

**ANC 3/4G Single Member Districts 5 & 6 Residents
Invited to Attend a Zoominar
with Neighbors Ron Eichner and Ellen McCarthy
Presenting Ward3Vision's "A 30-Year Vision for Chevy Chase, DC"**

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

**Commissioner Gosselin (3/4G-06) host/moderator
Commissioner Chang (3/4G-05) co-host**

Q&As and Chat

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ANSWERED LIVE -- 15

Stuart 7:23 PM

I have never understood why we have so many banks and their parking lots - not many people do in-person banking anymore. I see very little traffic - foot or car at any of them. Any insights why they're here?

Ellen McCarthy 7:29 PM

Most real estate analysts who have looked at that question have concluded that even though most banks could do with an ATM like the Bank of America ATM next to Little Beast, banks are willing to pay for much more space than they need as a form of advertising, a 3D version of a billboard. Unfortunate, given the limited time frame that a bank lobby is animated, as opposed to regular retail -- case in point, Chase Bank replacing Circle Liquors.

Evelyn Wrin 7:32 PM

PNC Bank and Blue 44, etc. are NOT in the 5400 block. They are in the 5500 block! Seems like you have more to learn about the neighborhood!

This question has been answered live

Stuart 7:34 PM

That's interesting and discouraging. Thanks for the reply

This question has been answered live

Stuart 7:36 PM

Please define what we mean by "affordable housing" in this context. Both square footage and pricing. The gentlemen who lives in the "affordable housing" at 5333 did not find the size adequate.

This question has been answered live

Edwina Smith 7:38 PM

In your plan, is parking provided for those of us who live in Ward 4 but shop in this Conn Ave area? esp at the library, Avalon,etc. Is street parking still available in your plan?

This question has been answered live

gailkelleher 7:38 PM

What kind of density will this produce?

This question has been answered live

rick 7:46 PM

Have you considered a parking building off the avenue on the Montgomery County model which is low cost and very open to accomodate people who work on the Avenue and shop or eat there?

This question has been answered live

Stuart 7:54 PM

As we talk about design, access and parking, please remember not all of us can use bikes or even buses. My wife is disabled and can't even always walk a few blocks due to chronic pain. Buses are untenable. She is friends with a number of residents at Knollwood. Parking is pivotal to their access to our retail and restaurants here. They are so sensitive to parking access that they would go to the Diner and Arocola regularly (mostly for lunch) but had never been to The Parthenon because the nearby parking they find much more unreliable. The loss of the Diner and Arocola has meant that rather than coming over for meals multiple times a week they almost never do - even pre-pandemic. That also means they don't pop into the adjacent shops either.

This question has been answered live

Anonymous Attendee 7:56 PM

Multiple units are planned for Mazza Gallerie, as well as behind the Lisner Home--that is going to add a lot of living space to the area. Why does every neighborhood need to be dense?

This question has been answered live

rick 7:56 PM

I fully concur to the last live commenter.

This question has been answered live

Mary Rowse 7:57 PM

Ron, where did those photos come from? Columbia Heights? Are you suggesting Chevy Chase should become Columbia Heights?

This question has been answered live

Michele Wolin 7:59 PM

Will the underground parking be free, or will people have to pay for it? Hard to imagine the landlords providing it for free.

This question has been answered live

Stuart 8:08 PM

Thanks, Ron and Ellen, for this presentation. Can you talk about why we, as a community, are being constrained to talk about this ONLY in the context of four blocks of Conn. Ave? Why did the City not look at CCDC as a whole? Why aren't we talking about increasing density and affordability throughout CCDC over time? Concentrating "affordable" housing in a limited physical location has a very checkered history (does 1960's "urban renewal" ring a bell?)?

Ellen McCarthy 8:12 PM

The Office of Planning expects to do small area plans for Woodley Park/Cleveland Park, Tenleytown and Friendship Heights in the next year.

Mary Rowse 8:09 PM

Ellen, I just stumbled upon this description of you on your Wikipedia page. What groups are you referring to specifically?

Ellen McCarthy 8:11 PM

I have no idea who wrote the Wikipedia page -- it wasn't me, and I have no idea how to edit it.

Blair Lounsbury 8:18 PM

please say the wesbite again

This question has been answered live

UNANSWERED -- 5

Stuart 8:03 PM

We are comfortable with underground parking and it is important to keep in mind that our little village retail district serves Maryland's Chevy

Stuart 8:04 PM

...Chase Village, as well as Ward 4 residents. It is a retail district that serves more than a few blocks off Connecticut

admin 8:05 PM

What is the plan for the infrasture - sewer, water, etc?

admin 8:07 PM

Why call this a Gateway to DC? Is one of many ways to enter the City and to me The Memorial Bridge is a Gateway to the City.

Mary Rowse 8:09 PM

Ellen M. McCarthy is the director of the Office of Planning for the United States city of Washington, D.C..^[1] She previously served in that position from 2004 to 2007. Appointed by Mayor Anthony Williams,^[2]^[3] She was forced out of the position by wealthy Ward 3 homeowner groups^[4] who resented her development policies.

CHAT LOG

19:02:40 From Connie Chang to Everyone:

Good evening everyone. Welcome to this Zoominar hosted by Commissioner Connie Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 and Commissioner Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G-06.

19:02:54 From Connie Chang to Everyone:

Please use the chat button for comments and the Q&A button for your questions.

19:12:30 From Stuart to Everyone:

can you make the slide bigger and minimize the speakers?

19:13:41 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:

Stuart, I'm not sure I know how to do that. I hope the font in the following slides are more readable

19:14:18 From Stuart to Everyone:

OK, thanks for trying. I don't know how to do it either!

19:15:08 From Edwina Smith to Host and Panelists:

If you put your cursor on the vertical line between the speakers and the slide, you can slide it to right to make slide larger. (toggle back and forth etc)

19:15:28 From Lisa Greenman to Host and Panelists:

On your computer screen, you should see two vertical white bars between the slide and the speakers if you put your cursor there. Click on that, hold it down and slide right to make the slide bigger and the speakers smaller.

19:15:29 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Edwina Smith, Host and Panelists:

Thank you!

19:15:42 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Lisa Greenman, Host and Panelists:

Thank you Lisa!

19:16:03 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Lisa Greenman, Host and Panelists:

I just did that and maxed it out.

19:16:16 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Edwina Smith, Host and Panelists:

I just did that and maxed it out. Hope it's better

19:16:33 From Lisa Greenman to Host and Panelists:

Each person needs to do on their own computer.

19:16:53 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Stuart, Host and Panelists:
Got help from attendees. I made the slides wider and photos of us smaller.

19:19:51 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:
This meeting wasn't publicized on the listserv. It seems to have been privately noticed to people individually. How many are on this call?

19:24:24 From L D to Everyone:
I only found out about this via a flyer put in my mailbox...

19:25:15 From Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G-06 to Host and Panelists:
That's my fault. I should have posted it. I leafleted about 300 households in my SMD. Connie sent emails to resident in her SMD. We did NOT mean to hide the event under a stone. There are 28 participants at this point.

19:27:18 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:
I guess it's a private meeting.

19:28:57 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:
The meeting was posted on the What's New section on the ANC website and an email was sent to all those who signed up to receive emails from the ANC.

19:29:30 From Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G-06 to Host and Panelists:
That's just not fair, as my feet will attest. It's simply a two SMD-sponsored presentation.

19:30:05 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G-06(Direct Message):
Peter, you only sent your reply to us — host and panelists

19:30:10 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:
Hardly anyone looks at the ANC website, attends ANC meetings, or has signed up to receive emails from the ANC.

19:30:54 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:
Again, this is a private meeting for those "in the know."

19:31:27 From Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G-06 to Everyone:
Re; the comment Thai is a "private" meeting: That's just not fair, as my feet will attest. It's simply a two SMD-sponsored presentation.

19:31:32 From Stuart to Everyone:
Yes, the entry/front of 5333 is very sterile and not inviting in the least - would not like to see that replicated

19:33:25 From Edwina Smith to Host and Panelists:
Is your plan is parking provided for those of us who live in Ward 4 but shop in this Conn Ave area? esp at the library.

19:35:28 From Kevin Mulshine to Everyone:
I saw the notice of the meeting on the ANC site,

19:35:54 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:

Please tell us specifically, how building more housing makes it more affordable. That theory is not universally accepted.

19:35:56 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Edwina Smith, Host and Panelists:

Edwina, can you submit your question in the Q&A?

19:36:46 From Evelyn Wrin to Everyone:

To Ron Eichner:PNC Bank and Blue 44, etc. are NOT in the 5400 block. They are in the 5500 block! Seems like you have more to learn about the neighborhood!

19:37:02 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Mary Rowse, Host and Panelists:

Mary, can you submit your question in the Q&A?

19:37:53 From admin to Everyone:

If the City builds housing on the Community Center Site, what makes you think it will be quality construction?

19:37:58 From L D to Everyone:

You are jumping into this thriving neighborhood that residents love as is. People have worked hard to live here and don't want the downtown hub-bub or what has happened to the Bethesda area. Many of the spaces you are looking at will reduce parking. 90 units will be built behind Lisner Home, and multiple apartments are planned for Mazza Gallerie area--these will generate more business in our area. We need a functioning library and community center--both have been hit hard since pandemic--and are heavily used by all ages in the neighborhood. The local schools are filled to capacity. DC has built more than 6000 affordable housing units in the last 4 years--more than 3 times that of Montgomery County, so that does not appear to be an issue. So who will really benefit from these plans? Looking at the overview, it is not attractive. Who really benefits? Developers. I thank you for this presentation, but it is by no means 'modest' and will negatively effect life in this area.

19:38:41 From Stuart to Everyone:

It's confusing because there are 2 5500 blocks

19:39:37 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:

I've talked to many people about this, and the vast majority of people want to keep our small village atmosphere. This is a large increase in urbanization. If I wanted something like this, I wouldn't have moved here. People come here when they want a quieter, less hassled lifestyle. Climate change also requires that we keep trees and don't make heat islands, and keep some open space even in a city. Sprawl will happen regardless; many people don't want to live in the city, and they want a yard and open space. Further, there is already a ton of housing being built in this city; have you been to Navy Yard? Or Brookland, NOMA, etc. You have empty buildings now in Friendship Heights. All these other places are actually on a Metro line, unlike us. Choices? There are already a ton of apartment buildings all up and down Connecticut, along with a variety of housing styles. There is affordable housing in these apartments. This is a residential area; it doesn't have to be urbanized to the hilt.

19:40:11 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:

LD thank you for your comments. Please contact me at merowse@aol.com if you can.

19:40:41 From Meghan to Host and Panelists:

I agree; we need better more viable retail in the long term. Right now there is way too much vacancy and too little options for restaurants and entertainment. We have to go outside the neighborhood for reasonable choices. I love the idea of bringing in more residents especially those that wouldn't be able to buy into the neighborhood in today's market.

19:41:46 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:

Underground parking is often unpleasant and, frankly, doesn't always feel safe. Moreover, you'll be taking away open space. The fact that we have available, relatively easy parking here makes this area very accessible, and people who live in other parts of the city come here because of it.

19:42:58 From Erin Pulice to Everyone:

Thank you Ron and team for your hard work and your time putting together this thoughtful presentation

19:43:04 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:

Amen Michele!

19:44:31 From Edwina Smith to Host and Panelists:

I believe Eric Spencer also said that he (and/or others in his bldg) didn't park in the underground parking because it cost money. So he chose to park on the street.

19:44:44 From admin to Everyone:

What about the infrastructure - sewer, water pipes, etc., is the City going to foot this bill and do the work prior to possible builds? The underground parking construction - what kind of impact will this have on the homes next to it?

19:49:13 From Ellen McCarthy to Everyone:

Developers are required to pay for their utilities as part of their construction cost. There's no particular reason why underground parking will have any more negative impact on neighboring housing than will the residents of those houses looking at blacktop parking lots and cars. The Plan can require that trees, landscaping, fences, etc. buffer the new construction from the existing homes.

19:49:49 From Anne Tarrant to Host and Panelists:

This is so helpful. Thank you so much for thinking so much about this and sharing your ideas.

19:50:33 From L D to Everyone:

When 5333 glass apartment building was being constructed, it totally disrupted all the homes in the surrounding 4-block area--cracks in walls, huge blasting, water in basements, pictures falling off walls, construction vehicles everywhere. It also does NOT fit the neighborhood. The reality of what is being proposed will make life in this area totally change--and not for the better. 65 feet height are way too large.

19:51:21 From admin to Everyone:

Does the City provide vouchers to the renters for these units? Are any of the businesses involved looking to sell their properties to developers or to develop them themselves? A 900 sq.ft unit does not meet the needs of people from this community looking to downsize.

19:51:25 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Anne Tarrant, Host and Panelists:

Thank you Anne. Ward3Vision did a lot of thinking and work putting this together to stimulate thinking and conversation.

19:52:08 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to admin, Host and Panelists:
Admin, can you post your question to the Q&A? The chat is reserved for comment. I can track the Q&A better.

19:52:14 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:
They can add landscaping on whatever small land is left after they've cut down all the existing mature trees, which are the ones that are beneficial for the environment, so it's not the same. Re parking lots, at least with an open parking lot you have open space, rather than a tall building blocking your views and light.

19:54:49 From Meghan to Host and Panelists:
Well said, Ellen!

20:00:00 From admin to Everyone:
Why can't people live in a different neighborhoods and save and progress in jobs until they can get into housing in our area - most of us did that. Many buyers of our homes currently are coming from other sections of the City, Virginia and Maryland.

20:01:07 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:
Valet parking can be very expensive.

20:10:14 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:
The wide sidewalks we currently have are crucial for the welcoming, human-scale feel of this neighborhood.

20:11:04 From Lisa Greenman to Everyone:
Thank you to the ANC and Ellen and Ron for all the effort that went into this really thoughtful presentation.

20:11:06 From Anne Tarrant to Host and Panelists:
Connecticut Avenue is an evacuation route.

20:13:15 From Laura Kumin to Host and Panelists:
Thanks to

20:13:17 From Kevin Mulshine to Everyone:
Thanks to all for this great presentation!

20:13:42 From Laura Kumin to Host and Panelists:
Thanks to Connie & Peter for putting this program together and to

20:13:51 From Ellen McCarthy to Everyone:
Michele,

20:13:52 From Laura Kumin to Host and Panelists:
Ellen and Ron

20:14:05 From rick to Everyone:

Thanks for a great presentation!

20:14:06 From Stuart to Everyone:

We very much appreciate that you are coordinating and hosting these important sessions!

20:14:20 From Ellen McCarthy to Everyone:

I don't think anyone wants to reduce the width of the sidewalks. It is DC-owned public space.

20:14:42 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:

The dedicated website for the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan can be found at <https://publicinput.com/chevychase>

20:14:43 From Edwina Smith to Host and Panelists:

Thank you everyone for this presentation!

20:14:58 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:

How many people attended this meeting?

20:15:07 From Stuart to Everyone:

Connie, where are the links? Neighbors have asked me how to find the recorded sessions.
Thanks

20:15:21 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:

There were 28 attendees.

20:16:15 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:

go to anc3g.org

20:16:42 From Stuart to Everyone:

OK. Thanks. I will look there and share with neighbors.

20:17:31 From Ellen McCarthy to Laura Kumin, Host and Panelists:

Thanks Laura.

20:17:44 From Mary Rowse to Everyone:

24 people plus 4 presenters is a very, very small audience.

20:17:51 From Michele Wolin to Everyone:

How about a presentation on a historic district? Please present a different point of view.