



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W. P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015
3G@anc.dc.gov <http://www.anc3g.org> YouTube: ANC3G Office: 202.363.5803

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 – [Vacant]

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
Sept. 27, 2021
Zoom Meeting, 7- 10:14 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), Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04, Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06) and Chris Fromboluti (3/4G-07). Chair Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:03:55](#) **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.

[00:07:09](#) **Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Speck moved that the agenda be approved. The motion was passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[00:07:31](#) **Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Speck

Bingham Drive Reconstruction — On September 19, 2021, the National Park Service provided an update on the status of Bingham Drive. Due to a recent court case ruling, DOEE and the US Army Corps of Engineers must complete additional plan reviews of the proposed project. NPS is planning to segment the project so the restoration of the road can take place while these additional reviews, which relate to the stream, are underway. NPS has sent the permit for the reconstruction to DC Water, which is responsible for the work, and it is currently under its review. Once the permit is signed, it comes back to NPS for authorization by the superintendent. Once signed by the superintendent, the permit is in force and DC Water can begin its work. The Commission requested a status report from DC Water, but it hasn't responded. NPS says that regardless of the outcome of the Beach Drive management plan that is currently under review, Bingham Drive will be reconstructed as a roadway.

Carnegie Lecture — The Carnegie Institute for Science Earth and Planets Laboratory on Broad Branch Road is having the first of its fall neighborhood lectures on Tuesday, September 28th at 6:30 pm. The topic is "How to Change the Freezing Point of Water and other Curiosities Between Anvils." More information and a link to register for this virtual lecture is available on Carnegie's [website](#).

Ticket Amnesty Extended — The District Department of Motor Vehicles' amnesty program for tickets has been extended from September 30 until December 31, 2021. Since the program launched on June 1, 2021, more than 32,000 drivers have participated in the program, collectively settling \$44 million worth of tickets. Now, District and non-District drivers have until the end of the year to take advantage of the District's amnesty program that provides the opportunity to pay, without the doubling penalty, outstanding tickets for parking, photo enforcement, and minor moving violations. More information is available at this [link](#).

Yard Waste Collection — The Department of Public Work's yard waste collection season — which differs from the fall leaf collection season — runs from August 16th through October 31st. Yard waste will only be collected in paper bags. DPW will collect up to 20 paper bags of yard waste from residences that receive DPW's trash and recycling collection services. Residents must call [311](#) to make an appointment for yard waste collection. Residents can also visit www.311.dc.gov to make an appointment or schedule an appointment using the 311 mobile app.

Commissioner Chang

COVID Vaccines at Chevy Chase Day -- Department of Health will return to the Chevy Chase Community Center on October 9th to provide second vaccinations to those who received the first one at Chevy Chase Day on September 18. They may provide booster shots -- Pfizer and J&J, depending on CDC guidelines, and if they do, the Commission will post that to social media

New Phone Area Code -- DC is getting a new area code – 771 -- starting in the fall of 2021. Interestingly, area code 771 lies between 770 which is in Atlanta and 772 which is in East Florida. If you request and receive a new number on or after November 9, 2021, you may be assigned a number with a 771 area code. Starting on October 9, 2021, we will need to add the 202 area code when dialing locally but the price of a local call will not change (Thank you to Commissioner Zeldin and attendees at the meeting who pointed out that a +1 was not necessary in making a local call).

Commissioners at Farmers Market -- Commissioner Chang and Zeldin were at the Chevy Chase Farmers Market located on the plaza of Lafayette Elementary School the past Saturday, Sept 25, and will be there the coming Saturday, Oct 2nd to greet residents and constituents, to address questions, and to sign up for our email listserv (name/address/email) so that important announcements like our public meeting dates are not missed.

Small Area Plan and Upcoming Commission Hosted Information Exchange Sessions – ANC 3/4G will host Information Exchange Series Session 2 Thursday, Sept 30th, starting at 7 pm. The series is an outreach effort to involve the community in the Office of Planning-led Chevy Chase Small Area Plan. The topic will be "Perspectives of High-Rise Residents." We have two speakers, and perhaps a third, who will come talk to us about their experience living in the apartment buildings and condo buildings. More information is provided on our website and will be put in the chat. The first session Sept. 22, 2021. Commissioner Gosselin moderated a discussion with Alexandria, VA deputy planning director Jeff Farmer about best practices in small area planning. You can find all the sessions and video recordings [here](#).

Commissioner Zeldin

ANC Email List – Commissioners are trying to create a master email list that can be used for constituent service-related matters. Zeldin said that for residents to opt into this list, they should send their email address to 3G@anc.dc.gov. He asked that residents include their name, street address, and the email address they would like to be included in the list.

[00:18:42](#) **Community Announcements**

Lois Hollan

New Ward 3 High School Location -- Hollan said she represents the Georgetown Reservoir Association, a homeowners' group that supports use of the former Georgetown Day School (GDS) lower and middle school campus along MacArthur Boulevard as a public school, but not a high school. She asked the Commission to consider a resolution calling for a more central location for a new Ward 3 high school and to join her in writing DC Schools Supt. Lewis Ferebee who will decide about how the former GDS property is used. Chair Speck said the Commission could not act without further study.

Emir Gur-Ravantab, Ward 3 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)

COVID Update -- As of the week ending Sept. 24th, about 67% of all DC residents have received at

least one dose of the vaccine, and 56% have been fully vaccinated. To this end, Mayor Bowser announced extending vaccine mandates to all adults who are regularly in schools and childcare centers in DC, starting November 1st. This applies to all DC Public Schools, Public Charter Schools, Private Schools, Parochial Schools, and childcare centers. This applies to anyone in any teaching role, program leaders, guidance counselors, principals, assistants, coaches, referees and other game officials, librarians, technology support workers, social workers, bus drivers, security, special needs aides, cafeteria workers, janitors, and volunteers. Student athletes who turn 12 between September 20th and November 1st must be vaccinated by December 13th to participate in extracurricular activities. There is no test-out option. This means that there will be no more option for unvaccinated people to choose to submit to weekly testing rather than receive the vaccine. Schools will also continue to perform contact tracing by random testing of unvaccinated students (with consent). Overall, school enrollment is up from the last year, but still down from pre-pandemic levels. When booster shots are fully approved, DC residents who are eligible can take them at any vaccination center. Recommendations have been that only the immunocompromised, elderly, and those with other health conditions need a booster shot.

Motor Vehicle Ticket Amnesty -- Mayor Bowser announced an extension of the ticket amnesty program until December 31st, from September 30th. Anyone with tickets issued before December 31st is eligible, whereby no additional fees or fines will be added if tickets are paid before the extension date.

Walk-About – Gur-Ravantab invited any resident or Commissioner to reach out to him if that person would like to do a walkthrough of their neighborhood to sweep for any issues that can be brought forth to the city. As the weather gets colder and municipal maintenance work slows, he suggested trying to get “any loose ends tied up.”

[Alex Krefetz, Program Manager, Chevy Chase Main Street \(CCMS\)](#)

New Businesses – Three new businesses are opening along upper Connecticut Avenue, [Anderson Wier Studio](#) and [Got Your Back Total Health](#), and a third, Juicee Coffee House, is about to open. All three are located in the Chevy Chase Arcade.

[Chevy Chase Holiday Lights](#) - CCMS is working with business owners to decorate the corridor for the holidays. Lights will be up from November 19th to January 6th, and will include holiday programming like Small Business Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering to help with lights, putting up posters, and more [please complete this form](#)

Small Area Plan Meeting for Businesses -- The District’s Office of Planning will meet with Chevy Chase business owners on Friday, October 29th to discuss the Small Area Plan. This engagement is organized to discuss and inform the plan of the needs of the existing business community. If you are a business owner interested in participating, [please complete this form](#).

Commissioner Chang, who is one of the Commission’s two representatives to the SAP, said that OP has still not provided dates for the next phase of the planning process – one or more design charrettes. She said the agency’s “Vision and Goals” document is available [here](#) and residents can comment on it [here](#). Commissioner Gosselin, who is the other representative, encouraged residents to attend a HCCDC event at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6 at which Ward3Vision would present its 30-year vision for the commercial corridor of Chevy Chase, DC. He said he had written, Erkin Ozberk, OP’s manager of the Chevy Chase SAP process, seeking assurance that promised resources for professional facilitation services in case the Commission staged one or more community forums would be available in the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, 2021. He asked fellow commissioners to consider assembling a study group to prepare to comment formally on the draft small area plan that is expected to emerge from the SAP process.

[00:42:52](#) **Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee Update**

Commissioner Gore, the committee’s co-chair, apologized for forgetting to send the Zoom link for a scheduled Sept. 21 meeting of the panel. She said its next meeting will be held on Oct. 19, 2021 at which it is expected to vote on a mission statement and hear an update on data suggesting racially disparate enforcement by the Second District of the Metropolitan District Police (MPD).

[00:45:10](#) **Maret School Plans for Athletic Fields at Episcopal Childrens Center**

A Maret trustee, Aakash Thakkar, and Episcopal Center for Children’s (ECC) president and CEO, Stephanie Nash, made initial comments.

[00:49:25](#) **Maret Presentation**

School Head Marjo Talbot and Assistant Head for Finance and Operations Trey Holloway outlined the history of and proposal for the project.

In June, 2021, Maret signed a lease for up to 50 years for use of the five-acre open playing fields behind ECC at 5901 Utah Ave. NW as well as a media center that the school intends to turn into a field house. The lease does not cover the remaining 2.13 acres of the campus with three buildings and the tree-shaded common that the buildings border. This stays with ECC.

The leased property is bordered on the north by the alley behind houses along Rittenhouse Street NW, on the south by Nebraska Avenue NW, on the east by houses that face 28th Street NW, and on the south by the remaining EEC buildings.

Plan Overview

On the south or Nebraska side, Holloway said that current plans call for bus “lay-by,” or pullouts, a curb cut to a roughly 50-vehicle gated parking lot and a “bio-retention area” to collect stormwater runoff. Further back on the site, he said, will be a baseball diamond with dugout and bleachers, flanked on the east by a pitcher’s warm-up bating practice area and on the west by a bullpen and

service yard. Behind that, will be a large multi-purpose field with a scoreboard in front of the Rittenhouse alley and shot clock at either end and additional bleachers for spectators. Holloway said the school plans to re-plant mature “heritage” trees that are now on the field to an area in the northwest corner of the property. It plans to install netting to stop errant balls and plant or augment trees and other landscaping outside the netting to serve as a perimeter buffer between the facility and surrounding neighborhood.

Use

Holloway said the school expects to use the site primarily in the fall and spring. He said that in the two weeks prior to Labor Day, Maret teams would practice from about 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Once classes have begun, he said use would be between 2 or 2:30 p.m. and dark on weekdays with occasional games Friday or Saturday afternoons. He said spring use would be similar. He said the school does not expect to use the fields during the winter and wants to make it available to camps and other youth-oriented activities in the summer.

In addition, he said Maret wants to make the fields available to groups such as DC Soccer Club, formerly Stoddert, and DC Dynasty Baseball, for games primarily on Sundays.

Traffic & Parking

Holloway said the school is working with a traffic engineer and the DC Department of Transportation to determine volumes to be handled by the parking lot and street parking along Nebraska. He said Maret games generally attract only 50 to 60 spectators. He said the bus lay-bys or pullouts on the north side of Nebraska would be used to drop-off and pick-up students.

Site Management

Holloway said the site currently has no stormwater management and that rain runoff has flooded adjacent houses. He said Maret seeks to install a drainage system and retention area to manage runoff. He said Maret is working with an arborist and the city’s urban forestry division to inventory trees and determine which can tolerate replanting. He said for those that can be moved, preparations will include root and canopy pruning.

Timeline

Holloway said Maret expects to file its proposal with the city’s Board of Zoning Adjustment in early November for a hearing in early 2022. It also expects to file permit applications with the city’s Public Space Committee. He said the school hopes to begin moving soil and grading the fields and moving trees in the second or third quarter of 2022, initiate construction in the first quarter of 2023, and finish construction by the third quarter of 2023.

[Note to readers: Because of the length of the Q&A, the minutes offer only a brief accounts, but in most instances also links to the videotaped segment where the issue is discussed.]

01:08:40 Commissioner Q&A

- Maret officials said they will look to share the new facilities with local schools and organizations. But they emphasized that use will be for youth, not adult, athletics. Talbot said

Maret has not made a decision yet about whether it will give up or reduce use of Jelleff field in upper Georgetown that it renovated and on which it has a lease that runs another nine years.

- Talbot [said](#) there will be no lights for night play at the ECC location.
- During an [exchange about parking](#), Maret officials said they will bus their own students to and from the field to reduce demand for parking and during games will encourage other schools to do the same.

[01:34:16](#) Community Q&A

- Maret officials said that playing surfaces will be artificial turf, not grass, but Talbot [emphasized](#) the turf has been substantially improved and is now environmentally sound.
- Asked if neighbors will be allowed to use the field when Maret and other organizations are not, Talbot [said](#) “I can see absolutely no reason why not.”
- Officials said they have not made decisions about whether there will be security and security lights at the field, but indicated security if any will be minimal because the facility will not be open for night use. They [said](#) they may install surveillance camera, especially around the media center/athletic field house facility.
- Asked about whether there will be a PA system and loudspeakers at the field, Maret officials [said](#) they don’t use such things now and don’t expect to have them at the new facility. Asked later if the shot clocks at the site will have amplified buzzers, officials [said](#) they will, but will be set at low volume.
- Asked about moving mature trees from the field area, Maret officials [said](#) they tentatively have plan to move four large “heritage” trees. They said that the city requires a moving plan that includes trimming the trees’ roots and canopies in advance of a move and three years of care afterwards.
- Asked about drainage, officials [said](#) they plan to build a bio-retention facility to capture and filter water runoff from the site and direct it away from existing homes. They said they are considering permeable pavement for the parking lot.
- Officials [said](#) there is a “fairly significant’ elevation change between the northwest and southeast corners of the property and they will have to cut and fill to level the playing fields. But they generally portrayed the dimensions of the work as moderate.
- Officials [said](#) that when other groups and organizations use the field, Maret will charge a fee that the school will keep to help offset the costs of developing and maintaining the fields.
- A number of questioners expressed concern that Maret’s leasing of the fields to outside groups could attract larger numbers of people to the area and especially teenage drivers. Maret trustee Thakkar [said](#) the school will deal with the issue in part by seeking outside groups that serve younger, kindergarten-through-eight grade athletes, who don’t drive and whose events tend to attract smaller numbers of spectators.
- A number of people question whether the 50 spaces planned for the facility’s parking lot are enough to handle traffic generated when outside groups use the field. School officials and commissioners discussed the extent to which overflow could be handled by street parking on the north side of Nebraska and the east side of Utah. Holloway [said](#) the school has contracted for a traffic study that will provide guidance about whether the lot and available street parking are adequate.

- A Rittenhouse Street homeowner asked about the height of the scoreboard and landscaped buffer, saying that neighbors now enjoy an open view and would prefer to keep it that way. Holloway [said](#) Maret will consult with neighbors about what an appropriate height might be. Later, a questioner asked whether Maret would consider moving the scoreboard so Rittenhouse neighbors wouldn't have to see it. School officials [said](#) they considered several locations, but concluded the location at the back of the Rittenhouse homes was the best, given they want to have only one scoreboard. Still later, Holloway [said](#) that because of the way the field will be contoured, the scoreboard will sit lower than it would were it placed on the site as currently configured.
- Asked how neighbors can talk with Maret about concerns, Talbot [said](#) that the school sees the ANC meeting as the beginning of consultation process with the neighborhood and that she and other school officials are willing to meet about the project with any neighborhood group.
- A questioner noted that the school has said that its lease is one for up to 50 years and asked for the details. Holloway [said](#) that it is a 20-year base lease with options for up to three 10-year extensions.

[02:46:20](#) **Discussion of Ward Redistricting**

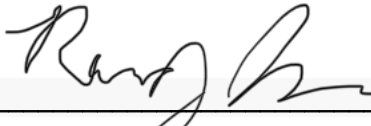
The city must bring its ward populations in line with the most recent decennial census, that for 2020. Chair Speck said that an initial analysis indicates that the current boundaries for Wards 1 through 5 do not need to be changed because populations in each is within five percent of the average. He said changes will be needed in Wards 6, 7 and 8. Once the ward boundaries are adjusted, the city starting in early 2022 will examine how ANC and single member district boundaries will need to be adjusted.

[02:53:19](#) **Commission Business**

- Treasurer Higgins reported the Commission has a bank balance of \$24,772 as of Sept. 22. It recently received its fourth and final city allotment, bringing its annual allotment for fiscal 2021, which ends September 30, 2021, to \$18,700 for fiscal 2021, which ends Sept. 30, 2021. There may be some added expenses before the end of the fiscal year.
- On a motion by Higgins, the Commission vote 7-0 to approve a fiscal 2022 budget that includes carryover and receipts of \$40,000, expected disbursements of \$34,000 and an ending balance of \$6,000.
- On a motion by Higgins, the Commission voted 7-0 to approve payment of two checks, one for \$134.62 for Commissioner Zeldin for office supplies and one for \$630 for ANC office manager Stefanie Van Pelt for work from July 1 to the end of September.
- Commissioner Speck indicated that items for the October 25, 2021 meeting may include: report on Small Area Plan process; report on the Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee; discussion and possible vote on application for a special exception at 3637 Patterson Street, NW to continue use as a recreational playing field for the Blessed Sacrament (BZA Case No. [20593](#)); discussion and possible vote on application for special exception at 3622 Patterson Street, NW to construct a one-story rear porch addition (BZA Case No. [20558](#)); presentation and discussion on

development plans for the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home at 5425 Western Avenue, NW (Zoning Case No 21-11); discussion and possible vote on application to close the “paper road” at Moreland Place (DC Office of the Surveyor File No. S.O. 21-05063)

[03:13:59](#) Adjourn



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary