

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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Vice Chair 3/4G-02 - John Higgins, Treasurer
3/4G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Connie K. N. Chang
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Secretary 3/4G-07 - Chris Fromboluti

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
June 14, 2021
Zoom Meeting, 7:-9:44 pm
Meeting Link

00:00:00 Introductions, Announcement of Meeting Procedures

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Randy Speck, Chair, (3/4G-03), presiding. Also present were Commissioners Lisa R. Gore (3/4G-01), John K. Higgins (3/4G-02), Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04), Connie K.N. Chang (3/4G-05), and Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06). Chris Fromboluti (3/4G-07) joined shortly afterwards. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom, and Chair Speck provided an overview of the virtual meeting procedures. Chair Speck declared a quorum (four Commissioners present).

00:04:14 Adoption of Agenda

Chair Speck moved to approve the agenda. The motion was passed 6 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain), 1 (Absent).

00:05:01 Commissioner Announcements

Chair Speck

- DC Water Lead Service Line Removal The Commission approved budget testimony for DC Water at its May 24, 2021 meeting and urged the Council to allocate \$350 million in federal funds for DC Water to remove all lead service lines by 2030 at no charge to customers. On June 7, 2021 the night before DC Water's budget hearing DC Water released a Lead-Free DC plan. Several advocacy groups have been studying that plan, and there was testimony at the DOEE budget hearing on June 14, 2021, about what needs to be done to review that plan and to provide funding. The Council may establish an advisory board to study the plan and make recommendations.
- Vacant and Blighted Properties Following the Committee of the Whole's roundtable hearing where our ANC submitted testimony about seven vacant or blighted properties in our ANC, Chuck Elkins, Commissioner in ANC 3D, suggested a pilot project in one ANC to work with DCRA to resolve all the vacant and blighted properties in the ANC, and he suggested our ANC as the pilot. DCRA subsequently sent us a list of about 70 properties that it classified as vacant or blighted. The commissioners have divided them up and are in the process of verifying DCRA's listings. Some initial investigations indicate that DCRA's identification is inaccurate on many of the properties, which are occupied. We hope to work with DCRA on the actual vacant properties to ensure that DCRA takes the appropriate action with a focus on getting vacant properties occupied.
- DC Statehood Anise Jenkins, Executive Director of Stand Up! for Democracy in DC (Free DC) (www.FreeDC.org) asked that we make available a ten-minute video on DC Statehood. It is available at https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/FrKpP8XiD685gZGXcGrV-hMXc0zEtopo4UGI_arlaFQLXfE5ZFCm0-VCSKThJp1H.qqp9qNdetmRVNqbW, Access Passcode: i*2*6sLG.
- Voter Registration Event The Board of Elections will hold a voter registration event for 2021 high school graduates and rising seniors on Saturday, June 26, 2021, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at River Terrace Park, 372 Anacostia Avenue, NE. There will be music and giveaways. Sixteen and seventeen year olds that live in the District can preregister to vote.

Commissioner Zeldin

• Dedication of Lafayette-Pointer Park and Recreation Center -- The dedication of the new Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center and Park was a fantastic event made possible by so many people including: Mayor Muriel Bowser for putting the money in the budget to get

this done, cutting the dedication ribbon, and making opening remarks; the Departments of Parks and Recreation and General Services who were responsible for the construction; DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson; Council Members Janeese Lewis George and Mary Cheh; former Council Member Brandon Todd who introduced the legislation to rename the park; my fellow Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and former ANC Commissioners; the Boards of Historic Chevy Chase DC, Friends of Lafayette Park, and Chevy Chase Citizens Association, who all advocated for the renaming of the park and the two new signs that commemorate its history; Lafayette Elementary School faculty and students; Alice Deal students, Penelope Mason and Marleigh McKay; UDC faculty and students; and Mary Elliott, chief curator of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Special thanks go to James Fisher, Captain Pointer's 8th generation grandson, and the more than 30 other descendants of the Pointer and other African American families whose ancestors' homes were taken by the government by eminent domain in 1928 to build the then-all white Lafayette school and park. Their story was largely unknown until it was rediscovered and told by local historians, Barbara Boyle Torrey and Clara Myrick Green, and by the families' descendants.

Commissioner Gosselin

- American City Diner The DC Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) has been asked to re-inspect the property for possible designation as blighted. A DCRA inspector subsequently visited the site but has not yet reported on findings.
- Military Road and Chevy Chase Parkway There was another accident Friday night, June 11, 2021 at this dangerous intersection, vehicle damage only. In the past several years, the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) has taken some steps to make the intersection safer, most recently re-installing pedestrian walk bollards on the east and west sides of the intersection. But the bollards were knocked down by vehicles within two weeks and accidents continue to happen.
- Commissioner & Community Announcements As the new secretary of the Commission, Commissioner Gosselin is instituting a policy of including in the minutes only those announcements he receives in writing from those making the announcements.

Commissioner Chang

• <u>Lafayette Elementary School</u> – Lafayette Elementary School will be having their fifth grade graduation ceremony outdoors this year. It will be held on Monday, June 21st at 2 pm on the Broad Branch Road side of the upper playground. For those who walk their dogs, Principal Broquart asked that we do our best to keep that area free of droppings.

• <u>District-wide Sidewalk Palooza!</u> -- The ANC-sponsored Sidewalk Palooza! to highlight sidewalk issues and pedestrian safety concerns held between June 4 and June 11 will be extended for Single Member District 5, given the poor weather last week. Many 311 requests have already been submitted.

Commissioner Gore

00:23:20 Community Announcements

Emir Gur-Ravantab, Ward 3 liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

<u>Matthew Landrieu, constituent services coordinator, Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George</u>

00:33:34 Discussion with DC Public Schools Superintendent Lewis Ferebee about Mayor's FY 2022 Proposed Budget and Related Issues

The commissioners asked Dr. Ferebee about the budget for Lafayette Elementary School, particularly how DCPS is addressing the overcrowding at the school. Dr. Ferebee agreed to further examine the possibility of potential arrangements with the Episcopal Children's Center that could help to address Lafayette overcrowding.

<u>01:11:47</u> Discussion of Plans for Upper Beach Drive with Julia Washburn, National Park Service Superintendent of Rock Creek Park

Superintendent Washburn discussed the Park Service's solicitation of community input in making the decision about whether to reopen upper Beach Drive to vehicles. She also discussed plans to study a bike/pedestrian path along Military Road across the Park and the status of the reconstruction of Bingham Drive.

01:44:12 Follow-up Discussion with Cesar Enriquez, DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), about reopening of the Chevy Chase Community Center and arrangements with program instructors

Mr. Enriquez said that there is no further information from DPR about arrangements for with program instructors, but he expected the new policy to be announced soon. Mr. Enriquez said that the Community Center is now staffed from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, and will be open to meetings beginning on June 28th. Children's summer programs will be

held, and many programs will begin in the fall. He also noted that DPR is in the process of hiring a new senior program coordinator.

02:04:11 Commissioners Gosselin and Chang report on the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan

<u>02:16:52</u> Commissioner Gore report on the Standing Committee on Racial & Social Equity

<u>02:18:27</u> Discussion and Vote, ANC Testimony on FY 2022 Proposed Budget for DC Public Library and DPR

Chair Speck, who drafted the testimony, said it focused on the capital budgets of the two agencies and their treatment of the modernization of the Community Center and Chevy Chase Library. The Commission is seeking to have the two projects combined as part of redeveloping the site for multiple uses including affordable housing. But the new proposed capital budget descriptions continue to treat them as separate. The testimony seeks to have the descriptions of the projects mirror each other as a first step towards consolidation of the projects in next fiscal year's budget.

Speck's motion the Commission authorize the testimony was seconded and approved 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

02:31:10 Commission Business

Minutes for May 24, 2021 and June 2, 2021

On a motion by Commission Secretary Gosselin that was seconded, the minutes were approved on a vote of 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

Approval of Checks

On a motion by Commission Treasurer Higgins that was seconded, the Commission approved payment of the following checks: \$672 to Stefanie Van Pelt for Commission support; \$215.27 to the U.S. Treasury for federal form 941 first quarter 2021; \$16.60 cents to Stefanie Van Pelt for reimbursement for keys to ANC office; and \$156.44 to Verizon for May 2021

• The Commission discussed possible agenda items for its June 28, 2021 meeting.

02:43:56 Adjourn

Randy Speck, Chair Peter Gosselin, Secretary