



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

ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
November 22, 2021
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 10:13 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm 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). Chair Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:02:31](#) **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.

[00:04:13](#) **Adoption of Agenda**

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

[00:04:40](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Speck

Vacancy ANC 3/4G07 — No one submitted a petition to the DC Board of Elections to fill the vacant commissioner's position for ANC 3/4G07 before the November 15, 2021 deadline, but there will be another opportunity for those who want to be candidates for this position. The 2000+ residents in this single member district (SMD) need to be represented on the ANC. It is an opportunity to serve the community and the District as a whole.

The Board of Elections will publish a new certification of vacancy November 26, 2021. The period for circulating petitions will run from November 29 through December 20, 2021. Candidates may pick up nominating petitions by emailing candidate@dcboe.org or in-person by appointment at 1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 750. For more information, you may call 202-727-2525.

The boundaries of Single Member District (SMD) 3/4G07 are on this [map](#), and candidates must have lived within this SMD for at least 60 days. After a one-week challenge period, the Board of Elections will certify the candidates. If there is only one qualifying candidate, that person will be considered elected. If there is more than one qualified candidate, the Commission will be required to hold an in-person election, with all registered voters in the SMD eligible to cast a ballot. More information is available on the [Board of Election's ANC webpage](#).

If anyone is interested in running for this position and wants to know more about serving on the ANC or how to navigate the process, please contact any of the current ANC commissioners. Our contact information is available on [ANC 3/4G's's website](#).

Chevy Chase Fountain — The bill to remove Francis Newlands' name from the Chevy Chase Fountain ([H.R. 1256](#)), is before the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on Natural Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, chaired by Rep. Joe Neguse of Colorado). You can contact the Democrats on the committee at NRDems@mail.house.gov. Senator Van Hollen will co-introduce the bill in the Senate.

Congresswoman Norton and the National Park Service — Congresswoman Norton and National Park Service representatives will hold a joint community meeting on Thursday,

December 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm. You may email NortonEvents@mail.house.gov to RSVP for the event and receive the Zoom link.

ANC Redistricting — The process of redrawing ANC boundaries begins in December, 2021, and will be based on the new ward boundaries set by the Council in votes on December 7th and 21st. Anyone interested in serving on a Task Force to set the ANC boundaries and the Single Member District boundaries within ANCs should contact either Abigail McLean (amclean@dccouncil.us) in Councilmember Cheh's office for Ward 3 or Lenace Edwards (ledwards@dccouncil.us) in Councilmember Lewis George's office for Ward 4.

Commissioner Higgins

Maret School-ECC Athletic Fields Update – Commissioner Higgins said there have been several recent developments in public discussion and District consideration of Maret School's proposal to modernize the fields behind the Episcopal Center for Children at 5901 Utah Ave. NW. He listed five:

1. On November 22, 2021, the Board of Zoning Adjustment issued a hearing notice for the Maret School application regarding the project for March 9, 2022.
2. On November 16, 2021, Maret hosted a Zoom meeting for additional public engagement and noted that it had posted answers to 72 questions from residents. Maret also noted that it had established a public portal for this issue on its website.
3. Maret plans on hosting additional forums, including participation with technical experts to answer specific questions regarding landscaping and other issues.
4. Maret has asked the ANC for further guidance regarding public engagement including the potential for supplementary agreements between the ANC, Maret, and the ECC.
5. Anyone interested in this issue may obtain further information on the ANC website at its dedicated page to this issue area at: https://anc3g.org/task_forces/maret-school-ecc-sports-field/.

Commissioner Gosselin

Fundraising for Chevy Chase Circle and Fountain – As the commissioner who represents the area that includes the Circle, Commissioner Gosselin sits on the board on the non-profit Friends of Chevy Chase Circle. The group has launched a fundraising campaign to help the National Park Service maintain and improve the site. Gosselin encouraged fellow commissioners and residents to contribute. Donations can be made online at: <https://www.friendsofchevychasecircle.org/donate.php>

Military Road-Chevy Chase Parkway – Gosselin said that he sent the Commission’s Nov. 8, 2021 resolution requesting the District’s Department of Transportation (DDOT) finish installing long-promised interim safety measures at the dangerous intersection. Rather than acknowledging the resolution or completing the work, the agency returned a form email saying it now requires all ANC resolutions to be sent to a particular email address. Gosselin sent the resolution to that address and, shortly before the meeting, received a reply from DDOT acting director Everett Lott that read “The remaining striping, marking eradication and the flexpost installation is in our queue for completion. I appreciate your patience and understand the urgency. My staff or I will provide you with a more definitive date as we are able to coordinate with the crews.” Gosselin said that under normal circumstances, Lott’s response would be good news, but that DDOT has taken so long to complete the work that it is anybody’s guess what the response means. Gosselin has previously said, after the interim safety measures are given a chance to work, he will ask the Commission to consider whether to make the one block of Chevy Chase Parkway from Military Road to Legation Street NW one-way northbound.

