

Minutes of ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2017
Chevy Chase Community Center, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20015

Present: Speck, Malitz, Bradfield, Clayman

Absent: Maydak, Tuck-Garfield, Fromboluti

Attendance: Approximately 20 people attended the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda:

The Chair announced one change in the draft agenda. DDOT's Emily Dalphy advised him at 5:30 pm that she is ill and will not attend our meeting to discuss plans for changes to the intersection of 41st Street, Military Road, and Reno Road. She indicated, however, that she is "still working with Commissioner Quinn from ANC 3E and [DDOT's] community engagement team to finalize the date for the community meeting (either Tuesday, July 18th or Wednesday, July 19th) and [to] reserve space at the Embassy Suites where ANC 3E holds its meetings." She will let us know once she confirms the meeting date and location, which should be within the next day or two. Commissioner Quinn later reported that DDOT's review of this intersection stems from long-standing concerns expressed by residents on 41st Street about the traffic on this heavily traveled north/south route. He is not aware of any DDOT plan to modify this intersection.

With this change, the agenda was adopted 4 to 0.

Commissioner Announcements:

Commissioner Speck:

Seniors' Community Center Concerns — The seniors who use the Community Center will meet with DPR on July 11 at 12:30 in the Community Center to discuss steps that can be taken in the short term (1) to improve and expand the services offered to seniors at the Community Center and (2) to establish a working relationship with District agencies to establish and implement programs that reflect the seniors' needs and desires. Commissioners participated in two preparatory meetings with seniors on June 27 and July 6. The seniors will present specific concerns relating to staffing, programming, facilities, and communications. Seniors and any others who are interested are invited to the meeting with DPR on July 11.

DDOT's New Traffic Pattern at Reno and 39th Street — DDOT has implemented its plan to make 39th Street one-way southbound between Reno and Jenifer Street. The initial implementation did not go well. Many drivers were confused and continued to go northbound on 39th Street. This confusion resulted in one serious accident. At our request, DDOT has now placed a number of red flags on signs to call attention to the changes and has installed a temporary variable message sign on 39th Street alerting

drivers to the new traffic pattern. ANC 3/4G opposed DDOT's changes and instead recommended a four-way stop at Reno and 39th Street. DDOT has promised that it will continue to monitor and evaluate the intersection to determine the impact of its changes and report to the community in six months.

Broad Branch Stream Restoration — The Associate Director of DDOT's Urban Forestry Division recently praised the work that was done to restore the Broad Branch Creek stream bed, and has arranged for a tour for whoever wants to come on July 21 at 9:00 am. Steve Saari, Restoration Branch Chief of the Watershed Protection Division of the Department of Energy and the Environment, will conduct the tour. We will meet at the intersection Broad Branch Road and Linnean.

16th Street Bus Lanes — DDOT has been considering a plan for peak-hour, peak-direction bus lanes on 16th Street, which may affect residents in our neighborhood who use 16th Street. (Reliance on 16th Street may increase with the planned closure and reconstruction of Beach Drive north of Tilden Street.) DDOT has announced three opportunities for public input: (1) an open house public meeting on July 27 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Columbia Heights Education Center, 3160 16th Street, NW; (2) "engagement events" on August 1 from 4:30 to 7:00 at 16th and Irving and at 16th and U Street; and (3) an online open house from July 27 to September 1 at www.16thstreennwbus.com. The comment period on DDOT's proposal ends at 5:00 pm on September 1, and comments may be submitted at the project website, by mail, or by email.

Commissioner Clayman:

DC Water will conduct a tour of its Oregon Avenue sewer rehabilitation on July 15 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. This is an unusual project that may be interesting for children or adults with an interest in science or engineering. Those wishing to attend should RSVP by email to Tanya Hedgepeth, tanya.hedgepeth@dcwater.com.

Community Announcements:

Phillip McAuley, from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, reported that the Mayor broke ground on July 6 on the Ward 4 short-term housing project. This is part of the Mayor's efforts to address the housing issues in the District.

Anthony Castillo, Councilmember Cheh's constituent services representative, also announced the seniors meeting with DPR on July 11 at 12:30 pm at the Community Center. In addition, he indicated that the Councilmember will hold a roundtable with Councilmember McDuffie on DDOT's responsiveness at Catholic University's Pryzbyla Center, 620 Michigan Avenue, NE at 6:30 on July 13. Finally, he announced Ward 3 Day at the Building Museum (401 F Street, NW) on July 18, when Ward 3 residents will be admitted free to the Hive exhibit from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. (Ward 4 Day will be on August 1, and further information is available at <https://www.nbm.org/exhibition/hive/>.)

David Rydzeski, representing the DC College Savings Plan, described the tax benefits for DC residents who make contributions to an approved plan. Residents may defer taxes on

their contributions up to \$4000 for individuals and \$8000 for joint filers, and those funds will be tax-free if spent for educational purposes (which is broadly defined). Plans may start with as little as \$25 and with subsequent deposits of as little as \$15. More information is available by calling 800-987-4859 or visiting www.dccollegesavings.com.

