



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

CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

COMMISSIONERS

3/4 G-01 - Abraham Clayman, Secretary
3/4 G-02 - Chanda Tuck-Garfield, Treasurer
3/4 G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair
3/4 G-04 - Rebecca Maydak
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, April 8, 2019, Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20015 (Video of this meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/rhf3jJTPaGw>.)

Summary:

- The Commission voted 7 to 0 to advise the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration that it supports the renewal applications for Class C Restaurant liquor licenses for Blue 44 and the Parthenon/Chevy Chase Lounge.
- The Commission voted 7 to 0 to advise the Department of Transportation (DDOT) that it has no objection to the proposed Notice of Intent to create drop-off parking from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm on the south side of the 3700 block of Jocelyn Street, NW, but urges DDOT to retain the parking space on the north side except during the times when drop-off parking is permitted.
- Commissioners Fromboluti and Speck provided updates on planning for the design and construction logistics of the Community Center modernization project.
- The Commission voted 7 to 0 to approve testimony to be submitted at the DDOT budget hearing before the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment.
- The Commission approved a proposal by Commissioner Malitz to develop a comprehensive, integrated communications plan for the Commission and a proposal by Commissioner Clayman to produce a monthly newsletter for circulation by

email.

- The Commission approved its minutes for the March 25, 2019 meeting by a vote of 7 to 0.

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

Attendance: Approximately 9 people attended the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda (video at 0:01:50): The Commission adopted the agenda by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Announcements (00:2:10)

Commissioner Speck:

Library Facilities Master Plan Meeting — There will be a Chevy Chase Library Community Meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Chevy Chase Library, 5625 Connecticut Avenue, NW. DC Public Library is in the process of developing a Facilities Master Plan to help guide the next ten years of planning for library services across the city. The meeting will address the following questions: (1) what programs and services do you want from your library; (2) are there potential partnerships that the community would value; and (3) what impact should the new Community Center have on plans for the library? More information on the Library Facilities Master Plan is available at dclibrary.org/dclibraryfuture.

Ingleside Task Force Grants — ANC 3/4G has been working with the Ingleside for several years to make sure that its current expansion construction project has a minimal disruptive impact on the surrounding community. As part of the agreement that the ANC entered with Ingleside, it must abide by a number of restrictions on such things as where construction workers can park and which streets construction vehicles can use. In order to give that agreement some teeth, fines are imposed on contractors if those restrictions are not strictly followed. Ingleside has done an excellent job of monitoring and enforcing the agreement, and, for the most part, the agreement has been followed. Nevertheless, some fines have been imposed, and when they accumulate, a Task Force of neighborhood residents and representatives from nearby institutions decides where that money will go so that it benefits the larger community. Through March 1, 2019, the Task Force had directed grants totaling \$75,700 to seven non-profit organizations located in the District. After soliciting and evaluating a number of applications, the Ingleside Task Force voted at its March 26, 2019 meeting to distribute the accumulated fines to the following grantees: (1) Martha's Table, \$14,000; (2) Humane Rescue Alliance, \$15,000; (3)

Friendship Place, \$14,000; (4) So Others Might Eat (SOME), \$14,000; (5) the Police Foundation, \$2,000 (to support the all-day meals on May 16, 2019, in appreciation to first-responders); and (6) the Transition Assistance Program at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, \$6,000 (to assist returning citizens to integrate in the community).

Meeting on Lafayette Elementary Traffic Proposals — The Commission’s April 22, 2019 meeting will be devoted almost entirely to a discussion of DDOT’s and WMATA’s proposals to change the traffic patterns around Lafayette Elementary school. These proposals may impact parking and vehicular access near the school, as well as the route of the E6 bus on Broad Branch Road. Affected residents are urged to attend and participate in the discussion.

Commissioner Maydak:

Lafayette Recreation Center Modernization — The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of General Services (DGS) will hold a community meeting at the Chevy Chase Community Center on April 9, 2019, beginning at 6:30 pm to discuss the latest plans for modernizing the Lafayette Recreation Center. This will be the last opportunity for community input in the design.

Lafayette Park Cleanup — The Friends of Lafayette Park will hold a cleanup on Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 9:00 am until noon. All are welcome to participate in maintaining the park.

Commissioner Fromboluti:

Vacant Buildings at Connecticut Avenue and Jocelyn Street — The ANC and residents have raised concerns about the condition of 5301 and 5303 Connecticut Avenue, NW, where one building was demolished and the other partly demolished and left vacant. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) concluded that the site is under “active demolition,” and they could do no more than board it up. The site is a nuisance and hazard, and more needs to be done to protect public safety. Commissioner Fromboluti said that the Commission will ask the developer and DCRA to come to its May 13, 2019 meeting to explain the situation and answer questions.

