



**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, October 28, 2019, Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20015 (Video of this meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/Fz3QvPf-nd4>.) 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:

- DC Water, the National Park Service, and the Department of Energy and Environment reported that NPS and DOEE are reviewing the design for reconstruction of Bingham Drive, but work is not expected to start until the spring of 2020 and will take six to eight weeks to complete
- After a discussion of the Comprehensive Plan, the Commission adopted a resolution to create the Comprehensive Plan Task Force chaired by Commissioner Speck with two other commissioners and four constituents as members The Task Force will make proposals to the Commission no later than December 20, 2019, that the Commission will discuss at its January 13, 2020 meeting for possible adoption in a resolution at its January 27, 2020 meeting.
- The Commission adopted its FY 2020 budget and approved its Fourth Quarter FY 2019 financial report.
- The Commission approved three checks.

Introductions and Adoption of Agenda (00:01:00)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Speck reviewed the meeting procedures, and commissioners introduced themselves. Commissioners Bradfield, Tuck-Garfield, Fromboluti, Maydak, Malitz, and Speck were present. Commissioner Clayman was absent. About 50 people attended the meeting. The agenda was adopted with no changes by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Announcements (00:06:33)

Commissioner Speck:

Vacant House at 2900 Military Road, NW — The ANC discussed the condition of the house at 2900 Military Road, NW at its September 23, 2019 meeting, and Donald Sullivan, program manager for building abatement at DCRA, described the steps DCRA has taken to secure the property and clean up the lot. (Mr. Sullivan's report is available on the ANC's YouTube channel, <https://youtu.be/K16RMROwQ3I>, at 00:59:45.) DCRA has issued notices of violations and ordered abatement measures, but its powers are limited when the owner does not or cannot develop the property. Commissioner Speck subsequently spoke with the owner, Michael Watson, and he conceded that he has the necessary permits to continue work but does not have financing. Commissioner Speck told the owner that he should speak with DCRA about how they can move forward with the property. Nothing has been done on the property since the ANC's September 23rd meeting, and Commissioner Speck has asked DCRA to secure the property and to look for ways to move forward.

Street Lighting Project — As part of DDOT's Smart Street Lighting Project, DDOT will hold public meetings on November 5, 2019, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Georgetown Public Library (3260 R Street NW) and on November 6, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Roosevelt High School Auditorium (4301 13th Street NW). DDOT proposes to convert its street light network to LED technology with remote monitoring and control capabilities and will use a public-private partnership to finance the project. The ANC has been actively involved in providing its views on this project over the last several years. Comments on the current proposal may be submitted by November 7, 2019, to ddot.streetlightp3@dc.gov. More information about the project can be found at ddot.dc.gov/streetlightp3.

Commissioner Maydak:

Lafayette Recreation Center Meeting — The Department of General Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation will be hosting a community meeting at the Community Center on October 29, 2019 at 6:30 pm for continued discussion on the lighting, stormwater management, and construction of the Lafayette Recreation Center. This will be the last meeting before construction begins. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2BTQI25>.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield:

Oregon Avenue Rehabilitation Project — On October 21, 2019, Councilmember Todd held a meeting with DDOT at Knollwood to report on the status of the Oregon Avenue Rehabilitation Project. Information about the project is available in the Councilmember's October 23, 2019 newsletter (<http://bit.ly/32XiFBU>) and on the project website (<https://www.oregonavenueproject.com>).

Commissioner Fromboluti:

Community Center Modernization Meetings — The Community Center design task force will hold an organizational meeting on October 30, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center. The first community meeting with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the architect (Bell Architects) will be held at the Community Center on November 6, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

Notice of Intent to Install Stop Signs — At the request of the ANC, the DC Department of Transportation has issued Notices of Intent to install four-way stop signs at Huntington Street and 38th Street and at Ingomar Street and 38th Street. Comments on this NOI should be submitted to DDOT by December 2, 2019 (thirty business days after the date of the notice), at 55 M Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. If you would like to check the status of this NOI, visit DDOT's website at <http://bit.ly/2JvTdvC>.

Commissioner Malitz:

Ch/Art Exhibit — The local artists group, Ch/Art, will hold a juried exhibit "Connect - Dis/Connect," with an opening reception on Sunday, November 3, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. The exhibition will remain at the Village Hall from November 3, 2019, through December 3, 2019. More information is available at <https://www.chevyCHASEart.org/exhibitions>.