Andre Lee, a community relations specialist from the District Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME), indicated that his office regulates the three cable providers in the District — Comcast, RCN, and Verizon. Each ward has at least two cable providers, and Verizon is expected to be in all wards by 2019. Mr. Lee distributed a cable survey form seeking feedback on cable services. Any concerns about cable service — including downed wires or complaints about service — may be reported to OCTFME at 202-671-0066 or directly to Mr. Lee at 202-671-3263. Mr. Lee also indicated that they are exploring the possibility of featuring an ANC chair once a month on the District's cable channel, DC on Cable.

Presentations by the District Department to Health, the Department of Small and Local Business Development, and the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing & Economic Development on and discussion of rat abatement measures that can be implemented in areas around the Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor:

HyeSook Chung, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, began by emphasizing that rats are a ubiquitous urban problem. Extensive development in the District exacerbates the problem. Her office tries to be proactive in promoting steps that will prevent a rat infestation, but they also respond to reports of problems. The 311 system is the best way to report a concern, and they are committed to responding within a week or less. They are looking at effective solutions that may be non-traditional.

Gerald Brown, Program Manager for Rodent Control, indicated that rat control must be undertaken one block at a time. The first step is an assessment of the block to see what steps can be taken to reduce food waste — e.g., installation of waste compactors or smart waste containers — that will lead to fewer rats. District regulations (21 DCMR Section 707) specify the requirements for solid waste containers and their cleanliness. Mr. Brown indicated, however, that there are only five outside health inspectors to cover the District. Commissioner Malitz questioned whether that was sufficient given the tremendous growth in the number of restaurants in the District.

There is a petition process for residents to request an inspection. Because rats may travel as much as 150 feet to get food, the inspections must include a broad area. They use a poison in burrows that gets on the animals' fur, and the animals then lick it off. They partner with businesses and residents to address the problem comprehensively.

Various options are available to address the waste problems. They advocate trash compactors because if they are used correctly, they are rodent proof. There are also cheaper alternatives as well, and it is possible for businesses to share a compactor.

Commissioner Bradfield indicated that the current problem is concentrated in his SMD, west of Connecticut Avenue and north of Livingston. He expressed thanks for DOH's response and asked for their assessment of the rodent problem as it stands now. Mr.

Brown indicated that it is “a work in progress.” The poisons take ten to twelve days to take effect, and there will be subsequent inspections to determine what additional steps may be necessary.

Commissioner Bradfield reported that the businesses along Connecticut Avenue have already taken some steps to improve waste disposal. Mr. Brown reported that there had been a couple of violations and citations of businesses for improper outdoor waste disposal. Commissioner Bradfield emphasized that we are eight or nine weeks into this problem, and we need an assessment of where we stand now. That assessment should include data from 311 calls and all the health code violations (which are not posted on line or easily available to the public). There needs to be a systematic analysis of all available data. Mr. Brown and Ms. Chung said that DC Lab is beginning to look at all of this data from various sources, and they promised to provide the requested assessment.

Commissioner Malitz asked about the rat abatement plans that developers must provide and whether the requirements for federal and District developers are the same as for private developers. Mr. Brown said that the current requirements focus only on the rodent inspection that is a prerequisite for any raze permit, regardless of the developer’s identity. His office has to sign off on raze permits to assure that there are no signs of rodent infestation. If there are rodent signs, the developer must file a rodent abatement plan. They are trying to address the later stages of a development project, but there is nothing in place now to provide follow-up after the initial approval for a raze permit.

Commissioner Bradfield said that part of the problem stems from the waste management companies that dictate what can or cannot be done at a business to contain the waste. Deputy Mayor Chung said that they do need to require heavier lids, and they are looking at all options.

Steve Glaude and Evette Banfield from the Coalition For NonProfit Housing and Economic Development then described the District’s grant program that is available to small businesses to pay for solid waste compactors. They are working with small businesses to address rodent abatement issues, and those businesses can receive up to \$13,500 for the purchase or \$9,000 for the lease of a compactor. These are Department of Public Works funds administered by the Department of Small and Local Business Development and implemented by the Coalition.

They expect to award about 65 grants before the end of September 2017. Any District-based business in good standing with the District government (i.e., the “clean hands” standard) is eligible for the grants. The application process is on-line at www.cnhed.org/compactor, and assistance in completing the application is available at 202-370-3693. The installer must fill in the installation plan portion of the application, and the business owner then finishes and submits it. The Coalition can provide a list of possible installers.

To date, they have received ten incomplete applications, and none have been approved. Approvals will be made on a rolling basis, so it is important for businesses to get their applications in as soon as possible. Commissioner Speck said that the Commission plans to meet with business owners and to encourage them to complete applications quickly so

that we can address the problem on a comprehensive basis. Mr. Glaude, Mr. Brown, and Deputy Mayor Chung assured the Commission that they will work with the community to abate the rodent concerns.

Discussion of the final community survey plan on the future of the Community Center and adoption of a plan:

Commissioner Speck recounted the Commission's efforts since last September to evaluate the community's long-term needs and desires for the Community Center. One step in that process is a needs assessment, and for the last seven months, we have held a number of meetings to design a survey plan as an integral part of this needs assessment. Most recently, a number of commissioners and interested residents met on June 5th to finalize the survey plan. We are particularly grateful to Amy Mack for her work in gathering all of the community input and creating an on-line survey that can be completed in about ten minutes and should give us essential information that can be used to guide our recommendations for the Community Center's long-term future.

The Commissioners have all had a chance to use the online survey, which is divided into two parts: (1) the respondent's experience with the Community Center facilities and programs, and (2) the respondent's desires and expectations for the Community Center and what it could be to serve the community. The Commissioners generally agreed that the survey reflected extensive input from the community and that it is now time to move forward with the survey.

Because many potential respondents will be out of town or otherwise occupied over the summer, we do not plan to conduct the comprehensive survey until September. Commissioner Malitz strongly suggested that we use the time before September to test the survey on a pilot basis to make sure that it is fully comprehensible and useable and to determine whether it will produce the type of useful information that we need. Other commissioners agreed that it would be prudent to conduct a pilot survey since we will get only one chance to conduct the full survey.

Commissioner Malitz suggested that the pilot survey would only need 50 or fewer respondents. He suggested that about 40 should complete the on-line survey and 10 should complete a paper version (since we expect that some people may not use the on-line version). He also suggested that the respondents should be a rough cross section of the kind of respondents that we expect, including some that are outside our ANC's boundaries. Each commissioner will get about 10 respondents, and we hope to complete the pilot survey by our July 24 meeting and to obtain any feedback from respondents. At the July 24 meeting, we will also consider a plan for dissemination of the survey, using the previously suggested plan that Patrick Williams and Amy Mack proposed as a starting point.

The Chair made a motion to approve the survey and to pursue the suggested pilot survey. The Commission adopted the motion by a vote of 4 to 0.

Discussion of the costs to upgrade microphones for video recording meetings:

In response to questions raised at the Commission's June 26 meeting about the costs of upgraded microphones and video equipment, Commissioner Malitz reported that, based on his research, suitable equipment was available that would satisfy our purposes for a reasonable cost, and he thought this equipment would be valuable to make our meetings more accessible. He recommended a Pyle PDWM8300 Professional Conference Desktop VHF wireless microphone system (https://www.amazon.com/Pyle-PDWM8300-Professional-Conference-Microphone/dp/B003D2O15W/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1499771996&sr=8-1&keywords=pyle+pro+pdwm8300+vhf+wireless+conference+microphone+system). This eight-channel system will cost about \$300 and provides amplification from eight microphones. He recommended that we also purchase a Sony HD Video Recording HDRCX440 Handicam Camcorder (https://www.amazon.com/Sony-Recording-HDRCX440-Handycam-Camcorder/dp/B00R5LHB0Y/ref=sr_1_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1499771925&sr=1-3&keywords=Sony+-+Handycam+CX440). This recorder will cost about \$250. This entire system will provide needed amplification and a video recording system to record and upload videos of our meetings. Commissioner Malitz will loan the Commission a tripod to mount the camera.

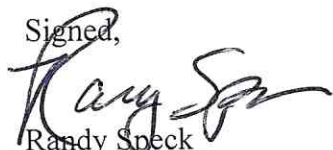
The Commissioners generally agreed that this equipment would improve our meetings and assist the Commission in disseminating information to the community at a reasonable price. Nevertheless, the Commissioners decided to defer consideration of the purchase until the July 24 meeting so that the absent Commissioners could be heard. That will still provide enough time to acquire this equipment for our September 11 meeting.

Commission Business:

1. Minutes: June 26, 2017 were approved by a vote of 4 – 0.
2. Checks: \$45.87 DOES (unemployment insurance), \$46.00 Petty Cash were approved by a vote of 4 – 0.
3. DC Allotment received: The Chair announced the receipt of the Commission's full allocation of \$3977.96 without deductions.
4. Quarterly Report for April – June 2017 was approved by a vote of 4 – 0. The Chair thanked Allen Beach for his assistance in completing the Quarterly Report.
5. Items for the July 24 meeting: Presentation by Tanya Hedgepeth, DC Water, on installation of new water meters; presentation by Michael, District Urban Forestry Administration, and Trini Rodriquez, arborist for the developer, on the status of street trees in front of 5333 Connecticut; presentation by Joseph Walton, District Department of Energy and the Environment, on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and how pest control can be accomplished without the use of hazardous chemicals unless needed as a last resort; review of the results of the pilot survey on the future of the Community Center; discussion and possible vote on proposal to acquire video recording equipment; discussion and possible vote on purchase or lease of copier equipment at the end of the current lease.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Signed,



Randy Speck
Chair



Rebecca Maydak
Secretary