Vice Chair Gore and Gosselin subsequently discussed what more might be done to encourage DDOT to be more responsive to community concerns. Gosselin said that he will ask that the ANC devote part of a future meeting to a new pilot program that DDOT is running with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) that no longer sends police officers to accident scenes when there are no reports of personal injury. Gosselin said the policy may make sense for side streets, but on a busy thoroughfare like Military Road, it results in dangerous traffic backups.

Commissioner Chang

Playground at the Community Center-Library Plaza – Commissioner Chang said she has been working closely with the District’s departments of General Services (DGS) and Parks and Recreation (DPR) to address safety hazards at the playground. This includes adding gravel to fill up a huge hole in the play area caused by stormwater runoff (completed); sealing the gravel so it doesn't spread; repairing the playground turf area with repair material to arrive around December 6, 2021; next year testing the toxicity of the materials to ensure no harm to children; and sealing the plaza’s decorative brickwork that has become loose (completed), posing a tripping hazard and opportunity for vermin to nestle in. DPR has also sealed the backs of the open decorative brickwork on the walls abutting the children's coop with metal wires to prevent vermin from entering. Chang has asked DPW to fully empty out the trash cans to deter rats and move a trash can away from the wall that abuts the children's coop, but they are short staffed and haven't taken care of this request for weeks.

Traffic Calming -- If anyone wants a few "20 is plenty" traffic calming yard signs, please contact Chang at connie.chang@anc.dc.gov.

Vice Chair Gore

Chestnut Street Sidewalk Project – Vice Chair Gore said that on November 19, 2021 residents of the Hawthorne and Barnaby Woods neighborhoods celebrated the completion of a near decade-long effort to install a sidewalk and traffic calming measures on the street. The event was attended by Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George and DDOT acting director Everett Lott and was organized by resident Chris Dietz.

00:26:15 **Community Announcements**

(Because of the number of items on the agenda, Chair Speck asked that community announcements be put in the Zoom “Chat.” A summary is below.)

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

COVID-19 Update -- Since June 2021, the District, like surrounding regions, has been experiencing a wave of new cases, with the highest case rates in the current wave among those under 34. With 88.6% of DC adults having received COVID vaccine, hospitalizations and deaths have been lower than in previous waves. About 1 in 5 new cases are breakthrough cases, that is cases among fully vaccinated people. Virtually all COVID-related hospitalizations have been of unvaccinated residents. For these reasons, Mayor Bowser has announced that the mask mandate has been lifted, as of November 22, 2021, with the exception of public transit including airports and rideshare vehicles, schools and libraries, congregate facilities like nursing homes and shelters and at DC government facilities with direct contact between employees and public such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Any private business can still institute a mask mandate on its premises. (With the emergence of the omicron variant, the District administration on December 2, 2021, recommended, but did not mandate, mask-wearing and increased vaccine availability at walk-in sites and at home.)

Get Vaccinated – DC Health, the District’s health department, recommends that those eligible receive booster doses and children ages 5 through 11 who are eligible to receive the recently approved, specially formulated Pfizer vaccine, do so. District-sponsored pop-up sites can be found at: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated>. Appointments at retail pharmacies can be made at: <https://www.vaccines.gov/> While the District does not plan to institute a vaccine mandate for the general population, private businesses are also free to implement vaccine mandates for their employees and patrons, as many restaurants and bars

are already doing. If you misplaced your vaccine card, you can access your digital records through DC MyIR at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/dc-myir>

Get Tested -- Get tested before traveling during the holiday season by using convenient self-testing kits, whose locations can be found at: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testyourself>.

00:27:54

Development Plans, Lisner Home, 5425 Western Ave NW

With the District and the community discussing affordable housing, the ANC asked Lisner Board President Matthew Frumin to present the organization's plans for the home, even though it is just outside of the Commission's jurisdiction.

Frumin said the home, whose full name is the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home, was established 80 years ago by Abraham Lisner, whose downtown department store eventually merged with Woodward & Lothrop. It serves low-income District seniors.

Frumin said that even prior to COVID, the home spent about \$1 million a year out of its endowment. He said that the pandemic and a burst pipe that destroyed housing for about 30 of its 90-to-100 residents have made matters worse and are forcing the institution to spend about \$2 million a year out of endowment. He said the board's proposal aims to "right the ship" by drawing in new money to cover the renovation costs for the damaged existing living units and to begin the shift to becoming a continuum-of-care community with additional income sources to fill the budget shortfall.

Frumin said Lisner proposes to build affordable apartments for about 90 seniors with incomes between 30 and 50 percent of the area median income. He said it believes this can be done in a way that provides the roughly \$12 million needed to renovate the units in the existing facility destroyed by the pipe rupture and to expand Lisner's range of services.

He said the new structure would be largely bordered by Livingston and 42nd Streets NW. The slope of the site in this area would allow for underground parking and a building that appears from the streets as three stories with a roof line essentially no higher than those of adjacent single-family homes. Existing mature trees and new planting would provide a visual buffer. Frumin said the Lisner board intends to work with neighbors to try to address their concerns. But he said the board needs to act reasonably quickly in order to stanch the outflow from its endowment.

01:11:04

Redistricting & Changing the Ward 3-4 Boundary

The evening's discussion was prompted by the fact that commissioners had been led to believe there would be no change to the Ward 3-4 boundary only to discover that Ward 3 Councilmember Cheh had communicated with Ward 4 Councilmember Lewis George, proposing just such a boundary change. The ANC asked both councilmembers to attend the meeting to explain the state of play in the Council's ward redistricting process and to tell the Commission where matters stood with the consideration of boundary changes. Lewis George sent a letter, appended at the bottom of these minutes, regretting she had a conflict. Cheh joined the meeting.

All political jurisdictions in the country must adjust their boundaries to ensure approximately equal populations after every constitutionally mandated decennial census. Historically, Chevy Chase, Hawthorne, and Barnaby Woods were in Ward 3. But after the 2000 Census, all of the neighborhoods east of Broad Branch Road and west of Rock Creek Park were moved into Ward 4.

Cheh said that after the 2020 Census the population of Ward 3 was such that no boundary change was required. However, residents and ANCs in the Foxhall community, which was once in Ward 2, but is now in Ward 3, were calling for a return to Ward 2. The shift of Foxhall to Ward 2 would reduce the number of Ward 3 residents sufficiently that at least some of the Chevy Chase neighborhoods now in Ward 4 might be able to be shifted back to Ward 3 without violating population limits. Cheh said she discussed the idea with Lewis George, but did not press for a change because the Council's redistricting subcommittee saw no need for it and because there did not seem to be any groundswell in favor of the change among Chevy Chase residents. "If there were some overwhelming change in people's attitude and, you know, pitchforks and lanterns descended on my house,...maybe there would be something" that could be done, Cheh said.

Vice Chair Gore said the reason residents and the ANC have not spoken out on the issue is that they were "under the impression there was absolutely no consideration" of any boundary change so that pressing for one would have been futile. She said that only when people learned about the communications between Cheh and Lewis George did they realize that there was a possibility of change.

Chair Speck said the Commission repeatedly provided the community with information about the Council's redistricting process. He said that other than himself, almost no Chevy Chase resident testified at hearings on the subject. As he has consistently done, he argued that there are advantages to the community and the ANC in straddling two wards and so having the ear of two councilmembers.

The Commission heard from several residents, including Joe King, Lee Mayer, Carolyn Cook and Andrea Rosen. Mayer advocated a return of his neighborhood to Ward 3 saying "What

happens on Georgia Avenue (in Ward 4) doesn't affect me. What happens on Connecticut Avenue (in Ward 3)..., that's what really affects me." He said of Chevy Chase neighborhoods in Ward 4 "we're kind of an island out here."

Gore, who has sought to ensure those seeking a return to Ward 3 have a voice, spoke passionately about residents in all wards facing similar problems. Speck read a statement about redistricting and racial justice from the ANC's Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity. The statement is appended at the bottom of these minutes. Cheh, before she left the meeting, and subsequently commissioners, Gosselin, Higgins, and Zeldin, raised questions about the statement. The Commission took no action on the statement. The Commission agreed to hold a special meeting on the Ward 3-4 boundary on December 1, 2021, a week before the first of two votes by the Council on ward redistricting on December 7 and 21, 2021.

02:30:42 **Chevy Chase Small Area Plan (SAP) Update**

Commissioner Chang said that on November 20, 2021, about 40 people, including Councilmember Cheh, three ANC members and Office of Planning (OP) staff and consultants, went on a community walk as part of Chevy Chase's small area planning process. She said two more walks are scheduled for December 8, 2021, from noon until 1:30 p.m. and December 11, 2021, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. These will be followed by a design survey to gather community input sometime in December and a yet-to-be-scheduled design charrette in January.

Commissioner Gosselin sought and was given permission to look into what it would cost the ANC to send all households in the community postcards in advance of the charrette and subsequent public comment period for the draft small area plan. Commissioner Higgins, the ANC's treasurer, originally proposed the idea and said that he has set aside some money in the budget for SAP communications. Both Gosselin and Higgins said they are concerned that many Chevy Chase residents still don't know about the SAP.

02:43:21 **Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee Update**

Commissioner Gore said that at its November 16, 2021 meeting, the committee heard about environmental and racial justice issues involved in a District proposal to build a \$20 million school-bus terminal in the Brentwood neighborhood of Ward 5. The neighborhood is already home to a garbage-truck fleet, paving operation, recycling center and construction company. Residents of the minority neighborhood said that with the environmental problems these businesses pose, the community cannot sustain another pollution source with the terminal. Gore said the committee will explore ways in which the ANC can help support Brentwood residents in this matter.

[02:54:26](#)

Update on Community Center-Library Campus Development

Chair Speck said that on November 16, 2021, he spoke with Library Director Rich Reyes-Gavilan and Martha Saccocio, Director of Community Engagement for the Library about coordination of the Community Center/Library/Housing budgets for the District's fiscal 2023 budget. He said Reyes-Gavilan supports a single, multi-use campus, and believes that the deputy mayor for planning and economic development (DMPED), DPR, and OP also support the approach.

Speck said he told Reyes-Gavilan that the fiscal 2022 capital budget descriptions for both the Library and Community Center already spell out the unified campus concept. He emphasized that unless the stakeholders begin now to flesh out the concept and begin working cooperatively, they will lose a year before the next budget cycle. Reyes-Gavilan agreed.

Reyes-Gavilan said that DMPED is already talking with OP and DPR. He thinks it would be advantageous to the Mayor to "count this as a victory" and announce the plan to include these multiple uses for this site based on what will come from the SAP. Speck suggested that it would be useful to have a meeting with the relevant agencies and the ANC to discuss the best way to proceed. Reyes-Gavilan said he would suggest such a meeting, first of the agencies and then adding the ANC.

Reyes-Gavilan praised the ANC for its leadership. Speck and Reyes-Gavilan discussed using the project as a way to better coordinate DPR and Library programs and procedures — e.g., creating a unified system for scheduling use of community rooms and establishing common hours for both the Library and the Community Center.

[02:54:26](#)

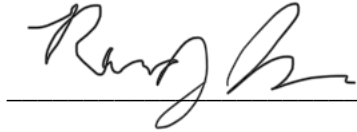
Commission Business

Commissioners voted 6-0 to approve checks for Verizon for \$156.56 and \$220 to reimburse the Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee for expenses in setting up an internal listserv.

[03:13:00](#)

Adjourn

APPROVED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of X (X) of six (6) members was present on December 13, 2021, by a vote of **X** yes, **X** no, **X** abstentions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy Speck", written over a horizontal line.

Randy Speck, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Gosselin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Gosselin, Secretary



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

JANESE LEWIS GEORGE
Councilmember, Ward 4

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Human Services
Labor and Workforce Development
Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs
Transportation and the Environment
Special Committee, COVID-19 Recovery

To the residents of ANC 3/4G:

Thank you for your invitation to this evening's ANC 3/4G meeting to discuss redistricting. I have a long-standing legislative meeting on my calendar this evening so must send my regrets for this conflict. In my stead, I send this letter to include as part of the meeting's written record.

As you know, last week the Council subcommittee on redistricting voted to approve a map updating Ward boundaries reflecting the 2020 census. The approved map made no changes to the makeup of Wards 3 or 4, thus leaving the eastern part of Chevy Chase and the entirety of the Hawthorne and Barnaby Woods neighborhoods intact as part of Ward 4. I listened to compelling redistricting hearing testimony from neighbors on both sides of the Chevy Chase redistricting debate; my office has similarly received a volume of emails split on the matter and I know there have been robust conversations on neighborhood listservs. While recognizing the inherent challenges of maintaining the split within the broader Chevy Chase neighborhoods, I support the subcommittee's recommendation that preserves the status quo.

Ward 4's boundaries have stretched west of Rock Creek Park for two decades now. During that time many Chevy Chase, Hawthorne, and Barnaby Woods residents have developed a strong bond with Ward 4. I have witnessed that bond firsthand while engaging the residents in the 3/4G neighborhoods of the Ward through canvassing, virtual meet-and-greets, local transit and park walkthroughs, farmers market pop-ups, school visits, block parties, and more. Each visit has left me more inspired by neighbors' level of civic engagement, commitment to greater equity in our city, and a passion for good government that puts people first.

As I previously alluded to, since September, the Council's Subcommittee on Redistricting had extensive community engagement and feedback and ultimately decided against shifting the boundary between Ward 3 and Ward 4 (p. 27-28), citing the "absence of either a neighborhood consensus or a need to change this boundary to balance ward populations." Such a change was not included in any of its three "Discussion Maps" released or the Subcommittee's final proposed map. As no additional legislative hearings or community meetings are currently planned, I would be concerned about making significant changes this late in the process that could deprive many residents a meaningful opportunity to weigh in. It could also create new challenges in balancing Ward populations. Under the current proposed map, Ward 4 is the second smallest Ward in population. Removing a significant number of Ward 4 residents could require adding new residents at Ward 4's southern or eastern boundary, significantly complicating the boundaries of Wards 1 and 5 and creating ripple effects citywide. Finally, as a city committed to achieving greater equity and more inclusive communities, it is important to note that having part of Chevy Chase, Hawthorne, and Barnaby Woods in Ward 4 makes our Ward more diverse, more vibrant, and stronger as a whole.

I know the residents of Chevy Chase, Hawthorne, and Barnaby Woods would be well served by both myself or by Councilmember Cheh, should the Chairman make changes to the proposed map, but I am honored to be the Ward 4 Councilmember for nearly 10,000 residents west of the Park. I look forward to continuing to champion priorities and provide constituent services west of the Park just as I do in each Ward 4 neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janeese Lewis George".

Janeese Lewis George
Councilmember, Ward 4

**RASE Statement on Equity Considerations in Redistricting
Affecting the Boundary Between Ward 3 and 4
November 15, 2021**

In developing a Ward redistricting plan, the Council must consider the racial and equity impacts of possible boundary changes. The law expressly provides that “No redistricting plan or proposed amendment to a redistricting plan shall be considered if the plan or amendment has the purpose and effect of diluting the voting strength of minority citizens.” DC Code § 1–1041.02(f). Some proposals have been made to revise the borders between Wards 3 and 4 that could affect current Ward 4 residents in Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne. ANC 3/4G’s Racial and Social Equity (RASE) Committee has examined the arguments for and against making changes through an equity lens and offers its views to the Commission.

First, some of the arguments for “reuniting” the part of Ward 4 west of Rock Creek Park (“the Park”) with Ward 3 have suggested that Ward 4 neighborhoods are “demographically” and “racially” more like Ward 3, and that this should be the basis for a return to the geographic boundary of the Park. There is a widespread perception in other parts of the District that this boundary has created an enclave that is White and privileged. Attempts now to “reunite” Ward 3 may be seen by some as a dog whistle for preserving historic segregation. As a part of Ward 4 for the past 20 years, we have built positive bridges across the Park and have engaged on equity issues that affect the District as a whole. We should reject any arguments that are based on perpetuating the historic racial divisions east and west of the Park.

Second, decisions about ward boundaries should reflect the views of the affected communities. Hawthorne is probably the most diverse neighborhood west of the Park, where many Black residents have lived for decades. Their voices need to be heard and their views considered in any redistricting changes. Some of these residents may place greatest weight on the need for representation and accountability on issues that are primarily focused in Ward 3 — e.g., Wilson High School and Deal Middle School and equity concerns related to the Connecticut Avenue corridor. Others may value common issues with Ward 4 — e.g., equitable policing and preservation of affordable housing. Redrawing ward boundaries may also dilute or concentrate the strength of Black voters in one ward or the other. Councilmembers cannot assume what these residents want, and they should not make decisions on their behalf without reaching out to them directly to hear their concerns.

The RASE Committee takes no position on what the ward boundaries should be. Nevertheless, two principles should be paramount: (1) the Commission should reject any arguments implying that portions of Ward 4 should be returned to Ward 3 because they are

racially more homogeneous; and (2) the Commission should advise the Council that it should make no decision about the boundary between Wards 3 and 4 without first hearing from the affected Black residents.