for Oregon Avenue.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked whether the "cellar" on the drawings is a basement. Mr. Landsman said that a cellar is buried more than a basement, but otherwise, there is no difference.

A resident behind 7070 Oregon Avenue asked whether the height of the new houses would be higher than the existing house. Mr. Landsman said that it will be similar and within the zoning regulations permitted height — zoning permits heights up to 40 feet, and the new homes will be about 30 feet.

On the basis of this discussion, Commissioner Clayman moved that the Commission object to the application because, on its face, it does not provide protections for the heritage cherry tree. The Commission would withdraw its objection, however, if the Urban Forestry Division agrees that the construction plans will not adversely affect the heritage cherry tree. The Commission approved the motion by a vote of 7 to 0 and designated Commissioner Speck to represent the Commission at the Public Space Committee hearing on March 22, 2018.

Presentation on the role of the DDOT Community Engagement group by its new manager, Lee Goodall (58:00)

Commissioner Speck noted that for some time, DDOT has not had community engagement team. When Jeff Marootian became Director, he promised to fill these positions, and Lee Goodall is now in place as the manager of community engagement. The ANC appreciates having a liaison person to whom we can take any DDOT concern.

Mr. Goodall (lee.goodall@dc.gov, 202-671-2288) said he has been on the job for only 33 days and that his position is a part of DDOT's external affairs group. He currently has two people reporting to him, one of whom is Donise Jackson (donise.jackson@dc.gov, 202-478-1450), whose responsibilities include liaison with ANC 3/4G. They plan to add more coordinators. Their job will be to work with the ANCs and their constituents to respond to concerns and to get answers from the different parts of DDOT. They expect to develop proactive plans to manage and track service requests through the 311 system. They set internal timelines for completion of service request work — e.g., potholes should be filled within 72 hours. Mr. Goodall encouraged residents and commissioners to download the 311 app, report concerns through that system, and keep track of the service number.

Shelley Schoenberger, a resident in SMD 3G03, called attention to the sidewalk on Military Road near 28th Street that is sorely in need of repair. Mr. Goodall said that because this sidewalk abuts a large street tree, they are working with Urban Forestry to make the repairs in a way that protects the tree. Ms. Schoenberger emphasized that the sidewalk in its current state is quite dangerous, particularly with the traffic on Military Road. She is frustrated because this sidewalk has been called to DDOT's attention for more than a year. It is an emergency that requires immediate attention. She noted that another Military Road resident had undertaken to repair the sidewalk and had done a good job of making it passable without harming the street tree.

Mr. Goodall noted that the tree-planting season is upcoming, and residents should report needed tree planting to Urban Forestry. He also announced that DDOT will hold an open house for ANC commissioners on March 17 from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm at 55 M Street, SE.

Commissioner Bradfield said that 41st Street from Western Avenue to about three blocks south of Military Road badly needs resurfacing. For several blocks south of that, it needs pothole repairs. Commissioner Maydak asked whether DDOT would replace the sidewalk where it was diverted around a tree that has since died and cannot be replaced. She said this is not a priority, but it needs to be fixed. Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked how Mr. Goodall's and Ms. Jackson's roles differed from those of Alberta Paul, who she had used as a contact at DDOT. Mr. Goodall said that Ms. Paul is responsible for capital projects and is a good contact, but for general issues, the commissioners should contact him or Ms. Jackson.

Presentation by Sam Zimbabwe, DDOT's Chief Project Delivery Officer, and discussion about the dockless bicycle test program (1:13:00)

Commissioner Malitz indicated that Capital Bikeshare — DDOT's program that has been in place for several years — has 265 docking stations, but only 32 are located in Wards 7 and 8. He

said that the data shows that the demographics for users are different between dockless bikes and Capital Bikeshare. The cost is less for dockless bikes, which do not charge an \$85 fee for membership. The dockless bikes trial program includes five companies and extends through April. He said that some of the complaints about dockless bikes are similar to those during the growing pains for Cars-to-Go. A particular problem is with dockless bike users leaving the bikes on sidewalks, stealing them, or even dumping them in the Potomac River.

