

ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2017
Chevy Chase Community Center, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20015

- 7:00 Adoption of Agenda
- 7:05 Commissioner Announcements
- 7:15 Community Announcements
- 7:20 Discussion with DPR Director Anderson and Deputy Director Masimini on DPR's proposed reduction in Community Center hours to close at 9:00 pm instead of 10:00 pm on weekdays and possible vote on resolution
- 8:05 Presentation by and discussion with Jeff Marootian, Acting DDOT Director, on transportation issues in the community including (1) procedures for communicating upcoming DDOT actions to the ANC and the community, (2) the criteria that DDOT uses for deciding which sidewalks will be repaired and which will not, (3) the status of DDOT's review of the traffic pattern changes made at the Reno Road/39th Street intersection; (4) the status of plans for sidewalks on Chestnut Street; (5) the status of plans for Oregon Avenue Reconstruction; (6) DDOT's study of possible traffic calming or other measures in light of the changed driving patterns due to the Oregon Avenue closure, which are also affected by the Beach Drive closure; (7) the need for better signage/markings at pedestrian crossings (e.g., at Military Road and 30th Place and at Chevy Chase Circle); (8) DDOT's review of no parking signage around Temple Sinai; (9) the status of incomplete sidewalk repairs in the 3700 block of Joselyn and 3800 block of Kanawha, and (10) the status of the Beach Drive Rehabilitation project (which is inexplicably omitted on DDOT's FY 2018-2022 Projects List)
- 8:45 Presentations on grant applications
- 9:00 Discussion and possible vote on an application for a public space permit (DDOT Tracking # 02219726) to construct a retaining wall and curb cut at 5363 29th Street, NW
- 9:15 **Commission Business:**
1. Minutes: September 25, 2017
 2. Checks: \$124.64 Verizon, \$44.65 DOES unemployment, \$31.90 Canon (taxes on copier lease), \$91.56 Canon (final lease payment), \$125.29 Verizon telephone and internet, \$134.00 Postmaster (PO box rental), \$87.90 Jeralynn Graham (leased copier return shipping), \$149.90 Jeralynn Graham (toner for copier)
 3. Allotment: \$3997.96 (FY 17 final amount – paid in FY '18)

4. Adoption of ANC 3/4G's July – September FY 2017 Quarterly Report
5. Adoption of ANC 3/4G's FY 2018 budget
6. Items for the November 13 meeting may include: presentation by Alka Mysore of DC ReInvest on effort to have the District divest from its primary bank, Wells Fargo; presentation by Marcia Bernbaum, the People for Fairness Coalition, on the Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative and Bill 22-0223, Public Restroom Facility Installation and Promotion Act of 2017; discussion and possible vote on the Broad Branch Market's application to renew its Class B liquor license (License Number ABRA-081331), presentation by Celeste Duffie, Department of Public Works, on leaf collection program, recyclables, and Zero Waste initiative

If you aren't able to attend the ANC's public meeting, you may submit your written comments via ANC 3/4G's website (<http://www.anc3g.org/contact-us/>).

Note: Police representatives of PSA 201 may attend and are invited to speak.

COMMISSIONERS

3G01 - Abraham Clayman
3G02 - Chanda Tuck-Garfield
3G03 - Randy Speck
3G04 - Rebecca Maydak

3G05 - Jerry Malitz
3G06 - Dan Bradfield
3G07 - Chris Fromboluti

ANC 3/4G Public Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monday, October 23, 2017
Chevy Chase Community Center
5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20015

Present: Speck, Fromboluti, Tuck-Garfield, Maydak, Bradfield, Malitz, Clayman.

Attendance: Approximately 90 people attended the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted by a vote of 7 – 0.

Commissioner Announcements:

Commissioner Speck:

Carnegie's Atomic Physics Observatory — Carnegie recently completed work on sanding and repainting the dome of its Atomic Physics Observatory, which was the site of one of the first demonstrations of uranium fission in January 1939. Carnegie had considered razing the Observatory, but after discussions with the ANC and those interested in historic preservation, it has decided to make the necessary repairs so that it can be preserved, at least for now. Carnegie also has the first of its fall community lecture series on October 26 at 6:30 at the DTM Campus, 3241 Broad Branch Road. This lecture is entitled "The Mystery of Planet Formation." The second fall community lecture is on November 16.

Halloween Events — DPR will have activities for all ages on October 31 at the Community Center from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Police officers from the Second District will also be there. The Chevy Chase Citizens Association, in conjunction with the businesses along the Avenue, will have its annual Halloween Spooktacular, also from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on October 31. Get your costumes, and join the fun along the Avenue.

