



**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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ANC 3/4G Public Meeting

June 24, 2019

Chevy Chase Community Center, 7:00-9:00 pm

5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20015

Minutes: ANC 3/4G Public Meeting, June 10th, 2019, Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20015 (Video of this meeting is available at <https://bit.ly/2Nka2xO>). The Commission meetings are video recorded for YouTube to be available to the public. Speakers and Commissioners — but not audience members — are included in the video.

Summary:

- The Commission voted 7-0 to not object to a request for a public space permit at 6661 Barnaby St. NW.
- Representatives from DDOT provided updates about the planned reconstruction of Oregon Avenue and sidewalks on Chestnut Street.
- The Commission voted 7-0 to support Washington Gas's request to extend work hours for its project on 30th Street between Military Road and Nebraska Avenue.
- The Commission voted 7-0 to support Oxford House's request for a reasonable accommodation from DCRA with regard to the limit on the number of unrelated persons allowed to reside in one home.
- The Commission voted 7-0 to adopt the recommendations of its task force on communication strategy.
- Commissioner Fromboluti provided an update about the Community Center modernization.

Present: All Commissioners were present.

Attendance: Approximately 30 people were present.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted with no changes by a vote of 7-0 at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Announcements: Commissioner Speck: Resources for Seniors — Northwest Neighbors Village is hosting an presentation from the Department of Aging and Community Living on the resources available for seniors from government agencies, including the Department of Justice, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Metro Access, the Office of the People’s Counsel, and the Office of Tax and Revenue. The meeting is Tuesday, June 25, 2019, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at Forest Hills of DC, 4901 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Commissioner Maydak announced that a meeting on the modernization of the Lafayette Recreation Center would take place at 6:30pm on July 10th at the Chevy Chase Community Center.

Commissioner Bradfield announce that residents can learn more about which streets are being paved and when at pave.dc.gov.

Commissioner Fromboluti announced that, in response to Commissioner and community comments, 5301 and 5303 Connecticut Ave NW were being cleaned up and a large white fence was constructed in front of the property.

Commissioner Clayman announced that the ANC had distributed two of its monthly newsletters in May and June and would distribute another on July 15th. Residents can sign up at <https://bit.ly/2X5gfhg>.

Community Announcements: There were no community announcements.

Discussion and possible vote on Public Space Permit application #331911 seeking to pave a driveway, install leadwalk and steps, and other related work at 6661 Barnaby Street, NW

Frederik de Pue, owner of the home at 6661 Barnaby St. NW and Peter Miles, architect, discussed their application for a public space permit (#331911). Mr. de Pue sought to remove a driveway, install a new driveway with a curb cut, and install a new leadwalk and steps. The current driveway was not consistent with DC Code as it did not lead to a parking space on private property. The owner sought to build a new driveway leading to a parking space on private property and at a slight angle to avoid a large heritage tree and its roots. Commissioner Malitz asked what would happen to the old curb cut and Mr. de Pue stated it would be filled in. Commissioner Fromboluti and Commissioner Clayman requested that Mr. de Pue speak with his neighbors about his application, seek their approval, and provide the ANC and the Public Space Committee with written approval from them. The Commission voted 7-0 to not object to the application.

Report from Wayne Wilson and DDOT on status of planned reconstruction of Oregon Avenue NW (Commissioners Tuck-Garfield and Clayman)

Wayne Wilson from DDOT stated that the design for the planned reconstruction of Oregon Avenue NW was complete. DDOT has discussed the project with neighbors, Knollwood, and St. John's High School so that all those who use Oregon Avenue to access their home or school will be able to do during the project. The engineering team at DDOT estimated the project at \$18 million. Because the lowest bid received was \$22 million, the team at DDOT is reviewing the bid. Mr. Wilson shared that he was no longer working directly on this project but because he had been for so long he would share these updates. Mr. Wilson stated that potholes and gullies would be repaired on Oregon Avenue before the project began.