Mr. Zimbabwe said that dockless bike users do have to agree to parking terms when they rent, but most users probably don't read those conditions. He said the problem is different with parking on sidewalks downtown than in residential neighborhoods. Education has been a problem, and they need better communications to dockless bike users. Cars-to-Go is different because there are standard, well-understood rules about where cars can be parked, but there are no similar accepted rules for parking bikes.

Mr. Zimbabwe presented data that DDOT has collected on dockless bike trips from October through December (https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1868db7b-2819-4c3e-b1fa-93a21df431db/downloads/1c7etmil7_222716.pdf). From September through December 147,100 trips were taken on dockless bikes, with 31,600 users (though some users may have used more than one company), using 4,800 bikes, and with an average trip of 1.3 miles.

DDOT sees dockless bikes as a way to increase peak biking capacity, and they are now trying to determine from the data whether dockless bikes are supplementing or duplicating Capital Bikeshare. Capital Bikeshare is publicly owned and operated (though managed by a contractor). Capital Bikeshare owns the stations and the bikes and operates in multiple jurisdictions.

Mr. Zimbabwe acknowledged that they need to work on the demographics and determine how to communicate with underserved areas. Capital Bikeshare has focused on expansion in Wards 7 and 8 and has concluded that there needs to be a cluster of stations so that users can ride from one to others. He said that Capital Bikeshare is not going away, no matter what happens with dockless bikes.

Mr. Zimbabwe identified several problems with the dockless bikes. First, some of the companies' bikes have quality problems. Second, one company requires its bikes to be locked to a bike rack or sign while the other four companies allow the bike to be parked anywhere. (It is illegal for a bike to be parked in public space and attached to something for more than 12 hours.) Third, some of the bikes are more prone to tip over than others.

Commissioner Maydak said she gets nothing but complaints about dockless bikes. Some are parked on a sidewalk for two weeks or even parked in the street. Bikes are knocked over and left where they fall. She said that users don't park bikes in front of their own houses but in front of others. She said that at Metro stations, the dockless bikes that accumulate look like a junk yard. Something needs to be done — e.g., maybe a pin to hold the bikes. Mr. Zimbabwe said that there is no mechanism for ticketing bikes. They need to develop a way to issue tickets for improperly parked dockless bikes.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked how the ANC can provide feedback on the dockless bike program. Mr. Zimbabwe said that DDOT is getting feedback all through the trial period. Sometime in March, DDOT will decide what to do after the end of the trial period on April 1, and there will be a public comment period on DDOT's proposed rules. They also have a dedicated email for reporting problems — dockless.bikeshare@dc.gov.

Commissioner Fromboluti cited the bad experience with dockless bikes in China. He also commented on the “trash bin” of bikes around Metro stops. He said it would be better to have smaller Capital Bikeshare stations that could serve more of the neighborhoods. Mr. Zimbabwe said that there is a bigger demand for Capital Bikeshare in some areas of the District (e.g., around universities). He said that the problem with smaller stations is the difficulty with replenishing the stations. Commissioner Malitz mentioned that the dockless bikes are very popular on university campuses because Capital Bikeshare is not allowed to be on campuses, and the Bikeshare station closest to AU is in Spring Valley.

Commissioner Bradfield said that Capital Bikeshare is great, but he's counted 23 complaints from his constituents about dockless bikes. He said that there is a need for regulation and asked whether the data being collected on dockless bikes could be compiled by ANC. Mr. Zimbabwe said that they have detailed trip data for each of the five companies that can be aggregated to the Ward or ANC level. Commissioner Bradfield asked whether the Bikeshare stations could be shorter. Mr. Zimbabwe said that smaller stations don't work because of the need to rebalance the stations. Twenty bikes is the minimum for a station, which they see as analogous to a bus stop, where users must walk a few blocks to get a bike. Commissioner Bradfield suggested that the onus should be on the company if dockless bikes are not moved.

The Commission thanked Mr. Zimbabwe and Mr. Goodall for their presentations.

Discussion and possible vote on draft testimony to be given on behalf of ANC 3/4G at the DC Water oversight hearing before the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment on March 2, 2018 to address the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC)

Commissioner Speck reported that the ANC began focusing on DC Water's escalating CRIAC fees in November 2017, when its Board Chair, Tommy Wells, discussed these changes with the Commission. From that meeting, the Commission learned that (1) CRIAC fees are now the dominant part of many customers' water bills, (2) CRIAC affects everyone, but it hits non-profits, seniors, and low-income customers particularly hard, (3) CRIAC fees will continue to grow for at least another decade, and (4) DC Water has no viable plan to provide any relief.

The Commission has followed developments since then, including Council hearings on a bill that would exempt cemeteries from CRIAC and an exchange of letters between Councilmember Cheh and DC Water about possible solutions to the dilemma that CRIAC poses. The Council's oversight hearing on March 2, 2018, provides an opportunity for the Commission to convey its views to the Council and DC Water and can focus attention on the best path forward.

The Commission has drafted testimony that describes the impact that CRIAC fees have had on the non-profits in our ANC — e.g., the Knollwood Military Retirement Community, Blessed Sacrament School, St. John's College High School, Ingleside Continuing Care Retirement Community, Temple Sinai, and the Carnegie Institute for Science — as well as on individual customers. Clearly, it is not possible to continue piling greater burdens on DC Water customers who are reaching the breaking point. DC Water has to pay the \$2.7 billion that will be required to clean up the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, so if it gives one set of customers a reduced fee, it will have to increase CRIAC for others.

The Commission concluded that the only equitable solution is for the District government to pay for its share of storm water runoff from streets, alleys, and sidewalks to create a fund that will pay down the CRIAC bills for DC Water customers generally, but with particular emphasis on those most acutely impacted by these fees — seniors, non-profits, and low-income customers. Our testimony encourages the Council to work with DC Water to provide this relief.

Commissioner Speck moved that the Commission support this testimony before the Council, and the motion was approved 7 to 0.

Discussion and possible vote on resolution supporting the March 24 March for Our Lives

Commissioner Malitz described the draft resolution supporting the March for Our Lives on March 24. The resolution recites the events that have led students and others to organize this March. Based on this background, the resolution indicates “that ANC 3/4G fully supports the call to take to the streets of Washington DC and other locations for the March For Our Lives on March 24, and we endorse its goals to demand that the lives and safety of children and others become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools and elsewhere immediately.”

Commissioner Maydak said that she supports the March but questions the purpose of the resolution, which does not advise the Council or the Mayor to enact any legislation or to take any actions. She suggested that it could urge passage of legislation. As it is, she questioned what the resolution would accomplish.

Commissioner Malitz said that this resolution is analogous to the one the Commission passed supporting the owners of Comet Pizza. The schools in our neighborhood are vulnerable to the kind of attack that occurred in Parkland, Florida, and it is appropriate to support the March that addresses those concerns.

A Knollwood resident asked whether the Commission is advocating for gun legislation or some other measure. Phil McAuley, from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, offered that the Mayor is introducing legislation to ban bump stocks, and the resolution could support that legislation.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield suggested that we should consider what action we could propose that the District can take. She proposed that we postpone the consideration of the resolution until the Commission's March 12 meeting when there can be further deliberation. Commissioner

Bradfield suggested that the “resolved” paragraph should include more teeth. Commissioner Malitz said that at least the resolution had sparked discussion of this important issue. Commissioner Fromboluti suggested that the resolution might address Florida Senator Rubio’s bill in the Senate that would get rid of all District gun laws.


The Commission agreed to revise the resolution and to consider it at the March 12 meeting.

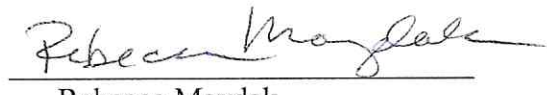
Commission Business:

1. The Commission voted 6 to 0 to approve the minutes for its January 22, 2018 meeting.
2. Commissioner Tuck-Garfield reported that the Commission received its full allotment of \$3,997.96 on February 1 and another full allotment of \$3997.96 on February 26.
3. Items for the March 12, 2018 meeting may include: Presentation by Michael Tobin, Office of Police Complaints, on data collection and publication under the NEAR Act; discussion of continuing poor stormwater drainage at Lafayette Park; consideration of possible ANC testimony on Bill 22-663, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2018; discussion of continuing poor stormwater drainage at Lafayette Park; discussion and possible vote on resolution supporting the March 24 March for Our Lives

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Signed,


Randy Speck
Chair


Rebecca Maydak
Secretary