Commissioner Clayman:

Pinehurst Cleanup — John Burwell will lead a cleanup of the Pinehurst Tributary on April 13, 2019, from 10:00 am to noon. They will meet at Oregon Avenue and Beech Street. More information, including registration, is available at <http://bit.ly/2KmZX1P>.

Wise Road — The National Park Service (NPS) has confirmed that it will close Wise Road in late-April or early-May as part of the Beach Drive rehabilitation project. It will

remain closed until rehabilitation is completed on Breach Drive, which is projected for the Fall of 2019. During the Wise Road closure, NPS will make much-needed repairs on the Road.

Community Announcements (00:10:45)

Gabrielle Priest, the Ward 4 liaison from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (gabrielle.priest2@dc.gov, 202-603-7182), said that Mayor Bowser attended the groundbreaking of The Brooks and The Vale Buildings, two new housing developments on the Walter Reed campus. The buildings will provide market and affordable housing and retail space. The Mayor also released the District's first Cultural Plan, which outlines policies and investment recommendations to address issues of affordability, access, and sustainability. More information is available at <https://www.dcculturalplan.org>. The Mayor's FY 2020 budget proposal invests in several of the Cultural Plan's recommendations for first-year implementation, focusing on five categories: (1) Cultural Creators, (2) Cultural Spaces, (3) Cultural Consumers, (4) Convergence, and (5) Cultural Investment.

On April 10, 2019, the Mayor will lead a community walk on Eastern Avenue with Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks to highlight the partnership between the adjoining jurisdictions' law enforcement agencies to help maintain safer, stronger communities. On April 12, 2019, the Mayor will host the annual DC Emancipation Day Full Democracy Champions Breakfast, and on April 13, 2019, she will march in the DC Emancipation Day Parade and attend the concert on Freedom Plaza. For more information on these events is available at <http://www.dcemancipationday.com>.

Anthony Castillo, Councilmember Cheh's director of constituent services, announced that the record remains open for submission of statements in the DGS and DPR budget hearings. Statements for DGS may be submitted by email to facilities@dccouncil.us and for DPR at nfleming@dccouncil.us. The Councilmember's Committee on Transportation and the Environment will continue budget hearings with the Department of Motor Vehicles at 11:00 am on April 9, 2019, and with DDOT on April 11, 2019, at 11:00 am. Testimony at these hearings may be submitted by contacting Aukima Benjamin at abenjamin@dccouncil.us or 202-724-8062. Finally, the budget hearing for the Department of Health will be held on April 9, 2019, at 10:00 am.

Discussion and possible vote on renewal of Class C liquor licenses for Blue 44 and the Parthenon (00:19:03)

In response to questions raised about the procedure for license renewals, Commissioner Speck reported that he had contacted Martha Jenkins, General Counsel for the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA). She said that when a business applies for a renewal, it is automatically issued a new license unless there is an obvious problem to

prevent renewal. The business can then post the renewal showing that it is properly licensed. That does not stop the protest process, however. If the Commission objects and the Board sets it for hearing, the license can be terminated if the Board eventually finds that it should not be renewed. Ms. Jenkins acknowledged that this is not a logical process, but she says that ABRA has to do it this way to prevent licenses from expiring every three years when they come up for renewal while still allowing objections to the renewal.

Commissioner Malitz introduced Francisco Velasquez, senior bartender at Blue 44, to discuss its application to renew its Class C liquor license. Mr. Velasquez said that the hours and other aspects of the license remain the same. There were no questions, and Commissioner Malitz moved that the Commission send a letter in support of Blue 44's renewal application. The Commission approved the motion by a vote of 7 to 0.

Commissioner Bradfield introduced Peter Gouskos, owner of the Parthenon restaurant and the Chevy Chase Lounge. Commissioner Bradfield said that the Parthenon had been a good neighbor and had taken a positive step to install cameras behind the building in the alley. Mr. Gouskos said that the conditions of the license all remain the same. Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked about the provision in the license allowing liquor sales until 3:00 am on weekends. Mr. Gouskos said that they do not stay open that late since this is not a late-night neighborhood. They usually close by 11:30 pm or midnight. Commissioner Bradfield moved that the Commission send a letter in support of the Parthenon's and the Chevy Chase Lounge's renewal application. The Commission approved the motion by a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion and possible vote on a DDOT Notice of Intent to change parking signage in the 3700 block of Jocelyn Street, NW (00:25:10)

Commissioner Fromboluti said that Montessori School of Chevy Chase has asked to create a drop off zone to facilitate parents picking up and dropping off students at the school. In response, DDOT issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) proposing to create a 15-minute parking school drop off and pickup zone from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday on the eastbound south curb lane of the 3700 block of Jocelyn Street, NW. DDOT's proposal would also eliminate one parking space on the north side of the block to make parking easier in the drop off zone.

Commissioner Fromboluti passed out flyers to residents on the block advising them of these proposed changes. He received only four comments, all related to the elimination of the parking space on the north side of the block. He also observed that the parking space is almost constantly filled. He said that there was no reason to eliminate this parking space at night or when the drop off zone was not being used.

Commissioner Fromboluti moved that the Commission advise DDOT that it supports the creation of the drop off and pickup zone on the south curb lane. With respect to the

parking space on the north curb lane, however, the Commission asks that DDOT install signage that only prohibits parking in that space when the drop off and pickup zone is being used — i.e., from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Commission Malitz asked how these restrictions compare with the parking restrictions at Blessed Sacrament School. Former Commissioner Allen Beach said that the conditions at Blessed Sacrament are different because, among other factors, they have some off-street parking.

The Commission voted 7 to 0 in favor of Commissioner Fromboluti's motion. Any additional comments on DDOT's NOI may be submitted by May 1, 2019, to DDOT by email at derrick.hardy@dc.gov.

Update on the Chevy Chase Community Center modernization (00:30:52)

Commissioner Fromboluti reported that there is not much new with respect to the design of the new Community Center. Twelve firms submitted bids for the design work on March 13, 2019. DGS wants six weeks to decide the winning bid and another six weeks to negotiate the design contract, which would mean that a design contractor won't be on board until mid-June or later. DGS has not identified any of the bidders.

The Commission's task force on the design will work to be sure that what we asked for is what we get. The first meeting will likely be in the summer. There may be more to report at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Speck reported that he spoke with John Stokes, interim Director of External Affairs at DGS, and Paul Blackman, DGS' Capital Construction and Chief Project Delivery Office/Deputy Director of Capital Construction Division, to discuss the construction logistics for the modernization of the Community Center. Mr. Blackman said that DGS understands the challenges presented by the tight construction site in a commercial and residential neighborhood. He appreciates that the ANC reached out to DGS to share its experience with other large construction projects in the neighborhood (e.g., Ingleside and 5333 Connecticut). He said that he wants to begin planning for construction even before the architect is selected so that the designer is aware of the construction needs as well. He agreed that construction logistics planning needs to be done substantially before the construction contracts are bid.

Commissioner Speck said that the ANC construction logistics task force will be the single point of contact with the Commission and the community on construction-related issues. The task force will work with DGS to anticipate possible concerns and address them proactively. Commissioner Speck said that he expects to have an organizational meeting for the construction logistics task force in May.

Commissioner Malitz asked whether it might be useful to speak with residents near the Tenley or Cleveland Park libraries about their recent experience with construction projects in a congested residential/commercial area. Commissioner Speck said that the Cleveland Park experience could be particularly relevant and said that he would contact them to identify lessons learned.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked about the budget for the Community Center modernization, which was identified in the Mayor's budget summary as \$15.5 million. Commissioner Speck said that the Mayor's budget only includes funding in FY 2020 and FY 2021. The funding for FY 2019 — \$3.5 million — was included in last year's budget, bringing the total to \$19 million. Commissioner Speck said that Councilmembers noted at the DPR budget hearing that the funding for the Chevy Chase Community Center was the largest capital project in its budget.

Discussion and possible vote on testimony at the Council's DDOT budget hearing (00:40:15)

Commissioner Speck reported that after the Commission approved testimony to be submitted at the Council's budget hearings at its March 25, 2019 meeting, he testified about the budgets for four agencies — the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, the Department of Energy and Environment, the DGS, and DPR. Commissioner Speck said that the Commission's testimony both at budget hearings and at the performance oversight hearings has been useful and important because it has been an opportunity to get the attention of the Council and the agencies on issues important to the ANC and the community. ANC 3/4G has submitted testimony at twelve hearings since February 7, 2019.

One remaining agency budget hearing raises issues that particularly concern our community — the April 11, 2019 budget hearing for the Department of Transportation (DDOT) before Councilmember Cheh's Committee on Transportation and the Environment. Commissioner Speck proposed that the Commission submit testimony focusing on areas where the Mayor's proposed budget would provide additional funding for DDOT — local streets in Ward 3 (\$6.6 million more) and Ward 4 (\$6.6 million more), safety projects related to Vision Zero (\$31.0 million more), sidewalks (\$15.0 million more), streetlight management (\$12.7 million more), and stormwater and flood mitigation (\$17.0 million more). The testimony asks the Council to require DDOT to specify its detailed plans in each budget category to ensure that these resources will address the most urgent concerns. Specifically, the Council should ensure that the money for safety projects includes any funding for the long-pending need for pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular improvements to Chevy Chase Circle. It should get DDOT's commitment that funding for sidewalks will include projects like the sidewalk installation on Chestnut Street that has been long delayed. The Council should insist that DDOT identify its priorities for street repairs so that the worst problems in our neighborhood are addressed

first. DDOT should tailor new streetlights to residents' needs and to reducing light pollution and should base stormwater and flood mitigation projects on science, engineering, and consultation with residents who will be affected by those projects.

The Commission approved the testimony by Commissioner Speck for submittal to the Council's Committee on Transportation by a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion and possible vote on plan for updating the ANC's website (00:43:35)

Commissioner Malitz described the need for a comprehensive, integrated communications strategy for the Commission. The goal would be to improve the timeliness and efficiency of communications with constituents. He suggested guiding concepts for developing the communications strategy, including speaking to our audience's needs, not simply to commissioners' needs. That would involve leveraging all of the available communications tools to ensure that communications are delivered and read.

Among the available tools are the ANC's website, the planned newsletter (subsequently described by Commissioner Clayman), YouTube videos, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, survey tools, meeting schedulers/polls, and community platforms (e.g., NextDoor, Google Listserv, and the Chevy Chase Community listserv). Commissioner Malitz proposed the need for a strategy to enlarge our "customer" base and involve more residents in the ANC's activities. He identified the following necessary characteristics of the ANC's website: open, consistent, complete, transparent, responsive (enabling two-way communications), timely, and simple. He said that the Commission needs to look at all the avenues of communications in terms of its messaging and branding for the Commission.

Commissioner Malitz described his experience in producing a monthly newsletter over the last two years. He said that using mailchimp, it is possible to see how many recipients open the newsletter, and what they click on. He said that anything involving restaurants is always the most-clicked article, and the second most-clicked are articles about seniors.

Commissioner Clayman proposed a monthly newsletter as a way to communicate effectively with residents and to solicit their input when appropriate. It would be a way to communicate directly with constituents without relying on platforms that the Commission cannot control. Commissioner Clayman proposed that each Commissioner provide at least 50 constituent email addresses to be combined with the 600+ emails that the ANC has to create a list of at least 1000 for distribution of the newsletter. If the distribution list exceeds 2000, the annual charge will still only be \$120.

The newsletter will contain no political messages, endorsements, or campaigning. It will include news from the neighborhood, upcoming events, and information about the ANC's actions (minutes, agendas, announcements, resolutions, testimony, etc.) Each commissioner will be asked to contribute articles for the newsletter. Publication will be on the 15th of each month, with a plan to distribute the first newsletter on May 15, 2019.

Former Commissioner Allen Beach said that the Commission had once produced and mailed a printed monthly newsletter. He said that it was abandoned because there were no deadlines and no one to produce content. He said that the newsletter needs an editor.

Commissioner Clayman said that, as Secretary, he will edit the newsletter based on articles submitted occasionally by each of the Commissioners. He proposed a timeline for getting the newsletter out each month. He will not say that any legitimate subject cannot go in the newsletter. He asked that Commissioners submit their lists of emails in an Excel spreadsheet that can be uploaded in mailchimp.

Commissioner Clayman proposed sending a preliminary email to those on the list asking whether they wished to opt out of receiving the newsletter. Commissioner Bradfield said that fewer people may opt out if that first email also has at least a sampling of what the newsletter will contain so that they will be more inclined to continue receiving it. Commissioner Malitz said that mailchimp requires users to check a box that recipients have agreed to receive the newsletter. There is also a footer on all the mailchimp deliveries that allows recipients to opt out at any time.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield agreed that there needs to be a way for recipients to opt out. She also suggested that the Commission do advertising in advance to stimulate interest in the newsletter. She also suggested that the newsletter should include a description of what the ANC does since many residents don't know the role that the ANC plays in the District's government. Commissioner Bradfield suggested that the recurring banner on the newsletter could include key aspects of the ANC's role.

The Commission agreed unanimously to designate a task force headed by Commissioner Malitz to develop a comprehensive, integrated communications plan for the Commission and to make recommendations to the Commission. The Commission also agreed unanimously to initiate a monthly newsletter that will be edited by Commissioner Clayman as Secretary.

Commission Business (01:11:00)

1. The Commission voted 7 to 0 to approve the minutes for its March 25, 2019 meeting.
2. There were no checks for approval.

3. Items for the April 22, 2019 meeting may include: discussion and possible vote on proposals for changing traffic patterns and parking around Lafayette Elementary School; presentation on and discussion of dockless scooters; discussion and possible vote on the Commission's quarterly financial report for the second quarter of FY 2019

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm (01:12:35).

Signed:

Randy Speck
Chair

Abe Clayman
Secretary