



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

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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
Sept. 13, 2021
Zoom Meeting, 7-9:27 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

[00:00:00](#) **Introduction of Commissioners**

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), Connie K.N. Chang (3/4G-05), Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06) and Chris Fromboluti (3/4G-07). Commissioner Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04) was absent. Chair Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:03:08](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures**

As has been true since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the Commission met virtually. Chair Speck described the body's Zoom meeting procedures

[00:04:36](#) **Adoption of Agenda**

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

[00:05:27](#) **Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Speck

Chevy Chase DC Day — Saturday, September 18, 2021, will be Chevy Chase DC Day with activities from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm all along the Connecticut Avenue business corridor, with many activities focused around the Community Center and the Library. Historic Chevy Chase DC will also have a historic walking tour from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm, starting at the Avalon Theater. Commissioner Chang also arranged for a pop-up vaccination center for anyone who has not had a COVID vaccine. Finally, the ANC and the Office of Planning will have a tables with information about developing the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan.

Police Awards Banquet — The MPD Citizens Advisory Council’s annual police awards banquet has been postponed from September 29, 2021, until November 17, 2021, due to concerns about the COVID delta variant.

Maret Athletic Field — Maret has refined its plans for building a sports field at the Episcopal Children’s Center. Maret will present its plans at the Commission’s September 27, 2021 meeting and hopes to file an application for approval of the plans with the Board of Zoning Adjustments sometime in October 2021. At the Commission’s request, Maret is distributing flyers to all the nearby residents advising them of this meeting and the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. More information is available on Maret’s [project website](#).

Vacant and Blighted Houses — The Commission testified before the Council’s Committee of the Whole on May 25, 2021, about vacant and blighted houses in our ANC. Since then, we have been working with DCRA on a pilot project to identify ways that DCRA can improve its inspection and enforcement of vacant and blighted properties. As a result, there has been some improvement at some of the properties we identified. At 2900 Military Road, a new owner has resumed active construction after more than two years of inactivity while the house was boarded up. At 6005 Utah, the house that had been vacant for 30 years had been sold to a developer that has cleaned up the property and is preparing for construction to rehabilitate the house.

DCPS Use of the Episcopal Children’s Center School Buildings — Announcing for Commissioner Zeldin: On June 30, 2021, DCPS Chancellor Ferebee, Andrea Swiatocha, Deputy Chief of Facilities (DCPS), and I met with Stephanie Nash, President/CEO, The Episcopal Center for Children (ECC), and Phil Collyer, Vice Board Chair (ECC) to discuss the possibility of DCPS use of ECC or a portion of it.

The Chancellor expressed a willingness to purchase all or part of the ECC. He explained the DCPS cannot, however, enter into long term leases. We had a full discussion of what such a purchase could look like, and Ms. Nash and Mr. Collyer advised that they would take the matter up with the Board. On July 20, 2021, the Board met and voted against both options in part because of its desire to resume programming in the near term. Chancellor Ferebee and Commissioner Zeldin agreed to continue to work together to explore other options. The upshot regarding the ECC space is that unless DCPS is

authorized to enter into a long-term lease with the ECC, it is not a viable option for any classroom expansion of Lafayette at this time.

Commissioner Gosselin

Connecticut Avenue Tree Boxes – The commissioner said that he and Commissioner Gore helped weed the tree boxes in anticipation of Chevy Chase Day. He thanked Robert Gordon, president of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association, for mobilizing residents to come out for a cleanup of the Avenue Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021 and paying for and distributing mulch for the cleaned boxes.

00:16:38 **Discussion & Vote, Special Zoning Exception, 3201 Jocelyn St. NW**

After a presentation by the owners and their architect and an opportunity for discussion by commissioners and attendees, Chair Speck moved that the Commission advise the BZA that it does not oppose a special exception for the construction of a second-story addition at the address. The Commission vote was 6 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain), 1 (Absent).

00:33:10 **DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) acting director Everett Lott**

In initial comments, Acting Director Lott, who lives in Chevy Chase, said he has made three administrative changes at DDOT intended to speed response to traffic safety issues. All safety issues are being consolidated under a single administrator, Ellen Jones, who, as it happens, also lives in the Chevy Chase. Secondly, routine matters such as a street signs that have been knocked down or faulty traffic signals, which previously required lengthy outside assessments before the problem was addressed, will now be handled based on internal assessments. Third, DDOT is seeking to hire a second outside contractor to perform traffic safety assessments.

00:36:15 Safety at Military Rd-Chevy Chase Parkway Intersection

Commissioners Higgins and Gosselin reviewed the long history of accidents and neighbors' efforts to improve safety at the location. Gosselin said that as recently as July he and Chair Speck met with DDOT officials at the intersection and agreed to a series of incremental changes to improve safety, but said that, except for a pair of larger "STOP" signs, none of the agreed upon changes have been made. Lott said the department has performed two traffic safety assessments in 2018 and 2020. Both showed that most crashes involved southbound vehicles on Chevy Chase Parkway and eastbound ones on Military Road. He said DDOT's recommendation in 2018, which it is renewing, was to make the one block between Military Rd and Legation Street one way northbound. He said the department now proposes to implement this change on a trial basis. Gosselin said the original proposal was opposed by Legation Street residents who feared that the change would cause a substantial increase in traffic on their street. He and Speck both called for DDOT to take an incremental approach and follow through on the changes it agreed to in July. Lott said the work orders for the most changes are

awaiting the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year. Gosselin asked Lott to commit to having the work done by the end of October. Lott replied "Yes, we'll commit to that."

[01:07:16](#) Chestnut Street NW Sidewalk Project

Responding to questions from Commissioner Gore, Lott said that the new sidewalk from Oregon to Western Avenue should be completed by the first week of October. Subsequently, speed tables to slow vehicle traffic will be installed with all work at the location to be finished by the third week of October. Gore and Lott engaged in an exchange about whether DDOT will do a community meeting to answer residents' questions about where the speed tables will be placed and other aspects of the project.

[01:28:03](#) Problems with 311 Service Requests

Commissioner Chang thanked Lott and his team for being at the meeting. She noted that she submitted eighteen 311 requests for sidewalk repair that required DDOT's assistance in June. As of Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 about 9 of the 18 had been dealt and when she checked, 3 of the 9 had not been dealt with at all. Either the locations were spray painted with arrows and the work was declared done, or nothing was done but the requests were closed. She offered three recommendations for improving the 311 system: (i) change the user interface to allow a person requesting a municipal service to follow up by reporting whether or not the work was done without having to submit a new service request; (ii) implement a city-level quality control program for 311 traffic safety tickets to be properly followed up and not closed due to inaccurate responses, no follow up or no action (this does not include traffic tickets b/c that's done exceptionally well; and (iii) provide ANC commissioners with quarterly reports on their own service requests and those of their constituents to have an understanding of what's outstanding and to be able to work more closely together. Chang also mentioned the difference between alleys and potholes She said pothole work is done very quickly but alley problems that affect a lot of homes especially during winter, are addressed much more slowly. She also noted that DDOT has a new process for TSAs (traffic safety assessments) and wanted to know how DDOT aims to more closely involve a study requestor and that requestor's ANC commissioner before a study is completed. More transparency is needed.

Commissioners discussed several long-outstanding service requests including for traffic safety measures for speeding and not fully stopping at stop signs on the 3500 block of McKinley Street (where SMD-05 resident John Silson spoke); degraded crosswalks, absence of double yellow lines, and other cues for vehicles to slow down including 20 mph speed limit signs; sidewalks on 39th and Northampton streets (among others), and alley repairs. Commissioner Gosselin asked when DDOT will follow through with promised traffic signs for the Chevy Chase Circle, work that Acting Director Lott said he thought had been completed.

[02:03:57](#) Update on Chevy Chase Small Area Plan

The Commission agreed to sponsor a series of information exchange sessions on topics to help residents and commissioners better engage in the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan process. The Commission decided there will be five weekly sessions beginning Sept. 23, 2021 and continuing Sept. 30, Oct. 7th, 14th and 31st are planned to be held. The initial session with city of Alexandria deputy planning director Jeffrey Farner was subsequently moved to Sept. 22nd because of a conflict. It was agreed that the Sept. 30 session would feature a panel of high-rise apartment and condo residents with programming for subsequent sessions to be announced. OP has yet to announce when it will conduct a design charrette to help the community visualize changes they would like to see on Connecticut Avenue (go to: publicinput.com/chevychase for a map of the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan boundary) , but it is expected to be sometime this fall.

[02:18:45](#) **Update on Racial & Social Equity Standing Committee**

Co-chair Gore said the committee is seeking to set up meeting with members of the Police Reform Commission and, separately, with Metropolitan District Police Chief Robert Contee.

[02:21:10](#) **Commission Business**

- On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, who serves as secretary, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its July 26, 2021 meeting. The Commission was in recess during August.
- On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, who serves as treasurer, the Commission unanimously approved two checks for Verizon of \$157.64 and 157.16 and two checks to reimburse Chair Speck for Zoom services, each for \$222.58.
- Speck said that items for the September 27, 2021 meeting may include: report on Small Area Plan process; report on the Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee; presentation by and discussion with Maret about its proposal for a sports field at the Episcopal Children's Center site; discussion and possible vote on commission's FY 2022 budget.

[02:27:00](#) **Adjourn**



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary