



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G
CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

COMMISSIONERS

3/4 G-01 - Abraham Clayman, Secretary	5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
3/4 G-02 - Chanda Tuck-Garfield, Treasurer	P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015
3/4 G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair	3G@anc.dc.gov
3/4 G-04 - Rebecca Maydak	http://www.anc3g.org
3/4 G-05 - Gerald Malitz	YouTube: ANC3G
3/4 G-06 - Dan Bradfield	202.363.5803
3/4 G-07 - Christopher Fromboluti, Vice-Chair	

Meeting Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
January 27, 2020
Chevy Chase Community Center, 7:00-9:00 pm
5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20015

Summary:

- Ellen Jones and Samer Alhawamdeh from the Department of Transportation presented on the plans for sidewalks on Chestnut Street.
- Jennifer Kulp from the Department of Energy and the Environment presented on programs that reduce the cost to residents of utility bills.
- The Commission discussed the draft report of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and the Commission's resolution on the Comprehensive Plan.
- Commissioner Fromboluti provided an update on the upcoming steps in the design process for the Chevy Chase Community Center modernization.
- The Commission voted to approve testimony that will be given at the Council's performance oversight hearing for the Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
- The Commission voted to approve its minutes, two checks, and the quarterly financial report.

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

Commissioner Speck called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Commissioners introduced themselves. Commissioners Bradfield, Clayman, Fromboluti, Malitz, Maydak, Tuck-Garfield, and Speck were present. A quorum was declared. 27 people attended the meeting. Commissioner Speck reviewed the meeting procedures. The agenda was adopted by a vote of 7-0.

Commissioner Announcements (00:04:12)

Commissioner Speck announced that Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton will be holding her quarterly meeting with the National Park Service at the Cleveland Park Library (3310 Connecticut Ave NW) on January 30th, 2020.

Commissioner Speck announced that the DC Council is holding its annual performance oversight hearings for each agency of the District government. Performance oversight hearings are open to the public and anyone can present testimony in person or in writing. ANC 3/4G has participated in a number of performance oversight hearings already and will participate in others in the future. The schedule for all the hearings and information about testifying is available at <http://bit.ly/2tRwm9l>.

Commissioner Maydak announced that the principal of Lafayette Elementary requested that dogwalkers in the area of Lafayette Elementary School walk dogs on a leash so that they do not run after children.

Commissioner Maydak announced that a sewer line had been placed alongside the tennis court at Lafayette Park as part of the renovation project there. The area is currently fenced in. Commissioner Maydak expects that a portable toilet will soon be placed outside the fenced area.

Commissioner Clayman announced that representatives of WMATA and DDOT will be at the February 10, 2020 ANC meeting to discuss the Oregon Avenue reconstruction project.

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield announced that in addition to ANC meetings, residents can learn about the Oregon Avenue project at www.oregonavenueproject.com.

Community Announcements (00:09:50)

Commissioner Speck announced that Jessica Wertheim from the Mayor's Office, who was ill and not able to attend the meeting, had several announcements:

- The Mayor is holding public forums where residents can learn about and discuss the city budget. Residents can learn more about these forums and sign up to attend at <http://bit.ly/2RWufsp>.
- The Mayor is holding a public discussion on housing on February 8, 2020, from 10:00am – 12:00pm at the Howard Theatre (620 T St. NW). Residents can learn more at <http://bit.ly/2uCFnDc>.
- The Mayor encourages all residents to participate in the 2020 Census. Residents can learn more at <http://bit.ly/2GyDQR2>.

Dee Smith, deputy chief of staff in Councilmember Cheh's office, made several announcements:

- Those who are unable to attend a performance oversight hearing in person may submit written testimony to the Committee holding the hearing.
- The Public Service Commission has information available to residents at <http://bit.ly/2RT6SQA> that can be used to prevent phone scams. She also warned that the Metropolitan Police Department has been notified of multiple phone calls regarding scammers impersonating members of MPD who have attempted to extort individuals, claiming that federal subpoenas and warrants have been issued against them. More information is available by contacting the Financial and Cyber Crimes Unit at [202-727-4159](tel:202-727-4159) or mpd.fraud-unit@dc.gov.

Presentation by the Department of Transportation on progress for installation of sidewalks on Chestnut Street, NW (00:16:55)

Commissioner Clayman provided an overview of the discussions since 2016 regarding sidewalks on Chestnut Street. In May of 2017, DDOT held a community meeting and presented four alternatives regarding sidewalk construction on Chestnut Street – (1) build no sidewalks; (2) build sidewalks on the north side of the street only; (3) build sidewalks on the south side of the street only; or (4) build sidewalks on both sides of the street. At that meeting, representatives of DDOT responded to resident questions and comments. DDOT representatives distributed fliers for residents to provide written feedback. In the months after the meeting, DDOT decided to construct sidewalks on the north side of the street.

At the October 23rd, 2017 meeting, DDOT's program manager, Paul Hoffman, stated that he expected to begin selecting a contractor for the project by the end of the year and that design work for the project would be completed by the end of 2018.

In November of 2017, the Commission unanimously passed a resolution (<http://bit.ly/33lbt1K>) supporting the prompt installation of sidewalks on the north side of Chestnut Street for a number of reasons:

- It would improve pedestrian safety.
- It would comply with District law requiring expansion of sidewalks.
- It was the alternative most broadly favored by residents and seemed like a fair compromise.

At the January 27, 2020 meeting, Samer Alhawamdeh, project manager at DDOT, and Ellen Jones, Chief Project Delivery Officer at DDOT, presented on the plans to improve sidewalks on Chestnut Street. Mr. Alhawamdeh stated that surveying for the project was nearly complete and that it was expected to finish by February 3rd. He explained that the project would go through three design phases according to the following schedule – 30% by March 5th, 60% by May 28, and 100% by August 27th. He stated that DDOT will hold a public meeting in March to discuss more details about the project's design. Once the project is designed, the bidding process would begin which would typically take between 2-3 months. After that, the sidewalks would be constructed over 6-9 months. After factoring in time for potential delays, Mr. Alhawamdeh predicted that sidewalks would be installed by the spring of 2022.

Commissioner Speck asked whether DDOT was coordinating the construction of the Chestnut Street sidewalks with the Oregon Avenue reconstruction project, and he said that they were. He said that the work on Chestnut would not begin until after completion of Phase 1 (the northern third of Oregon Avenue), which is scheduled to be finished by early in the third quarter of 2020.

Commissioner Speck asked if sidewalks could potentially be completed earlier than the spring of 2022. Mr. Alhawamdeh stated that they could be complete by the fall of 2021.

Mr. Alhawamdeh suggested that he continue to come to public meetings with some degree of frequency.

Ellen Jones stated that the project now was part of a task order at DDOT and therefore would be completed as quickly as possible.

Cindy Wade, a resident, expressed her concern that DDOT had repeatedly provided inaccurate information regarding the timeline for completion of sidewalks. She requested that Director Marootian attend a future ANC meeting.

Chris Dietz, a resident on Dogwood Street, asked about whether a project can be fast tracked. He also asked what work had been done on the project since May 2017. Ms. Jones stated that the project was on the fastest track possible.

Randy Perrin, a resident, expressed his concern that contractors were surveying the same site repeatedly and unnecessarily.

Commissioner Speck suggested that the Commission submit additional testimony before the Committee on Transportation and the Environment's DDOT oversight hearing regarding sidewalks on Chestnut Street. Commissioner Clayman agreed.

Presentation by the Department of Energy and Environment on its energy assistance programs (00:50:50)

Jennifer Kulp discussed a number of programs to assist residents with the cost of utilities, including:

- The lead pipe replacement program which assists residents in replacing lead service lines on residents' property. Information on this program is available at <http://bit.ly/2uM5E20>.
- The Utility Discount Program which provides discounts on utility bills for low-income District residents. Residents can learn more about this program at <http://bit.ly/2vn4YjF>.
- The Weatherization and Winterization Program, which will subsidize repairs to a qualified resident's home to ensure that it is energy efficient. Residents can learn more about this program at <http://bit.ly/2O8acGv>.
- The Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge Residential Relief Program, which provides financial relief for income-eligible DC Water customers. Residents can learn more about this program at <http://bit.ly/2vt5Pzn>.
- The Solar for All program which installs free solar panels on the homes of eligible residents. Residents can learn more about this program at <http://bit.ly/37BQL0E>.

Commissioner Speck announced that the ANC newsletter had recently published articles in its newsletter on lead line replacement programs (<http://bit.ly/2GwQRdR>) and the Clean Rivers Relief programs (<http://bit.ly/2U6wLiJ>).

Claudia Russell, a resident, asked how to find out if a house has a lead water line. Residents can find this information at <http://bit.ly/2RAAtja>.

Discussion of report from the ANC's Comprehensive Plan Task Force and possible resolution on the Office of Planning's proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan (01:00:50)

Commissioner Speck explained the Commission's process for submitting comments on the Office of Planning's Comprehensive Plan. The Commission formed the Comprehensive Plan Task Force (<http://bit.ly/373tRj1>) on October 28th. The Task Force is composed of residents and Commissioners. It was tasked with creating a report to present recommendations to the full Commission. The Commission would then adopt a resolution to submit to the Office of Planning. The Office of Planning has publicly committed to responding to comments from Commissions as part of the revision of the Comprehensive Plan. The deadline for ANCs to submit comments is February 14th.