Commissioner Bradfield:

On October 31, 2019, the businesses along Connecticut Avenue between Livingston and Chevy Chase Circle will sponsor the annual Halloween Spooktacular from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Community Announcements (00:14:30)

Jessica Green (formerly Wertheim), the Ward 3 liaison in the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, announced that the Mayor will host the High Heel Race on 17th

Street, NW between R Street, NW and P Street, NW on October 29, 2019, beginning at 7:00 pm. Open enrollment for health insurance begins on November 2, 2019, and more information is available at <https://dchealthlink.com>.

Dee Smith, deputy chief of staff in Councilmember Mary Cheh's office, announced that the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment will hold a hearing beginning at 11:00 am on November 4, 2019, on the "Electric Mobility Devices Amendment Act of 2019," B23-0359 (<http://bit.ly/2q3Pxu0>). The bill addresses the use of electric scooters and battery-assisted bicycles. Those wishing to testify should contact Aukima Benjamin at (202) 724-8062 or abenjamin@dccouncil.us. Those who cannot attend the hearing may submit statements within two weeks of the hearing. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2pbGBD3>. On November 6, 2019, Councilmember Cheh will hold a roundtable with the Department of Public Works on its planning for the upcoming snow season. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am in Room 412 of the Wilson Building. On November 12, 2019, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Councilmember Cheh will host a Ward 3 Crime Meeting. This will be an opportunity for multiple District agencies to provide a general overview of the trends over the past year, as well as a chance for residents to ask questions. Commander Bedlion of the Second District will attend. The meeting will be held in the first-floor meeting room of the Cleveland Park Library (3310 Connecticut Avenue). Contact Abigail McLean (amclean@dccouncil.us), Dee Smith (dsmith@dccouncil.us), or Nicholas Kram Mendelsohn (nmendelsohn@dccouncil.us) with any questions.

Stephanie Nash, the CEO of the Episcopal Center for Children (5901 Utah Avenue, NW), introduced herself and gave a brief update on the status of the Center. She said that as of June 14, 2019, it had ceased operations. A small staff is continuing to maintain the property and seeking to "revision" the Center. They hope to come back as a therapy school, perhaps with a different age focus. She said that she is at the Center almost daily and welcomes any questions. More information is available at the Center's website, <http://eccofdc.org/>.

Presentations by DC Water, the District Department of Energy and Environment, and the National Park Service and discussion about plans for reconstruction of Bingham Drive (00:25:35)

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield introduced Willis Thomas, DC Water's project manager for its replacement of the sanitary sewer under Oregon Avenue and Bingham Drive. He said that the project had gone well until they began the work to restore Bingham Drive. Mr. Thomas introduced Daniella Colon, Construction Manager at AECOM, who is responsible for the day-to-day project management. Ms. Colon said that the restoration of Bingham Drive has been held up since last November because the roadway was severely damaged in rain storms that created erosion and restoration issues. Rather than simply repaving the road, they now have to do a curb-to-curb replacement, which has triggered

many regulatory reviews. Realistically, they now do not expect work to be completed until the spring of 2020. One constraint is the closure of asphalt plants once the weather gets cold.

Drawings are now under review by the District's Department of Energy and Environment and by the National Park Service. DOEE and NPS follow a typical design review process. One major concern is flooding from Oregon Avenue and the need to keep water off the road.

Nick Bartholomeo, NPS's Chief of Resource Management, said that the primary design review is being conducted for NPS by the Federal Highway Administration. He expects comments on DC Water's design within the next few days. DC Water will then revise the design to address the comments. The permit will require stormwater management installations, similar to those installed on Beach Drive, though they may be in different locations than on Bingham Drive. NPS is trying to get the road reopened as soon as possible.

Steve Saari, DOEE's Restoration Branch Chief for the Watershed Protection Division, said that he provides a technical resource for DC Water, but the ball is in DC Water's and NPS's court.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield said the the community has been patient through all of DC Water's work on the sanitary sewer under Oregon Avenue and Bingham Drive, but it needs to have the road open again. She said that the ANC appreciates the regular communications from DC Water. Emanuel Briggs, DC Water's manager of community outreach, said that his office would provide updates. (He noted that Tanya Hedgepeth, the outreach coordinator for this project, is no longer with DC Water.)

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield also asked about coordination with DDOT projects, and Mr. Bartholomeo said that he meets regularly with DDOT to discussed ongoing projects, and will include this on the list for next month. He did not foresee any issues related to work on Oregon Avenue since the initial work on that project will be on the northern end of Oregon Avenue, not close to Bingham Drive. DC Water also acknowledged the need to coordinate signage to ensure that drivers are aware of any detours due to construction.

Mr. Thomas reiterated that they are looking to begin work in early spring 2020, depending on the weather. The construction itself should take six to eight weeks.

Discussion of the Office of Planning's draft amendments to the city-wide and area elements of the Comprehensive Plan and creation of a Commission Task Force to prepare comments (00:41:30)

By way of introduction, Commissioner Speck indicated that the discussion at this meeting is intended to be procedural and will not address specific concerns with the Comprehensive Plan at this time. He then provided general background on the Comprehensive Plan process.

The Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year framework that guides the District's future growth and development. Originally adopted in 2006 and amended in 2011, it addresses a wide range of topics, including land use, economic development, housing, environmental protection, historic preservation, and transportation. The District is in the midst of considering another amendment to the Plan. The DC Office of Planning develops proposed amendments based on comments from residents, developers, and its staff. Once those recommendations are finalized, they go to the Council for its consideration. The Council may hold hearings and make changes to OP's proposed amendments.

The Comprehensive Plan consists of several major components:

1. The Framework Element provides the context for the rest of the Plan by describing changes in demographics, economics, technology, and finances. It describes the District's growth forecasts and projections and shows how and where the District expects to add households, people, and jobs through 2045. The Framework Element "tells the story" of how the District is expected to change during the next two decades.
2. The City-wide Elements describe the vision for the District's future in terms of land use, economic development, housing, arts and culture, environmental protection, transportation, community services and facilities, educational facilities, urban design, historic preservation, infrastructure (e.g., utilities), and parks, recreation, and open space. On an aggregate level, the Plan includes a Future Land Use Map and a Generalized Policy Map that are to be used as "a generalized guide for development and conservation decisions."
3. The Area Elements focus on planning for particular parts of the city. ANC 3/4G is in the Rock Creek West Area.

The Office of Planning submitted the Framework Element to the Council in January 2018. The Council held a marathon hearing on this Element on March 20, 2018, and the Commission submitted testimony (<http://bit.ly/2MSuCD8>) urging the Council to address two concerns (1) by modifying OP's population growth projections to account for factors that will diminish unbridled growth and to preserve neighborhoods and communities, and (2) by eliminating OP's unnecessary and counterproductive attempts to dilute the Comprehensive Plan with so-called "flexibility."

On July 2, 2019, the Council released a number of changes to OPs proposed Framework Element and passed it on first reading on July 9, 2019. On July 22, 2019, the Commission adopted a resolution (<http://bit.ly/2pkWKGe>) acknowledging some appropriate revisions and significant improvements over OP's proposal. The Commission reiterated its concern, however, about OP's population growth methodology and projections and its failure to consider the impact that such a population expansion would have on the District's infrastructure and livability. The Commission also objected to the short time between the Council's changes and its adoption on first reading. On October 8, 2019, the Council passed the Framework Element (<http://bit.ly/2pb6LWB>).

On October 15, 2019, OP released its proposed amendments to the remaining elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The full draft Comprehensive Plan is available at <https://plandc.dc.gov>, and the summary of the plan for Rock Creek West is at <http://bit.ly/36gFgLM>. OP will hold public meetings in each ward to discuss its proposal and answer questions. The meetings for Ward 4 are set for November 19, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Roosevelt High School and for Ward 3 on December 7, 2019, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Wilson High School. Director Donaldson from the Department of Housing and Community Development and Director Trueblood from OP have also agreed to attend the ANC's December 9, 2019 meeting to answer the community's questions.

Commissioner Speck said that the Commission expects to be actively involved in soliciting input from our constituents and communicating comments to OP. OP suggests that individuals or groups submit comments to their ANC by December 20, 2019, for incorporation into the ANC's resolution that must be submitted by January 31, 2020. We have reached out as well to some other ANCs (3D, 3E, and 4A) that may have similar concerns, and we may agree to work collaboratively on some common issues.

Commissioner Speck proposed that the Commission create a task force to study OP's draft, to gather information from the community, and to make recommendations to the Commission. The Task Force will consist of commissioners and residents, but all are invited participate in the process. Several residents have already indicated an interest in participation. The task force may decide to conduct one or more surveys to solicit input from the broader community. The task force will need to hold several meetings over the next six weeks and prepare proposals that the Commission will consider at its January 13, 2020 meeting for final adoption at its January 27, 2020 meeting.

Former commissioner Dave Engel said that the proposed amendments raise many issues so that it will be necessary to winnow the issues we address to only the five or six that most affect our ANC. He said that the resources available in the community are terrific, and the ANC should take advantage of them in preparing its comments.

Jonathan Guy urged everyone to look at the redlined versions of the Comprehensive Plan on OP's website (<https://plandc.dc.gov>). He said that the revisions to the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) — based on developers' proposals — would change the designation of the strip along Connecticut Avenue from low-density commercial to mixed use with commercial and moderate density residential. (See the revised FLUM at <http://bit.ly/2JBLyfk>.) The proposed change include the Library and the Community Center. This change in the FLUM could permit zoning changes consistent with the FLUM. The amount of the density or the height of permitted buildings is not specified.

Stewart Miles-McClain asked whether comments would be accepted from the public as well as through ANC's. Commissioner Speck said that OP would certainly accept public comments, but may be required to give the ANC's comments "great weight," which could lend them some added credence. Mr. Miles-McClain said that the Comprehensive Plan changes may revive interest in an historic district designation.

Ronald Kahn encouraged the ANC to identify common positions with other ANC's at the start of the process in order to use resources most effectively. He also asked whether there were any legal challenges to the proposed changes. Commissioner Speck said that he is aware of none, and the ANC cannot initiate legal action against another part of the District government.

Jennifer Leak, a resident on Oliver Street, asked whether the Commission would take any special steps to notify the community of its efforts on the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Malitz described the many avenues the Commission uses to communicate with the community — including such steps as the survey that it developed on the Community Center modernization — and asked for any additional suggestions for ways to reach out to the community.

A resident asked what skills or experience the Commission is looking for to serve on the task force. Commissioner Speck said that city planning or zoning expertise would be especially useful, but legal or related technical experience could also be helpful. A resident living behind the Safeway parking lot said that the Commission needs to publicize its recommendations and track how they are handled. Another resident said that there has been misinformation about the plans for affordable housing in Rock Creek West. She said that while affordable housing is a desirable objective, the news headlines about affordable housing in all parts of the city could be misleading. She suggested that, in the absence of the Northwest Current, it may be desirable to distribute flyers door-to-door to communicate about the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Guy reiterated that residents should read the redlined version of the Comprehensive Plan, particularly the Rock Creek West element (<http://bit.ly/2JCgwnD>).

Commissioner Speck proposed that the Commission adopt a resolution to create the Comprehensive Plan Task Force that will be chaired by Commissioner Speck with two other commissioners (with all commissioners participating) and four constituents as members. Those residents interested in serving on the task force should email Commissioner Speck (3G03@anc.dc.gov) or their commissioner. The Task Force will make proposals to the Commission no later than December 20, 2019, that the Commission will discuss at its January 13, 2020 meeting for possible adoption in a resolution at its January 27, 2020 meeting. The resolution to create the Task Force was adopted by a vote of 6 to 0.

Update on the Community Center design and construction logistics (01:31:20)

Commissioner Fromboluti reported that DPR and DGS have finally entered a contract with the design architect, Bell Architects. Commissioner Fromboluti said that there is no clear-cut schedule for the project. The concern with delays in completing the project are that costs will increase so that the community will get less for the amount available to spend.

The design Task Force will hold an organizational meeting on October 30, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Community Center to discuss the process. The architect, DPR, and DGS will conduct a kick-off meeting on November 6, 2019, also at 7:00 pm at the Community Center. The architect may not present design ideas at this meeting, but wants to hear from the community. There is already substantial data, however, from the survey that the Commission conducted and included in its report. This should provide a solid basis for the architect to begin work. Commissioner Speck said that the November 6 meeting may also address construction logistics issues.

Commission Business (01:39:10)

1. The Commission approved the minutes for the September 23, 2019 meeting by a vote of 6 to 0.
2. The Commission discussed the proposed FY 2020 budget, including the need to maintain a larger reserve since it may incur costs in FY 2020 to relocate the ANC office or to pay for alternate space during Community Center modernization. To preserve that reserve, the Commission decided to set grants for the Spring of 2020 at \$2500. In response to a resident's question, Commissioner Speck said that the Commission can approve any specific expense that might arise — e.g., in connection with its analysis of the Comprehensive Plan — even though it's not included in the budget. Based on the agreed modification to grants, the Commission approved the FY 2020 budget by a vote of 6 to 0.

3. The Commission approved the Fourth Quarter FY 2019 financial report by a vote of 6 to 0.
4. By a vote of 6 to 0, the Commission approved checks for \$140 to the U.S. Postmaster for Post Office box rental, \$152.53 to Verizon, and \$47.83 to Stefanie Van Pelt to replenish petty cash (postage \$44.80 and supplies \$3.03).
5. Items for November 25, 2019 meeting may include the following: update on plans for the former American City Diner; discussion of plans for restoration of the WMATA bus turnout at Connecticut Avenue and Oliver Street, NW; discussion and possible vote on applications by The Avenue and Capital Crab & Seafood for a Substantial Change to their liquor licenses to add sports wagering to their operations (License numbers ABRA-101007 and ABRA-106151); update on the Community Center modernization

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm (01:50:38).

Signed:

Randy Speck
Chair

Abe Clayman
Secretary