Roundtable on the Condition of District Roadways — Councilmember Cheh will hold a roundtable discussion on DDOT's road rehabilitation efforts, the feasibility of using alternative construction materials to facilitate the preservation of infrastructure assets, what other resources DDOT needs to more effectively meet its obligations to conduct maintenance and rehabilitation activities, and what specific plans DDOT has to improve roadway conditions. The roundtable will be begin at 11:00 am on October 31 at the Wilson Building, Room 412. Anyone wishing to testify should call Ms. Aukima Benjamin at (202) 724-8062 or e-mail her at abenjamin@dccouncil.us.

Chevy Chase Community Center Survey — The survey to gather data about what the community wants and needs for the future of the Community Center remains open until November 2, 2017. Everyone is encouraged to complete the form online at <https://cccc.questionpro.com/>. It only takes about ten minutes, and it is an important way to participate in shaping the Community Center that we want for the next decades.

Ingleside Official Groundbreaking — Ingleside at Rock Creek had a formal groundbreaking ceremony on October 17. The Mayor and others spoke about the history and contributions of Ingleside to our community as well as the expectations for this major expansion project. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020. The ANC continues to have monthly Task Force meetings with Ingleside to address any community concerns that arise during construction.

Commissioner Maydak:

Lafayette Recreation Center Modernization Community Meeting — DPR and DGS will hold a project kickoff meeting for the scheduled modernization of Lafayette Recreation Center on October 26 at 6:30 at the Community Center. This will be the first community meeting regarding the modernization and will introduce the DGS and DPR project team to the community, as well as members of the selected architectural firm.

Commissioner Clayman:

Raze Permit Application — An application has been filed for a permit to raze the house at 7080 Oregon Avenue. If anyone has any issues or concerns about this application, they should let the Commission know.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield:

UDC's Urban Agriculture Program — The University of the District of Columbia is holding its second annual Food Recovery Week from October 21-28. This is part of UDC's urban agriculture program that has many events for the public. More information is available at UDC's website, <https://www.udc.edu/causes/>.

Community Announcements:

Phillip McAuley from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations highlighted the Mayor's weekly newsletter, which is available by email by signing up on line (<https://mayor.dc.gov/node/1237196>). He also noted the Mayor's 30-month progress report (available at <https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/publication/attachments/30-month-report.pdf>). He reported on the District's pitch to Amazon for its second headquarters and the identification of four potential sites in the District (<https://dc.gov/release/washington-dc-proposes-four-sites-amazon-hq2>). Finally, he noted the launch of DC Water's infrastructure projects in Ward 4 that will help to reduce storm water runoff and pollution.

Jackson Carnes, Councilmember Todd's Director of Constituent Services, reported that the Councilmember continues to strongly support continuation of the Community Center's current closing hours. He also noted the DC Water infrastructure project, which is actually 77 individual projects that will be completed over two years. Finally, he said that the Councilmember will give his annual Ward 4 seniors address on October 26 at 10:00 am at the Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center, 501 Riggs Road, NE.

Anthony Castillo, Councilmember Cheh's Deputy Director for Constituent Services, indicated that he would be posting further information about the Councilmember's Roundtable on the Condition of the District's Roadways on the Chevy Chase listserv. He also noted that the open enrollment period for the District's health care plans under the Affordable Care Act would be from December 1 through January 31. More information is available at <https://dchealthlink.com>, including information about "one-touch enrollment events" where anyone can get immediate help to assure health insurance coverage.

**Discussion with DPR Director Anderson and Deputy Director Masimini
on DPR's proposed reduction in Community Center hours to close at
9:00 pm instead of 10:00 pm on weekdays and possible vote on resolution**

Commissioner Speck began by summarizing the events that led to this meeting on the Community Center's evening hours. On September 12, 2017, with no community consultation, DPR notified Community Center users that it would "begin new hours as of . . . September 18th. Our new hours will be 9:00 am - 9:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. All classes, programs, meetings and special events must end by 8:30 pm." The ANC and many others strenuously objected to this unilateral change. On September 22, Councilmembers Todd and Cheh wrote DPR Director Anderson expressing their concerns about the proposed early closure. DPR agreed to defer implementation of these new hour until after the ANC met on September 25 (subsequently extended to an indefinite suspension).

Speakers at that September 25 meeting made several arguments against the proposed one-hour cut in service: (1) at least the scrabble, telescope making, drawing and painting, bridge, and fencing programs would all be adversely affected by the change since they currently meet until 9:00 pm or later; (2) the ANC, the Chevy Chase Citizens Association, and several other groups that meet at the Community Center would have to start earlier or shorten their meetings in order to accommodate the new hours; (3) both community meetings and programs would likely lose participants because many people could not get home and have dinner in time for an earlier start; and (4) shorter meetings or programs would make the Community Center an unacceptable venue for many of these activities. Commissioner Speck reported that although DPR had been invited, it did not attend the ANC's September 25 meeting, so the Commission rescheduled them for this meeting so that they could hear the community's concerns about this proposed change and answer any questions.