Commissioner Speck announced that the Task Force had not yet completed its final report. Residents can access a draft of the report at <http://bit.ly/2U2lmQS>.

Commissioner Speck circulated a draft resolution for the ANC to discuss at the meeting. The draft resolution makes the following specific recommendations:

- The Commission relies on the Task Force’s final report as the basis for its comments and asks that the Office of Planning consider the full report as part of the resolution.
- The Office of Planning should identify the area along Connecticut Ave NW from Chevy Chase Circle to Livingston Street NW as the Chevy Chase Gateway. The Office of Planning should take the following actions with respect to this area:
 - Designate the area as a Future Planning Analysis Area.
 - Include a policy to enhance the area with new developments of compatible scale, function, and character with the existing neighborhood and improve economic diversity by expanding affordable and moderate-income housing.
 - Complete a small area plan before making the changes to zoning designations. The requested small area plan should include a number of specific characteristics.
- The Office of Planning should pursue additional development in the area in the following manner:
 - Pursue creative affordable housing solutions while recognizing that inclusionary zoning is not the most effective way to achieve the District’s affordable housing goals in the area.
 - Develop affordable and moderate-income housing that is suitable for families.
 - Develop a new library that includes mixed-income housing on the site of the current Chevy Chase Public Library.
 - Preserve rent-controlled units in the area.
 - Ensure that new development is compatible with existing buildings, reducing traffic congestion, improving pedestrian safety, expanding parking, addressing overcrowding at public schools, and increasing affordable housing.
 - Ensure that new development and population growth will not exacerbate current school overcrowding by planning for where new or expanded schools will be built and how they will be funded.

Commissioners Clayman and Tuck-Bradfield expressed their gratitude to the Task Force for its work on the report.

Commissioner Malitz suggested that the Commission vote on the resolution at its February 10th meeting.

Commissioners and residents discussed the current drafts of the final report and the comments they had received from residents.

Commissioners agreed to the following:

- Commissioner Speck would finalize the Task Force’s report and circulate it to Commissioners.
- Commissioners would discuss the report with each other prior to the February 10th meeting.
- The Commission would discuss and vote on a resolution to submit to the Office of Planning at the February 10th meeting.
- The resolution’s recommendations could be the same as those in the final report but the two did not have to match.

Lee Schoenecker, a resident, suggested that the Commission speak directly with Councilmembers regarding its recommendations. Commissioner Speck stated that commissioners are scheduled to meet with Councilmember Cheh on February 10th.

Ryan Keefe, a resident, stated that the report was flawed and should include more support for affordable housing and greater density.

Update on the Chevy Chase Community Center modernization design process (01:53:35)

Commissioner Fromboluti announced that the Commission is waiting to hear from the Department of Parks and Recreation about the date in mid-February for the next public meeting updating the community on the modernization of the Chevy Chase Community Center. The draft design concept has been published, and the Task Force will provide comments on the design to DPR.

Discussion and possible vote on testimony to be given at the Council's Performance Oversight hearings for the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (01:54:50)

Commissioner Speck summarized the proposed testimony regarding the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. If approved, the testimony would be given at the Council's performance oversight hearing for the agency on Thursday, January 30th. The proposed testimony would include:

- A request that the OANC provide clear written guidelines on the types of financial grants that ANCs can make to comply with the "public purpose" requirement in the statute.
- A request that the OANC acquire software to improve ANCs' communication with residents.

The Commission voted 7-0 to adopt the testimony as written.

Commission Business (01:57:55)

The Commission approved the minutes for the January 13, 2020 meeting by a vote of 7-0.

The Commission approved the following checks by a vote of 7-0:

- \$25.00 to the District Government (ANC Security Fund)
- \$152.49 to Verizon (phone and internet bill)

The Commission approved its December 2019 quarterly financial report by a vote of 7-0.

Potential agenda items for the February 10, 2020 meeting include:

- Discussion on possible resolution on the Office of Planning's proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Presentation by the Department of Motor Vehicles Ticket Ombudsman.
- Presentation by Second District Police Commander Bedlion and discussion on crime protection measures.
- Presentation by representatives from DDOT and WMATA on the Oregon Avenue Reconstruction Project and the E6 bus detour.
- Discussion of parking issues in the community and the possible need for legislation to regulate where car sharing or car rental vehicles may park.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm (02:01:35).

Signed:

Randy Speck
Chair

Abe Clayman
Secretary