

ANC 3/4G Special Public Meeting
Maret BZA Application
All Parties Presentations & Commissioner Qs
February 1, 2022

Chat Log

19:04:10 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Christopher Klose, Host and Panelists:
Christopher, your hand is raised. Do you have a question?

19:27:34 From Thierry Rosenheck to Host and Panelists:
Can you elaborate on ECC after hours child care program that I hear is being planned? ie quantity of kids/hours..etc.

19:27:41 From rebeccamaydak to Everyone:
My understanding is the ECC does not have a student body because government funding dried up and the children with emotional disabilities are being integrated into the local public school system. If this is the case, talking about a future with the same mission (to serve children with emotional disabilities) is no longer pragmatic and a failing proposition. What are the ECC's realistic goals for the future.

19:28:28 From Randy Speck to Host and Panelists:
Please put all questions in the Q&A, and only comments in the chat.

19:42:22 From Nancy Voisin to Host and Panelists:
To be clear, the neighbors are all supportive of ECC and its goals and have a documented history of supporting ECC. Our belief is that the proposed plan hurts the neighbors and is not the sole plan that would enable ECC to re-open.

19:45:13 From Nancy Voisin to Everyone:
To be clear, the neighbors are all supportive of ECC and its goals and have a documented history of supporting ECC. Our belief is that the proposed plan hurts the neighbors and is not the sole plan that would enable ECC to re-open.

19:45:37 From Gladys Austin to Everyone:
I completely agree with Nancy's comment

19:45:40 From Leah Miller to Everyone:
Maret has not reached out to us (new neighbors on the 28th St Alley) even though they claimed they would several meetings ago.

19:46:22 From William Beaman to Host and Panelists:
I also agree with Nancy's remarks

19:47:00 From William Beaman to Everyone:
I also agree with Nancy's remarks

19:47:22 From Aakash Thakkar to Everyone:

Maret held a meeting and invited all of the neighbors on 28th street. If we missed you, we would be happy to discuss any questions or comments.

19:48:07 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

These usage charts are misleading - the "fields open" sections are almost all during school hours when neighborhood children would not be able to use the field

19:48:43 From Paul Fisher to Everyone:

My understanding is that DC PS would not have the ability to bus children to use the field during the school day, even if it were available.

19:49:03 From Ami Neiberger to Everyone:

Hi. This is Ami from ECC. I had to hop off zoom and then rejoin so i can't see earlier chat messages but I wanted to respond to a couple of comments/posts I read before logging off and logging back on.

Someone suggested that ECC does not have a student population because the District no longer needs to send students to outside nonpublic schools because their needs are being met in neighborhood schools. This is not true. There is a population of students that DC/OSSE do send out to nonpublic schools because their needs exceed special education services available in their neighborhood schools.

19:49:52 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

These pie charts are particularly misleading.

19:50:04 From Leah Miller to Everyone:

This pie chart is misleading. As Jane mentioned, those open hours are during school hours.

19:50:42 From Paul Fisher to Everyone:

I believe to say that we are using it x%, but then it's free when most of the neighbors are either at work or in school, is particularly distorting

19:51:09 From Aakash Thakkar to Everyone:

DCPS would certainly have the ability to use the field during the school day if they would like. While attendees may have different opinions, let's please stick to the facts.

19:51:28 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Ms, Miller -- if you could send your contact information to ecc-maretfields@maret.org we will follow up with you tomorrow. Thanks you very much.

19:51:34 From Paul Fisher to Everyone:

How? They no longer bus for field trips

19:52:05 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

My children actually went to Lafayette, and I can assure you the teachers would not be bothering to walk their students to the ECC field when they have a beautiful park/playground and fields of their own.

19:52:14 From Kathy Abbruzzetti to Everyone:

As an adjacent neighbor to the field - I can't express enough how disappointed we are in this proposed plan and the negative impact it will have on the adjacent community. The proposed sports complex is too large for such a compact area, and is open from 8AM to 7PM seven days a week.

19:52:15 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

The view of the field that Maret just showed reconfirms our belief that the multi-purpose field is much too big for the site. The goal posts are very close to the property lines and select residents on Utah and 28th are essentially living in the end zone of Maret's field. We continue to believe the project needs to be scaled back in order to fit the site in a manner consistent with zoning requirements that call for compatible land use.

19:52:51 From Thierry Rosenheck to Host and Panelists:

Regarding the construction phase... has any proposal been made of what the construction operations entails .. what would the ANC be negotiating?

19:53:04 From willa golden to Everyone:

I agree with Kathy's comment

19:54:16 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

You are changing the cycle 10 secs - that's only four cars!

19:54:41 From Leah Miller to Everyone:

Sherry Rutherford: We moved in early November. We have provided it to a Maret employee at a previous meeting, but we can try once again to see if you will respond.

19:55:36 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Thanks you Ms. Miller.

19:56:23 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

Can you go over the parking that you are removing to accomodate traffic to the site? We missed it

19:56:58 From Grace to Host and Panelists:

why is 28th Street not included in the traffic study?

19:57:18 From Kim Hutchinson to Host and Panelists:

Cars already back up in the morning with traffic without making the signal light longer. Neighbors won't be able to get out our neighborhood with longer signal and more cars

19:57:35 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

Can we see a 3-D image which actually shows what Nebraska Avenue will look like: with buses, parked cars, and the proposed bike lanes? Way too much congestion!!

19:57:39 From Aakash Thakkar to Everyone:

The Maret field is no different from similar fields and institutions all over the city. Schools and fields are part of our city's fabric. Maret's main campus is in a similar neighborhood in Woodley Park and because it is a school and field, has a good bit more use than this proposed field. We have enjoyed

a wonderful relationship with the community at our main campus and look to build the same collaborative relationship at ECC.

19:57:52 From Alex Kerwin to Host and Panelists:

Are ECC students going to have free access to the field?

19:57:55 From Joe to Host and Panelists:

We do not want a bike share station on Nebraska Ave. Neither Maret parents nor rival team parents are going to travel to games via bicycle.

19:58:01 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

Maret was unwilling to show this image, suggesting it was not a favorable view...

19:58:23 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

The usage charts just reviewed illustrate that the field is not programmed for use from 8:00AM to 7:00PM seven days a week.

19:58:55 From Paul Fisher to Everyone:

The folks who live next to Maret's main campus came after the school was there, so the comparison to our neighborhood is invalid. Your neighbor's there were preselected to be folks who must like living next to schools

19:59:06 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

The Field School and St. Patricks were much better neighborhood partners. Their BZA orders should be a model for any BZA order for the Maret field

19:59:17 From Robert Molofsky to Everyone:

How will Maret assure compliance by other schools, players and visitors?

20:01:02 From Aakash Thakkar to Everyone:

Maret has similar relationships with youth sports organizations to use our main campus and we have always been able to fully enforce our agreements and commit to do just that at ECC.

20:01:15 From Leah Miller to Everyone:

Will there be some sort of guarantee that Maret's proposed times will be the maximum use of the field? What would prevent Maret from increasing their use once the field is built?

20:01:23 From Ami Neiberger to Everyone:

Someone else asked about the proposals ECC declined. Not long after our closure, ECC was contacted by real estate brokers seeking purchase of our property. We were approached about senior living. I think some developers would have developed our property for single family homes.

Someone asked about DCPS use of ECC. The ANC also advocated for Lafayette Elementary pre-K overcrowding to be relieved by asking DCPS to consider leasing space from ECC. The DCPS chancellor visited ECC and we had a discussion with the chancellor and his staff, facilitated with Commissioner Zeldin. DCPS does not want to lease space due to its structure and DCPS is only interested in a purchase of ECC's property. ECC is only interested in a lease. So unfortunately, we could not reach an agreement.

20:02:03 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Maret will actively enforce the conditions of the BZA's order of approval during use by all user groups, and will inform visiting schools and players of the requirements established in the order.

20:02:18 From Nancy Voisin to Everyone:

ANC Commissioners - the contiguous neighbors on 28th Street and Nebraska invite you to come to our yards so you can visualize and experience the negative impact the proposed plan will have on our homes and quality of life.

20:02:44 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

Marjo, did you just say the fields will be open all summer?? Your chart has Saturday rentals mid-June to mid August...

20:02:54 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Ms. Miller -- Hours of use established in the BZA order or approval cannot be modified by Maret without further BZA approval.

20:02:56 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

On weekends

20:03:23 From Gladys Austin to Everyone:

As one of those adjacent neighbors, I completely concur. Please do come to our yards.

20:03:44 From Ann Sutherland to Everyone:

How would the community use this field when the plan is to have the area locked off? It all sounds positive in tis meeting until you get down to the practical aspects of how the fields would be physically accessed.

20:03:51 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

This is a very big project for this community and we would appreciate robust questioning by the commission.

20:04:55 From willa golden to Everyone:

I am a neighbor whose home is also adjacent to the field. I would welcome the commissioners to come to my yard.

20:05:20 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Field access to members of the community could be provided by an access code or similar mechanism.

20:05:34 From Kathy Abbruzzetti to Everyone:

I will add to Nancy Voisin's offer for ANC Commissioners to visit our homes and yards on Utah Ave to see the direct impact on the adjacent community and to understand our concerns.

20:06:01 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

Access to the field is somewhat interesting but it doesn't take away from the size of the field

20:07:07 From Thierry Rosenheck to Host and Panelists:

how is the open field time managed? is there Maret Staff that'll be there to open and close the gates?

20:07:33 From Aakash Thakkar to Everyone:

Regarding my comparison to our Woodley Park campus, it must be noted that the ECC is an existing institution and the entire 8-acre campus is designated as an "institutional use". If one lives around the ECC, given that it is an educational use and designated as such, it is reasonable to assume that ECC may make changes germane to its institutional designation just as Maret has made changes and expanded through the years. In addition, we live in a city and cities do change and evolve. We are committed to working with you to mitigate impact while also allowing children to enjoy and play sports.

20:07:39 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

The 3D model showed that they had to limit the number of bleachers in order to accommodate the size of the field. Where will the spectators sit/stand when watching the field?

20:08:32 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:

Please add your questions to the Q&A not in the chat so we can monitor it. Thx!

20:08:40 From Claudia Russell to Everyone:

At the Field School, the BZA order has lights off at 9 pm. Totally appropriate here.

20:09:34 From Thierry Rosenheck to Host and Panelists:

Traffic study - does it consider the closing of Beach Drive to commuter traffic?

20:09:57 From Nancy Voisin to Everyone:

The conversation that Maret is not open to having is this: one field, not two. We are asking for Maret to engage the affected neighbors like Kathy, Gladys, Willa and others in that dialogue.

20:10:01 From Marjo Talbott to Host and Panelists:

We are happy to have lights off at 9pm if the neighbors want that - we have heard different views.

20:11:18 From Ami Neiberger to Everyone:

In terms of the question - is there a use for ECC? Yes, there is. OSSE, DCPS and the many charter schools in the DC area are continuing to refer elementary-aged school students to nonpublic schools like ECC in the DMV metro area. There is currently only one program similar to ECC open in the District (as many of our peer programs were forced to close), so students needing the special education and therapeutic services ECC provides are currently being bussed to programs in Maryland and Virginia. This distance can make it challenging for families to participate in education and care for children with special needs.

20:11:24 From Robert Molofsky to Everyone:

How far West up Military Road would parking be banned. ?Up to 32nd Street?

20:12:02 From Justin Treptow to Everyone:

Can a link to the traffic study results be provided?

20:13:33 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

There's a link to the travel study and other important documents on the Friends of the Field website: <https://friends-of-the-field.webflow.io/>

20:13:45 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Link to the traffic study:

20:13:47 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1643032853/maret/yqrct0hmximkojlsmdw/MaretBallFieldsFinalCTR1-19-22withAppendices.pdf>

20:13:51 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

It would seem appropriate that in order to make a decision on this project, that all ANC commissioners would walk the site and see it for themselves—how it effects the neighbors, particularly those who live on the alleys and 28th St

20:15:31 From Ann Sutherland to Everyone:

Where do Maret's baseball and football teams practice/play presently?

20:15:34 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

So, in other words Maret's need outweighs our community needs?

20:15:54 From Paul Fisher to Everyone:

For 100 years you did not "need" it.

20:16:24 From Ami Neiberger to Everyone:

Stephanie Nash and I both raised hands to try to respond to the question shared by Commissioner Gosselin about need for ECC. We also provided two responses here in the chat.

20:17:12 From Gladys Austin to Everyone:

Is Maret in our ANC? Why would their needs be more important than the neighbors represented by our ANC?

20:17:20 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Everyone:

ANC 3/4G's dedicated web page on Maret's BZA application can be found here: https://anc3g.org/task_forces/maret-school-ecc-sports-field/

20:18:30 From rebeccamaydak to Everyone:

No, Maret is not in our ANC and in fact the ANC for Jelleff Field that Maret currently uses wants our ANC to make it part of the agreement to get them off the Jelleff Field.

20:18:42 From willa golden to Everyone:

I have the same question as Gladys

20:21:52 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

Didn't Maret tell the same story about the need for fields when they wrangled the lease on Jelleff? How did that work out for the public school students of Hardy Middle School across the street?

See https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/a-private-school-saved-a-public-dc-field-should-it-get-preference-for-play-time/2019/10/21/7030f9c8-f412-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96_story.html

20:22:01 From Ann Sutherland to Everyone:

The site may not have stormwater runoff presently but it also has 5+ areas of grass and trees to absorb ground water, not 4 acres of artificial turf.

20:22:09 From Nancy Voisin to Everyone:

Can we please get feedback from the ANC on ECC's compliance with the previous BZA order, from 2000, on stormwater?

20:22:24 From Zoom user to Host and Panelists:

I live in close proximity to the ECC. I have one child that might benefit from the field as a current Maret student. I support the proposal and have sent along my views on the proposal to the ANC and will add them to the official record for the BZA hearing. I hope that we can come together and bring this plan to fruition as it represents a terrific solution for the ECC, Maret, and the neighborhood as a whole (which covers thousands more residents that do not live immediately adjacent to the property). Much can be said about it all but in order to keep tonight's dialogue and presentations in perspective, I would like to refer the neighborhood stakeholders to the January meeting with Councilmember Lewis. If my recollection serves me correctly, the Councilmember indicated unequivocally that, to her eye, the property represented a prime parcel for "housing." Change is hard but we can solve this because if not, others, including elected officials, will be at the table the next time with far more aggressive plans

20:23:13 From Paul Fisher to Everyone:

The city just spend a lot of tax dollars to make the alleys on Utah and Rittenhouse water permeable. All that is for naught if the field becomes Turf. The alleys are only 16% of the field land area

20:23:26 From Lionel Brown to Host and Panelists:

We should all be for kids playing on a field!

20:25:55 From Jennifer Backus to Everyone:

The ECC is a vital and important part of our ANC and our community. They have put together this deal with Maret to help them reopen their doors, and improve their campus. This proposal will keep ECC's doors open and keep green space on the campus for 50 years. There are also many many families in this ANC who would love the opportunity to have a baseball and soccer field for youth sports in this neighborhood.

20:28:53 From Paul Tummonds to Everyone:

I want to clarify my statement regarding stormwater management and runoff. There is currently no stormwater management facilities on the field. Stormwater does currently runoff the ECC property.

20:28:58 From Joe to Host and Panelists:

Green space? Removing 40 trees and carpeting natural grass with artificial turf does not constitute green space.

20:29:13 From Kim Hutchinson to Host and Panelists:

It's grass

20:29:13 From Lionel Brown to Host and Panelists:

The ECC deserves to open its critical operations for needed kids.

20:32:45 From Leah Miller to Everyone:

Paul, could that be due to the mature trees and grass currently making up the field? Each mature tree can absorb up to 200 gallons per day.

20:33:12 From Aakash Thakkar to Everyone:

Maret's plan do not at all supercede the community. We believe that a sports field at the ECC, just as there are sports fields in neighborhoods throughout the city, is a use that is compatible with the adjacent ECC and the neighborhood. The field will benefit ECC, so it can reopen, it will benefit Maret's students, the majority of whom live in the city, it will benefit dc youth sports organizations, and it will benefit neighbors who would like to use it.

20:34:39 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

And it will destroy our quiet residential neighborhood.

20:34:55 From Joe to Host and Panelists:

It's absolutely not compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

20:40:33 From ianameron1 to Host and Panelists:

In a recent survey by DC Parks and Rec, Ward 4 residents identified the ECC space as a priority for new recreational facilities. It was the only area besides Fort Reno west of the park identified as a potential mulitpurpose field. It also reveals the need for more recreation space in the city.

20:45:19 From Stephanie Nash (Episcopal Center for Children) to Host and Panelists:

Randy: Will we be returning to question answer from earlier?

20:46:02 From Randy Speck to Stephanie Nash (Episcopal Center for Children), Host and Panelists:

Yes. We will get back to you.