Commissioner Speck asked if the website would be updated and Mr. Wilson stated he would follow up with the project team.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield asked about which teams are working on the project and Mr. Wilson explained that "Team 2" works on projects in Ward 3 and and Ward 4.

Mr. Wilson stated that the construction manager is Stanley Freeman.

Commissioner Speck asked about sidewalks on Chestnut Street. Mr. Wilson introduced Samer Alhawamdeh who will be coordinating that project. Mr. Alhawamdeh stated that sidewalks would be installed after Phase 1 of the project is complete.

Frank Buchholz, a resident, asked about access to Bingham Drive. Mr. Wilson and Commissioner Clayman explained that Bingham Drive was expected to re-open when construction on Beach Drive was completed in Fall 2019.

Thelma Mrazek, a resident, asked about continuing access to Knollwood. Mr. Wilson stated that residents would have continuous access to Knollwood during the project.

Lee Schoenecker, a resident, asked about the length of time for the project. Mr. Wilson stated that the project was expected to take approximately two years with each phase taking approximately nine months.

Presentation by and discussion with Washington Gas and DDOT on construction work on 30th Street and DDOT's notice for repaving on surrounding streets (Commissioner Speck)

Commissioner Speck provided a summary of work done by Washington Gas and DDOT in the neighborhood. Washington Gas has been doing construction work to replace a main pipeline on 30th Street near Military since March 2019, as part of its PROJECTPipes, a 40-year accelerated pipeline replacement program, launched in 2014 to enhance the safety and reliability of the gas pipeline system. The published scheduled end date is April 2020, with published work hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. See <http://bit.ly/2Xo65w7>.

Beginning the second week in June, DDOT began a repaving project on a number of streets in the area, including 30th Street, 30th Place, 31st Street, Livingston, and McKinley. The ANC

receive no notice that this work was beginning, and no parking signs were posted only a couple of days before the work started, in some instances only a day before the it started. 30th Street was included in this repaving, including all of the portion where Washington Gas' excavation will continue for at least another year.

Commissioner Speck read from multiple emails expressing both appreciation and concern about the project:

Please let your DDOT contacts know that the recent street repaving project in the 5400-5500 blocks of 30th Place NW went relatively smoothly. Although we were surprised when the signs went up announcing the work, after speaking to the work crew team leader, we realized that they understood the inconvenience involved in this project. The crew themselves were very nice and diligent about getting the work done. They were able to finish up 2 days early so we got back to parking on our street sooner than anticipated.

* * *

An absolutely bizarre street repair situation is evolving in yours and my Single Member District which I have never seen in my 40 plus years living on 30th Place. . . . Somewhere during the weekend of June 7-9 "no parking signs" from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, for June 10-15 on 30th Place, NW to Legation Street NW, were erected. This would allow the contractor . . . to scrape and resurface this street . . . Like signs went up, presumably at the same time for all of 30th Street from Nebraska to Military, and like signs also went up on Legation from the east side 30th Street to 32nd Street. And again, all such signs, on all of these streets, prohibited parking, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, June 10-15.

Resurfacing of 30th Street NW from Nebraska to Military makes absolutely no sense as this entire stretch of 30th Street will be dug up over the next three to four months to lay new gas lines.

Comissioner Speck summarized the concerns of the Commission and residents: (1) why didn't DDOT provide the required two-weeks notice to the ANC and the community that this repaving work was scheduled; (2) why were all of these streets in the same adjacent area repaved at the same time, leaving residents with limited parking options; and (3) did DDOT and Washington Gas communicate about the repaving work on 30th Street before it was scheduled, and if so, what was the rationale for proceeding with repaving, knowing that the road would be excavated in the near future and would have to be resurfaced again?

John Thomas, Chief Performance Officer at DDOT, spoke about the process for selecting streets for paving. The city-wide pavement plan was developed in December 2018, and the Pave DC website was launched in March 2019. DDOT staffers identify roads in need of paving and review service requests to determine which streets need to be paved. For the roads in question, DDOT determined that they needed to be repaved to avoid water leaking into the sub-base. If water leaked into the sub-base, larger potholes would occur and the road would require more extensive repairs after the winter. The Washington Gas project was slated for Fall 2019 or Spring 2020 and DDOT did not want to wait until it finished to repave.

Mr. Thomas apologized to the community about the lack of communication. Mr. Thomas stated that some door-knocking should have occurred in addition to signs being posted. Commissioner Speck said that the ANC should also receive the required two-weeks notice and, if notified, could assist DDOT in getting the word out to the affected neighborhood.

Laura Solomon, a resident at 30th street, stated that DDOT had done a terrible job of managing the project.

Martin Burns, a resident on McKinley Street, stated that he was concerned about the management of the project.

A resident interrupted Mr. Burns repeatedly, raised his voice, and eventually walked out.

Commissioner Clayman reminded those present that outbursts like that were not acceptable at the meeting.

Mr. Thomas stated that Washington Gas would pay to repave the street after their project was completed.

A resident at 30th and Legation Street stated that equipment was left on the sidewalk after the repaving. Mr. Thomas stated that public space inspectors would follow up.

The resident who interrupted Mr. Burns returned, again raised his voice, approached the podium and table, did not heed directions to sit down, and was escorted out.

Dwanda Woodward and Apera Nwora and Ijaz Mahboob from Washington Gas requested that the ANC support their request for additional work hours in order to finish the project more quickly. The representatives from Washington Gas also stated that they would ensure all equipment and trash be removed from the sidewalk.

After hearing from residents present, the Commission voted 7-0 to support Washington Gas's request for extended work hours from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm on weekdays. (After subsequent communications among the Director of DDOT's Public Space Administration, Washington Gas, and Commissioner Speck, extended hours from 7:30 am to 7:00 pm were approved.)

Discussion and possible vote on potential Commission action related to leases at 5745 and 5900 Moreland Street to Oxford House (Commissioner Tuck-Garfield)

Karin Perkins, a resident at 39th and Military, spoke about the Oxford House located near her home. She stated that the house had been there for 10 years and that there had been no problems. She believed that approximately eight people lived in the house and they had been terrific neighbors without incidents.

Allen Silverly, a resident on Oliver Street, urged the Commission to not support Oxford House's application for reasonable accommodation. He stated that he and his family had moved into a low-density neighborhood on purpose and that having a house with nine or ten individuals inside

was not consistent with the character of the neighborhood and would lead to congestion or other density concerns.

Gary Thompson, a resident, spoke in favor of the exemption.

Frank Buchholz, a resident on Nebraska Avenue, spoke against the exemption, fearing that noise and traffic would increase.

Josh Winchel, a resident at 39th and Military, stated that Oxford House was a terrific neighbor and that the residents shoveled snow and weeded the garden.

Commissioner Speck read an email from Mary Lou and Robert Payne, residents at 39th and Military, stating that Oxford House had been an exemplary neighbor.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield stated that the ANC was working closely with Councilmember Todd's office and that the Councilmember's office had recently shared new information via email. The email stated that Oxford House intended to keep one house vacant and was attempting to get out of its lease for the that house.

Commissioner Speck proposed that the Commission vote to support an exemption for one house and make no comment on the exemption for a 2nd house since Oxford House was no longer attempting to locate a 2nd house on Moreland Street.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield stated that the Commission had heard many viewpoints, responded to emails, and held multiple public meetings on the issue.

The Commission voted 7-0 to support Oxford House's application for a reasonable accommodation from DCRA and supported its request for an exemption from regulations governing the maximum number of allowable unrelated persons in a home. The recommendations of the Commission are included below:

The Commission has no evidence that the Oxford House residents currently on Moreland Street, occupying only one house at this time, pose any demonstrable threat to our community's health and safety. On the contrary, the experience with Oxford House in other locations — both in our ANC and elsewhere — has been uniformly positive. Nor is there evidence of any unreasonable congestion, traffic, or use of parking spaces since Oxford House residents moved into the house at Moreland Street. While hypothetical concerns have been suggested, there is no reasonable basis for a categorical conclusion that this Oxford House will create any problems for the neighborhood.