As a backdrop for this discussion, Commissioner Malitz reported on the preliminary data that we have collected from our Community Center survey as it bears on the community's desires for evening hours. Based on the responses to date, 57% of the respondents indicated that weekday evening hours were "very important" and 32% indicated that those hours were "somewhat important" — a total of 89% indicating that evening hours were important. In response to a more specific question about specific hours, the overwhelmingly most significant hours Monday through Thursday were from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm — about 40% more popular than any other time period during the day. This initial data confirms the value that residents place on evening hours.

The Chair then asked members of the community to speak about the value and importance of evening hours at the Community Center until the current 10:00 pm closing time.

Peggy Sewell, former ANC Commissioner and Chevy Chase resident since 1974, said that she had been a tap dance student and instructor when it was offered at the Community Center, and they held recitals in the auditorium. Those kinds of programs would have to find another venue if they had to end at 8:30 pm. In her four years as ANC Commissioner, it was important for the community to participate in the ANC's meetings, which provide a way for commissioners to learn what residents want. It would not be possible for the meetings to begin earlier than 7:00 pm because people have other things in their lives that would make an earlier start impossible. She said that the ANC meetings belong in the Community Center, where they can best serve the community.

Guy Brandenburg said that he leads the telescope making workshop that meets in the Community Center. This group has been featured in the Washington Times, Australian Broadcasting, NPR, and magazines. The members build telescopes by hand, including light weight lenses. The workshops include activities to learn optics and fabrication techniques. These processes take time, and participants used to stay until 10:00 pm. They now have to stop at 9:15 and conclude their work by no later than 9:30. Anyone that does not live in the immediate neighborhood would not be able to complete projects if the Community Center were to close earlier. He urged maintenance — or expansion — of the current evening hours.

Jay Thal, a 47-year resident of this precinct and the AARP liaison for Ward 3, said that the Community Center used to be a vital part of the community, but through neglect, it is no longer so vital. He cited the theater group that for many years put on plays in the auditorium. He is particularly interested in programs for seniors, including use of the woodworking equipment to provide additional activities for seniors.

Joy Dorman emphasized the importance of holding ANC meetings until later in the evenings. An earlier start time would mean that many people won't be able to attend. She said that the ANC provides one of the few opportunities that District residents have to influence governmental actions — "This is it for us." She said, "We need this forum to hear and to be heard," and an earlier closing time will diminish that essential opportunity.

Lee Schoenecker, a former chair of this ANC and a 40-year resident of the community, highlighted the importance of the ANC meetings that often go until 9:15 pm or even later. He said that the libraries across the District are extending their hours to better serve their communities. The hours at the Community Center should not be a budgetary issue given the District's healthy finances. He concluded that DPR should not be reducing hours and services.

Teresa Grana said that she has worked in the arts throughout the District, and there is a wealth of artistic talent in our neighborhood. The Community Center can and should be providing better studios for artists. It's not possible to create art in a hurry, and the Community Center can't attract artists to programs or studios if it is not open evening hours.

Deean Rubin spoke on behalf of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association, which holds its regular monthly meetings and Executive Board meetings at the Community Center. These meetings begin at 7:30 pm and often go past 9:00 pm. It would not be possible to start any earlier because working residents would not be able to commute home and have dinner before attending the meetings, and government officials often cannot get to the meetings before 7:30. She also noted that the CCCA hosts candidate forums at the Community Center, which cannot start before 7:30 because the candidates have other commitments, and those forums often go beyond 9:00 pm.

Ray Finkleman is a fencing master and has been teaching fencing at the Community Center for 40 years. The program at the Community Center is exceptionally successful and income-producing for the District. This program has produced national champions and Olympians. The fencing groups meet five days a week from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm or from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. It would not be possible for participants to come earlier, and it would be detrimental to the program to cut the available time. It simply is not possible to begin adult classes at 6:00 pm, which would be necessary if DPR implemented its announced plan.

Oscar Olmedo participates in the telescope making workshop, and he said this facility is one-of-a-kind. They would lose members if hours were cut because it takes 20 to 40 hours to make a telescope mirror, and shorter sessions would not be practical. He said this program has thrived since the 1920s or 1930s, and it needs the current hours if it is to continue.

Bettie Graham is 76 and has been fencing for 20 years. She is still working, so it is not possible for her to come to classes or training before 7:30 pm. An earlier closing would affect her ability to compete. Kids also come to classes from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, and could not come earlier because they depend on parents to take them. The fencing program at the Community Center attracts international participants to train here. The current evening hours are essential on four or more nights a week to maintain this superior program. Ms. Graham recently won gold medals for her participation in a national and international competitions and is a testament to the success of this program.

Jon Lawlor, past-president of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association, emphasized the reasons it is important to have meetings at the Community Center. There is a strong public interest in both the CCCA and ANC meetings. Government officials often attend these meetings. This is a place where the people who represent us can meet with us to share ideas. Those interactions should take place in a building dedicated to public use, not in an alternative private space. This kind of exchange will be almost impossible if DPR closes earlier.

Samantha Nolan, also a past-president of the CCCA and a former ANC commissioner, said that the ANC's views are entitled to great weight, so their meetings are important to gather information from constituents. While most ANCs meet only once a month with meetings that sometimes last until 3:00 am, this ANC meets twice a month in order to accommodate the Community Center's closing time. Any earlier closing would make it difficult for residents to participate after commuting home and having dinner. She also takes bridge classes at the Community Center, and many bridge players would not be able get to classes if they began before 7:00 pm. Classes also need to be two hours long in order to get in the necessary practice.

Carolyn Cook, a former ANC Commissioner, spoke to the need for senior programs that will accommodate their needs. She wanted to hear from DPR why it was necessary to close earlier.

Ted Gest reiterated the need for maintaining or extending the current hours for the scrabble club. (The concerns of the scrabble group were discussed in detail at the ANC's September 25 meeting.) He also reported on his informal survey of scrabble groups in other cities that meet at community centers. He said that the earliest close was 9:00 pm, but most closed at 10:00 pm or even later.

The Chair then asked to hear from DPR Director Anderson. Director Anderson said that DPR manages 76 recreation centers in addition to many other facilities around the District. He said that they are now surveying the needs of every community, recognizing that "one size does not fit all." He would like to increase hours at the Community Center, not decrease them, and they are looking at extending Saturday and Sunday hours. This community has a robust senior population that needs to be accommodated, and they need to assess the need of every community for evening hours. In the coming months, they intend to engage with the community about programs and meetings at the Community Center to determine what works best.

Director Anderson also announced that on October 24, the Department of Human Resources would announce a new senior programming manager for the Chevy Chase Community Center. The announcement will be open for at least two weeks and perhaps for three weeks. The Commission thanked him for this step but emphasized that DPR needs to make sure the opening is widely publicized so that they can get the best possible person.

Commissioner Malitz asked what DPR will look at in making a decision about operating hours. Director Anderson indicated that DPR would be conducting community meetings, with the involvement of the ANC, to gather information. John Stokes and Wayne Gore would be working on developing this information. Director Anderson could not say when any decision would be made, but it would be in the "coming months." Residents emphasized that there should be significant outreach to the community to get broad participation — perhaps through flyers and not just a post on the listserv, which does not reach everyone.

Others asked whether there was a budgetary constraint and whether hours might be limited because of a lack of funds. Director Anderson indicated that DPR must serve all eight wards but the budget "was not necessarily an issue." Another resident asked why the cutback was initiated in the first place, and Director Anderson said that there was "no good reason," and he didn't want to rehash the past. Residents emphasized that it won't be sufficient to trade off increased hours on Sunday for shorter hours on weekdays. Director Anderson said there could be both Sunday hours and the current evening hours.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield urged DPR to send a representative to the ANC on a regular basis to hear from the community their concerns about the Community Center. Director Anderson said that they will attend the ANC's meetings when there is an issue that involves them, and they get regular reports of our meetings from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services. He also introduced Brian Williams, the recreation manager for Cluster 4, which

includes the Community Center, and Karla Kelly, the regional manager for the region that includes Cluster 4.

Commissioner Speck thanked Director Anderson for maintaining the current hours for the indefinite future. He made it clear, however, that regardless of the community engagement that DPR undertakes, it is clear from the community statements at this meeting and at the ANC's September 25 meeting that we are insistent on keeping evening hours. If DPR should ever attempt to cut those hours, we will again be pounding on DPR's doors to preserve the services that we have and to expand them as necessary to better serve the community.

Presentation by and discussion with Jeff Marootian, Acting DDOT Director, on transportation issues in the community including (1) procedures for communicating upcoming DDOT actions to the ANC and the community, (2) the criteria that DDOT uses for deciding which sidewalks will be repaired and which will not, (3) the status of DDOT's review of the traffic pattern changes made at the Reno Road/39th Street intersection; (4) the status of plans for sidewalks on Chestnut Street; (5) the status of plans for Oregon Avenue Reconstruction; (6) DDOT's study of possible traffic calming or other measures in light of the changed driving patterns due to the Oregon Avenue closure, which are also affected by the Beach Drive closure; (7) the need for better signage/markings at pedestrian crossings (e.g., at Military Road and 30th Place and at Chevy Chase Circle); (8) DDOT's review of no parking signage around Temple Sinai; (9) the status of incomplete sidewalk repairs in the 3700 block of Joselyn and 3800 block of Kanawha, and (10) the status of the Beach Drive Rehabilitation project (which is inexplicably omitted on DDOT's FY 2018-2022 Projects List)

The Chair indicated that the ANC has worked with DDOT for several years on a long list of concerns. While a few concerns have been resolved, others have lingered for months or years. The Commission invited DDOT's newly nominated Director, Jeff Marootian, to update us on a number of the persistent issue and a few new ones.

The Director said that he appreciated this opportunity to meet with the ANC and the community. He realizes that it is important to package what DDOT is planning to do in a way that is understandable to the community, and this communications component is essential. He said they are in the process of staffing up their community engagement teams and will be hiring others shortly. The full team should be in place next year so that DDOT can be represented at all of the ANC's meetings. He introduced Paul Hoffman, the manager for major projects in Wards 3 and 4, John Thomas, the Chief Performance Officer, and Joe Dorsey, who is responsible for conditions assessments and setting DDOT's priorities.

The Director then addressed each of the items on the ANC's agenda.

- (1) Procedures for communicating upcoming DDOT actions to the ANC and the community

The Chair indicated that the ANC statute specifies that DDOT is to give 30-days notice of any “public improvements.” DC Code Section 1-309.10(c). Historically, ANCs have never received that required notice from DDOT, in part because some of the work does not lend itself to that much advance notice. Recently, notices have improved, but we need to understand exactly what procedures DDOT is now following to give ANCs and the residents notice of upcoming activities.

Director Marootian said that sometimes 30-days notice is not feasible, particularly when there is an emergency project. DDOT is endeavoring, however, to communicate its plans for an entire construction season so that the ANC and the community will know what projects are upcoming. The communications will be ongoing so that the notice will be a formality. Emergencies will be an exception.

(2) the criteria that DDOT uses for deciding which sidewalks will be repaired and which will not

Commissioner Speck reported that DDOT recently repaired unsafe sidewalks on parts of 30th Place but did not repair other equally unsafe sidewalks on the same street or adjacent streets. He asked for an explanation for how DDOT prioritizes sidewalk repairs.

Director Marootian said that DDOT looks for the worst condition and sets priorities based on a assessment of the sidewalk, road, or alley condition. There is, however, sometimes a lag between the assessment and when the work is done so deterioration could mean that conditions have changed in the interim. Priorities for sidewalk repairs also consider safety, particularly on routes that children use to schools. This is part of the overall Vision Zero program to eliminate traffic-related fatalities by 2024. The Mayor also initiated the AlleyPalooza program, which has repaved more than 400 alleys — e.g., the alley in the 3700 block of Northampton is part of this program.

A resident on 30th Place asked why contractors were not better informed when they placed No Parking signs on both sides of his block before discovering that sidewalks would be repaired on only one side of the block. Director Marootian explained that the signs are prepared by DDOT and given to the contractor, so it could be a DDOT problem. He acknowledged that these kinds of mistakes are frustrating. If the signs are inaccurate or placed incorrectly, they will often be ignored, creating problems when cars are parked where construction actually does take place. DDOT is working to improve outreach so that residents know when the work is coming and why No Parking signs have been placed.

Another resident said that she had reported a pothole at the intersection of Northampton and McKinley through the 311 system, but when contractors were doing work on the road at that same intersection, they did not repair the pot hole. Director Marootian said they would look into this instance.

(3) the status of DDOT’s review of the traffic pattern changes made at the Reno Road/39th Street intersection

The Chair indicated that DDOT had implemented several traffic pattern changes at this intersection in June hoping to improve safety. Commissioners Fromboluti and Speck met with several neighbors and Director Marootian on September 11 to review the impact of the changes, and to discuss some data gathering that DDOT would do. One concern was the effect the change would have on other intersections, e.g., Reno Road and Chevy Chase Parkway, where a serious accident occurred on October 20.

Commissioner Fromboluti noted that DDOT had been much more open in communications with the ANC and the community under Director Marootian. He said that there seems to have been a decrease in southbound traffic on 39th Street since the changes, but it is difficult to tell where that traffic has gone without the data from a traffic count. The ANC would like any information DDOT has on the consequences of the changes that were made at 39th and Reno.

The Director indicated that the data has been collected on the surrounding streets and is being analyzed. He expects to have the results of that analysis in two to three weeks. DDOT had previously committed to reassess the situation with the ANC in January, but that could occur sooner. He noted that while they make every effort to prevent accidents, “not every crash is avoidable.”

One resident said that the problem is not just this intersection; every intersection along Reno Road is dangerous, in part because of the speed of traffic on Reno. The resident acknowledged that communications with DDOT are much better and the pedestrian crossing signs at 39th Street and Reno Road are an improvement. Nevertheless, it is still difficult for school children to cross Reno to Deal Middle School or Murch Elementary School. The resident suggested that the larger context deserves another look by DDOT.

Another resident noted that drivers still ignore the one-way section of 39th Street and continue southbound to the intersection with Reno Road. She also suggested that the data collection may be incomplete since the tubing was only installed on nearby streets for two or three days. The Director said he thought the data collection had been over a seven-day period but would check. The resident indicated that the problem at Chevy Chase Parkway and Reno Road was caused primarily by cars attempting to avoid the light at Connecticut Avenue during rush hours (which coincide with the time students are going to or from school).

(4) the status of plans for sidewalks on Chestnut Street

The Chair summarized the history of DDOT’s consideration of sidewalks on Chestnut Street. After years of meetings, discussions, and studies, on May 10, 2017, DDOT announced that it would construct sidewalks on the north side of the street using part of the existing roadway. DDOT said then that once it had configured new contracting procedures, it would select a consultant to begin the design process and would develop a projected schedule. Commissioner Clayman, who attended that May 10 meeting, said that DDOT left the impression that this work would begin soon. We would like an update on where that process stands.

DDOT’s Program Manager, Paul Hoffman, said that the plan for sidewalks was based on 15% design. Procurement for the full design phase has been slow, but he expects they can begin the

selection process for a contractor this quarter (i.e., by the end of the year) with the design work completed late in 2018. He said that the actual construction would be scheduled considering other work in the area (e.g., Beach Drive and Oregon Avenue). He said that there may be a window in the Beach Drive work that would permit the sidewalks to be installed in 2020.

A Chestnut Street resident said that the delay until 2020 was surprising — and unacceptable — given DDOT’s announcement in 2015 that it would be installing sidewalks immediately. Now it says we have to wait another two and a half years. He said that residents — particularly students — need the sidewalks for safety. The other projects in the vicinity have been well known for some time and have not changed.

Director Marootian said that they don’t want to install the sidewalks only to have them torn up because of utility or other work in the same area. They need to coordinate the work with other activities. He said, however, that he would come back to the community in two or three weeks with a more specific timeline. Commissioner Clayman asked DDOT to give the ANC and the community regular updates rather than waiting until the community has to ask for it. Such updates should be part of DDOT’s enhanced communications.

(5) the status of plans for Oregon Avenue Reconstruction

The Chair summarized DDOT’s last status report on Oregon Avenue, which indicated that this project will be broken into three sections. Section 1 from Beech Street to Western Avenue was expected to begin in the second quarter of 2018 and end in the fourth quarter of 2018. Section 2 from Military Road to Rittenhouse would begin in the first quarter of 2019 and end in the third quarter of 2019. Section 3 from Rittenhouse Street to Beech Street would begin in the fourth quarter of 2019 and end in the second quarter of 2020. This schedule was dependent on DC Water’s completion of the sewer rehabilitation project under Oregon Avenue, which, we learned recently, is currently on schedule for completion in April 2019.

Paul Hoffman reported that the timeline has “slipped.” He now believes that bids will be solicited by the end of the year, thus putting the start of construction on Section 1 back until about June 2018. Each section is still expected to take about nine months.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield said that the Commission has detailed its concerns about the communications on Oregon Avenue in testimony before the Council and in many meetings with DDOT. We have repeatedly asked for a designated contact at DDOT who will be responsible for providing accurate information and regular updates by email or through a dedicated website. She emphasized that the Commission wants to be proactive and to communicate with our constituents, but we can only do so if DDOT is forthcoming with timely information. Commissioner Tuck-Garfield contrasted the kinds of regular updates we receive from DC Water on its Oregon Avenue sewer rehabilitation project.

Director Marootian said that Paul Hoffman is the contact person, and he committed to providing regular updates, as requested.

(6) DDOT's study of possible traffic calming or other measures in light of the changed driving patterns due to the Oregon Avenue closure, which are also affected by the Beach Drive closure

The Chair indicated that Oregon Avenue will be closed to through traffic until at least the second quarter of 2020, and parts of Beach Drive will continue to be closed until the completion of Phase 4 in the fall of 2019. These compounding closures have diverted increased traffic through the neighborhood, particularly on Military Road, Utah Avenue, and Western Avenue. On June 4, he asked DDOT to look at the impact of these closures on neighborhood roads, particularly at the intersection of Military and Utah and at speeding on Utah. On September 5, he advised DDOT of a speeding concern on Western Avenue, and was told that DDOT was considering proactive steps to mitigate the problems caused by the multiple closures. He asked for a report from DDOT on what steps are being taken.

Director Marootian indicated that they had taken some measures to improve signage and were closely assessing the new traffic patterns. The Chair asked for a report on specific steps that were being taken, especially at the Military Road/Utah Avenue intersection where more drivers are turning left since they cannot use Oregon Avenue. The Oregon Avenue/Military Road intersection has a protected left turn lane and signal, but there is nothing similar at Utah Avenue where the sight lines are also a problem. The Director said that they would look at this intersection and report to the Commission.

A resident on Military Road asked that DDOT also look at the traffic on Military Road. She asked for speed controls, particularly for trucks. She said that additional traffic lights are needed to permit cars from side streets to enter Military Road and to permit pedestrians to cross Military. Finally, she said that there were "clanging" manhole covers that created unnecessary noise. Director Marootian said that DDOT would look into these concerns.