DCRA is required to make reasonable accommodations to permit Oxford House to operate houses with more than six unrelated persons in a single-family dwelling. At present, Oxford House only seeks reasonable accommodations for one House on Moreland Street. If Oxford House withdraws its application for a second house on Moreland Street, the Commission supports the granting by DCRA for Oxford

House's currently pending request for reasonable accommodation to occupy one house by up to ten unrelated persons.

Some commissioners are concerned that two multi-person residences on the same block are inconsistent with the R-1-A residential zoning. So far as the Commission is aware, DCRA has not addressed the question of reasonable accommodations for two such multi-person houses in close proximity. If Oxford House resubmits an application for reasonable accommodation for a second house on Moreland Street, the Commission will revisit this issue and give DCRA its views.

For the future, the Commission advises DCRA to coordinate with DBH, Oxford House, or similar multi-person houses to require applicants to apply for an exemption before moving into a dwelling. The Commission further advises DCRA and DBH to conduct community outreach, to meet with residents in the affected neighborhood, and to present at an ANC meeting prior to granting exemptions. This outreach will give residents a reasonable chance to understand the circumstances surrounding the potential exemption and an opportunity to be heard, if they wish to be.

Finally, the Commission further advises DCRA that it should study whether to adopt future procedures and criteria that would limit the number of Oxford Houses (or similar multi-person houses) in any single block or adjacent blocks. This analysis may help to address concerns about significant population density changes in a small area.

The full resolution will be published on the ANC website.

Report on development of a communications strategy for the Commission

Commissioner Malitz discussed the recommendations from a report prepared by the Commission's task force on communications strategy. The report's recommendations are below:

- A. Based on an examination of how our community uses social media, see III.I, and an analysis on Question #1 from our survey where 22.5% say they would like to get information via Facebook as opposed to only 9.4% who indicated Twitter, it is clear that Facebook is the preferred social media of choice within our ANC. This does not mean we should give up the option of also using Twitter but at the same time we should not neglect the over 400 followers we already have on Facebook. Instead, we should leverage the two platforms and link Facebook and Twitter accounts so that posting on one automatically populates a post on the other. This can be done via Facebook (see https://m.facebook.com/help/1547895645497795?helpref=uf_permalink). This can no longer be done from Twitter due to a recent update to the Facebook Platform Policies which ended the ability to automatically post Tweets to a Facebook profile or page.

- B. We should not use any other social media accounts. Hardly any respondents to our survey indicated they would like to get information via LinkedIn or Instagram and no other platforms were even mentioned.
- C. In regard to community discussion forums we should continue to use all 3 vehicles (Chevy Chase Community Listserv, NextDoor and Chevy Chase Google Groups). Even though we do not have an accurate count of how many people use the Chevy Chase Community Listserv (of its 5,355 members there is no way to tell how many are in our ANC or in Maryland or other DC neighborhoods) it is the overwhelming vehicle of choice for the majority of our respondents 57.5%. Other downsides of the Chevy Chase Community Listserv is that postings need to be approved by the moderator which sometimes takes several hours so there is a lag time for the information to be distributed. Additionally, rules for posting are fluid and are subject to unsanctioned editing and censorship. Still, it is popular and should continue to be used.
- However, NextDoor continues to grow rapidly (and was selected by 39.4% of survey respondents) and now has almost twice the number of subscribers for the same general geographic area as does the Chevy Chase Community Listserv. It is also linked to the address of the subscriber so specific areas are designated (e.g. Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne) which permits targeted messages when necessary. Additionally, posts (which go up immediately) can be designated as “Events” and as such show up in the feed separately for easy identification. And lastly, it is possible to see the names of neighbors (as well as sort by street name) in a designated geographic area (e.g. Upper Chevy Chase DC) so one knows exactly who might be receiving the message, and it shows a map to indicate the boundaries for each of these user sets and you can see which households (on a map) are members.
- The Chevy Chase Google Group although the smallest of the 3 and the least mentioned in the survey (14.4%) should continue to be used. There are reportedly (by the organizer of this group) many users who joined this group in an attempt to move away from the Chevy Chase Community Listserv. Here too it is possible to see who the members are either by name (when supplied) or by partial email address.
- For all 3 though there should be uniform postings, with an identical branding that would then provide the greatest market penetration.
- D. It is unusual in a survey for a category of “Other” to receive a greater percentage than 4 of the 7 categories provided as a response but that is what happened in this survey. Also surprising was that 23 of the 25 who selected “Other” all wrote in that direct email (e.g. newsletter) was something they preferred. This very much validates the decision to begin publishing an ANC3/4G wide monthly newsletter which will undoubtedly become more and more popular over time.
- E. The type of information that people are interested based on the results of question #2 from the survey is interesting considering that we do not currently provide some of this information. The categories used for options for question 32 come from a combination of what is available on the ANC3/4G website and a sample content analysis of what other ANC’s have on their websites. The #1 category people were interested in, 82.5% of respondents, was “Neighborhood Topics and Issues.” We do not currently have anything on our website that addresses this specifically. For example, ANC3F has a page dedicated

to what they consider to be neighborhood issues <https://anc3f.com/issues/>. Also 36.3% of our respondents asked for information on Task Force and Committees. We have some information but it is not current or kept up-to-date with the latest developments. This is simply an observation but given that these two categories sort of go hand-in-hand it is something to both consider for our website and also for other communication vehicles. “Calendar of Events” and “What’s New” are two other categories of in-demand information. “What’s New” should not be simply agendas and minutes but topical issues or concerns that align with the two categories previously mentioned. It is clear from looking at the responses that several categories are of more importance to respondents than others and this list can help us in future website redesign efforts.

- F. We should consider printing several copies (10-12) of the ANC3/4G newsletter to have available on the table at our meetings. This does two things, it can provide a paper copy for those who don’t use email (yes, there are still people that this applies to) and it also serves as a marketing tool which encourages meeting attendees to sign up to receive the newsletter via email. This is similar to what Mayor Bowser and Brandon Todd do for many of our meetings.
- G. Branding or a logo for ANC3/4G. We should consider a single logo for branding purposes so it is clear when we send something out that it is from ANC3/4G.
- H. We need to leverage all of what we do so that the different tools and communication vehicles feed off of each other. For example, a newsletter archive should be front and center on our website. This introduces people to it who might never have seen it and promotes a greater likelihood that new potential readers will subscribe.
- I. There is the potential prospect of a communications tool that will be available to all ANC’s as a result of a \$100,000 FY20 budget appropriation. It is possible that the money could be used for something like CitizenLab, <https://www.citizenlab.co/>, which is a citizen engagement platform for local governments. If the budget money is used to purchase a tool like this it could be an important part of an overall communications strategy that builds on the items discussed.

The Commission adopted the recommendations by a vote of 7-0.

Report on the status of the design contract for the Community Center modernization

Commissioner Fromboluti announced that a design contractor for the Chevy Chase Community Center modernization would likely be selected in the next two weeks. He also stated that it typically takes six weeks from the selection of a contractor before a project is given a Notice to Proceed. He expected that would occur sometime in September, and meetings with the community on the design would be scheduled after that.

Commission Business: The Commission voted 7-0 to approve the minutes from the June 10th, 2019 meeting. There were no checks presented. Items for the July 8th, 2019 meeting may include:

- Presentation by the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) on the District's new Public Funding Program that OCF administers to qualified candidates
- Presentation and discussion on a proposed to the name of Lafayette Park to Lafayette-Pointer Park
- Presentations on and discussion of Pepco's proposed rate increase
- Consideration of a resolution supporting the Mayor's statement opposing Immigration and Customs Enforcement's planned deportations

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:22pm.

Signed:

Randy Speck
Chair

Abe Clayman
Secretary