(7) the need for better signage/markings at pedestrian crossings (e.g., at Military Road and 30th Place and at Chevy Chase Circle)

The Chair indicated that our ANC has been asking for improved pedestrian crossing signs and markings on Chevy Chase Circle for at least three years, so far to no avail. More recently, we've called DDOT's attention to the crosswalk at Military Road and 30th Place, which is not striped and has no signage but is heavily used as people cross to and from the bus stops on 30th Place. It is now increasingly used by Ingleside residents and employees because of the recent construction there and is a serious safety hazard because of the increased traffic on Military Road. He asked for DDOT's help to make these pedestrian crossings safer.

Director Marootian said that they have recently focused on the signage and markings in Chevy Chase Circle and are coordinating efforts with Maryland. He will report to us on steps that they are taking. Commissioner Bradfield will be the ANC's contact on these discussions.

The Director said that DDOT will look at what can be done for the crosswalk at 30th Place and Military Road. One resident on 30th Place said he did not want a stop light there, which could

Presentations on grant applications

The Chair indicated that the Commission agreed at its September 11, 2017 meeting to award up to \$3000 in grants for FY 2018. At the September 25 meeting, the Commission announced that grant applications would be accepted between October 1 and October 20. During that period, we received one application, from Northwest Neighbors Village. Pursuant to the Commission's grant guidelines, NNV makes a presentation at this meeting, and the Commission will vote on whether to award the grant at its meeting on November 13.

Stephanie Chong, NNV's Executive Director, said that the requested \$610 grant would be used to purchase 1000 File of Life magnets that would be distributed to its 250 members, 150 volunteers, and to community members at events like Chevy Chase DC Day. The supply of magnets is expected to last for about two years. The magnets can be attached to a refrigerator and contain emergency information that could be used by medical responders if the resident is unable to assist in providing that information, thereby enhancing the safety of the community as a whole. She indicated that another \$150 has been pledged by an anonymous donor to assist in this effort.

The Chair indicated that the Commission would vote on this application at its next meeting.

Discussion and possible vote on an application for a public space permit (DDOT Tracking # 02219726) to construct a retaining wall and curb cut at 5363 29th Street, NW

Commissioner Speck summarized the extensive history of this application. The Commission voted at its September 11 meeting to object to this application because the retaining wall that the developer sought had, so far as the ANC knew, been built without a valid permit. The Commission also objected to the proposed 12-foot wide curb cut. On September 26, the Chair of the Public Space Committee revoked a permit for the retaining wall that had been issued erroneously, without approval of the Public Space Committee or review by the ANC. The developer, District Properties, resubmitted the application that includes both the retaining wall (which has already been installed) and a request for a 12-foot curb cut for a driveway that will serve a double garage.

Commissioner Speck described DDOT's specifications for driveway curb cuts, which are contained in its June 2017 Design and Engineering Manual (https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/2017-06-30_DDOT_DEM.pdf) at pages 31-7 through 31-11. Section 31.5 directs that "the number and impact of curb cuts and driveways on public space should be minimized to improve pedestrian circulation and safety by . . . Choosing a driveway design that is *as narrow as practical* and meets the standards established in this manual." (Emphasis added.) It then provides in Section 31.5.3 that "Driveways from any roadway at a single-family residence must have a minimum width of 9 feet measured edge line to edge line within the public space but must not exceed 12 feet wide."

Oumar Seck, representing District Properties, acknowledged that the retaining wall in the application had been built without a permit, and he apologized for this infraction. He said that

attract additional traffic. The Chair suggested that DDOT meet residents at the crosswalk to see what could be done to improve safety.

(8) DDOT's review of no parking signage around Temple Sinai

Ellen Agler, Executive Director at Temple Sinai, said that she has received calls about drivers who have parked too close to the intersection at 32nd Street and Jocelyn, near the Temple. On October 3, the ANC requested that DDOT install additional signage or markings to make it clear that parking near the intersection is not permitted. This request was given to the Parking and Ground Transportation team for review. Director Marootian said that they would determine whether this is a persistent problem and whether anything should be done.

(9) the status of incomplete sidewalk repairs in the 3700 block of Joselyn and 3800 block of Kanawha

Commissioner Fromboluti said that the sod is being installed at these locations this week, but No Parking signs have been placed prohibiting parking for two weeks. He asked that the signs more accurately state the time that will actually be required for the work.

Director Marootian said that sod is typically not replaced after sidewalk repairs until the fall when it will be more likely to survive. As for the No Parking signs, he said that they signs are prepared by DDOT, and should specify a more limited period.

Commissioner Speck reported that he recently received another constituent complaint about a similar concern at 5513 30th Street, NW, where the sod has not been replaced after a tree was removed a year ago. DDOT will look at this location.

(10) the status of the Beach Drive Rehabilitation project (which is inexplicably omitted on DDOT's FY 2018-2022 Projects List)

The Chair stated that almost three years ago DDOT issued an environmental assessment for the needed rebuild of Broad Branch Road. It outlined four alternatives, including doing nothing, which the report considered untenable. In November 2013, ANCs 3E, 3F, and 3/4G all supported the proposed Alternative 4, which would include a complete reconstruction of the roadway plus a pedestrian walkway and a bike path. By default, however, DDOT has opted for the do-nothing alternative. As a result, we will inevitably have sporadic shutdowns when parts of the roadway flood or erode during heavy rains. More importantly, the road continues to be inaccessible for pedestrians and extremely hazardous for bicyclists. In the long run, piecemeal repairs will be more costly than a thorough rebuild. Now, DDOT has removed this project entirely from the list of projects for FY 2018-2022 on its website (<http://stip.wemovedc.org/wp-content/uploads/FY2018-2022-STIP-Draft-Project-List.pdf>). DDOT should explain why this project has apparently been dropped from consideration.

Director Marootian said that he would look at the status of this project and report to the Commission.

the developer had been sanctioned for this violation, and the project manager had been disciplined. With respect to the application for a 12-foot curb cut, he argued that it was needed to allow cars to enter the two garages at this house. He said that if the curb cut were only nine feet, it would make it more difficult for cars to enter the driveway and go to the right or left to access the garages, and it would be particularly difficult for them to back out of the driveway. He also noted that the prior curb cut at this location had been about twelve feet wide, and other curb cuts in the vicinity — e.g., one directly across the street — were approximately 12 feet wide. He asked the Commission to support this part of the application before the Public Space Committee.

Anne Renshaw, a nearby neighbor, noted that on-street parking on this portion of 29th Street was essential because residents who lived on the alley needed to park on the street in the winters during inclement weather when the alley becomes impassable. She said that the wider curb cut would eliminate one additional parking space, which should be available to the public. She also expressed concern about how the width of the curb cut would be measured, suggesting that a 12-foot curb cut would likely take even more of the parking space on the street.

Based on DDOT's curb cut specifications and considering the circumstances at this site and the need to preserve public on-street parking space, Commissioner Speck moved that the Commission object to the application with respect to the 12-foot curb cut and indicate to the Public Space Committee that the Commission will only support a 9-foot wide curb cut, measured edge line to edge line. This would be "as narrow as practical" and within the established DDOT standards. Commissioner Speck also moved that the Commission not object to the installation of the retaining wall even though it had been constructed without a valid permit, since the nearby residents had expressed no concerns about it.

The Commission approved the motion by a vote of 6 to 0. Commissioner Speck will represent the Commission at the Public Space Committee's October 26, 2017 hearing on this application.

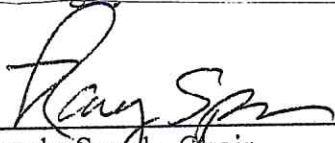
Commission Business:

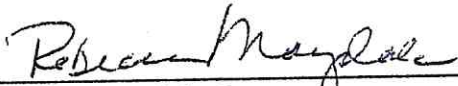
1. The Commission approve the September 25, 2017 minutes by a vote of 6 to 0.
2. The Commission approved the following checks by a vote of 6 to 0: \$124.64 Verizon, \$44.65 DOES unemployment, \$31.90 Canon (taxes on copier lease), \$91.56 Canon (final lease payment), \$125.29 Verizon telephone and internet, \$134.00 Postmaster (PO box rental), \$87.90 Jeralynn Graham (leased copier return shipping); \$149.90 Jeralynn Graham (toner for copier)
3. The Commission received its full allotment of \$3997.96 for the final quarter of FY 17 (though it was paid in FY 2018)
4. The Commission deferred consideration of its July – September FY 2017 Quarterly Report and the FY 2018 budget until the next meeting on November 13.
5. Items for the November 13 meeting may include: presentation by Alka Mysore of DC ReInvest on effort to have the District divest from its primary bank, Wells Fargo; presentation by Marcia Bernbaum, the People for Fairness Coalition, on the Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative and Bill 22-0223, Public Restroom Facility Installation and Promotion Act of 2017; discussion and possible vote on

the Broad Branch Market's application to renew its Type B liquor license (License Number ABRA-081331); presentation by Celeste Duffie, Department of Public Works, on leaf collection program, recyclables, and Zero Waste initiative; presentation and possible vote on raze permit application for 7080 Oregon Avenue, NW (ID Number R1700227); discussion of the Friends of Lafayette Park's modifications to its bylaws; vote on \$610 grant application by Northwest Neighbors Village for File of Life magnets

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Signed,


Randy Speck, Chair


Becky Maydak, Secretary