20:46:17 to 20:47:07 From Josh Allen to Everyone:

[messages were deleted and this person was removed from the meeting for indecent language]

20:56:24 From Nancy Voisin to Everyone:

To Maret Trustees: No one opposes sports fields and no one opposes ECC. The adjacent neighbors are already on record supporting ECC with its expansion in 2000. However what we are hearing on this call is that Maret's needs supersede those of the surrounding and the adjacent neighbors. They don't. The surrounding and adjacent neighbors are on the call tonight and feel unheard. Only 2 neighbors were contacted by Maret in November for the neighborhood meetings. These neighbors were erased from Maret's published rendering of the plan on their website. They are speaking out now and we are hoping that Maret will listen instead of erasing the contiguous neighbors.

20:57:02 From Gladys Austin to Everyone:

Has Commissioner Chang walked the property of the adjacent neighbors??

20:59:49 From ianameron1 to Everyone:

I'

21:03:55 From Sherry Rutherford to Everyone:

Maret engaged with numerous neighbors in November at in person community discussions and continues to actively engage with members of the community with in person meetings, office hours sessions, e-mails, and phone calls. If community members have additional questions, please reach out to us anytime at ecc-maretfields@maret.org. Thank you very much.

21:04:55 From Sally Dunkelberger to Host and Panelists:

Nancy, can you clarify "Only 2 neighbors were contacted by Maret in November for the neighborhood meetings." thanks.

21:05:56 From R Lefrancois to Everyone:

Was the Chair's notes to Maret a public document?

21:06:21 From Jennifer Moulton-Post to Host and Panelists:

Thank you, Commissioner Chang, for indicating you have walked the site. We would be interested in your sense of the size of the project.

21:07:53 From willa golden to Everyone:

No the Chair just said that the comments were given to Maret

21:08:45 From willa golden to Everyone:

why were the Chair's connection to Maret not disclosed until January 2022?

21:10:29 From Jane Sherman to Everyone:

Friends did not focus on this issue - the Commissioners did!! They chose to only ask questions about this one small part of our presentation!

21:12:20 From David Patton to Everyone:

Friends' letter to the ANC asked whether the kind of review that Mr Speck and Mr Higgins was usual and customary, and didn't receive an answer.

21:13:04 From Nancy Voisin to Everyone:

Very surprising that the Commissioners - our representatives - are so defensive about the facts. The Chairman's Maret connection was not disclosed to the public until last month and the public is upset about that. Not surprising.

21:13:24 From Claudia Russell to Host and Panelists:

Climate Ready DC document

21:13:39 From Claudia Russell to Host and Panelists:

https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/CRDC-Report-FINAL-Web.pdf

Q&As

Kim Hutchinson 7:29 PM

What is the target number of students expected at ECC

rebeccamaydak 7:31 PM

My understanding is the ECC does not have a student body because government funding dried up and the children with emotional disabilities are being integrated into the local public school system. If this is the case, talking about a future with the same mission (to serve children with emotional disabilities) is no longer pragmatic and a failing proposition. What are the ECC's realistic goals for the future?

Kathy Abbruzzetti 7:33 PM

Can you elaborate on some of the other proposals ECC turned down (like DCPS) and the reasons why.

Todd Hutchinson 7:40 PM

Please address the financial aspects of the proposed partnership with Maret. While past deficits were the norm, what funding levels for ECC were normal and what are future streams of funding expected to be if this partnership materializes?

rebeccamaydak 7:52 PM

What is meant by downlight security lights?? What is the height - Kelvins, etc. Will they be on all night?

Paul Fisher 7:54 PM

The most probable occurrence of the future is that Beach Drive will be permanently closed to traffic. How will this affect the traffic study?

rebeccamaydak 7:56 PM

Once Oregon Avenue opens back up - afternoon rush hour (as well as morning) is heavy, how are you going to mitigate you impact adding to that volume? Looking at traffic patterns now is not accurate due to Oregon Avenue being closed as well as Bingham Drive.

rebeccamaydak 7:57 PM

I live at Utah and Nebraska and totally object to curb extensions.

rebeccamaydak 7:58 PM

Curb extensions when normal rush hour volume returns will cause long back-ups.

Joe 7:59 PM

People are unlikely to travel to games via bicycle. Moreover, how does adding bicycles into the increased traffic mix make things safer?

Justin Treptow 8:12 PM

Can a link to the traffic study results be provided?

Leonade Jones 8:14 PM

Where in the chat?

Jami Milanovich 8:16 PM

There is a link to the traffic study in the chat.

Joe 8:16 PM

Do we have an idea about the current size of the ECC's endowment and whether this lease arrangement is necessary for future operations?

Leah Miller 8:18 PM

The recent 3D model now shows some elevation on the 28th St alley. All of the change in topography combined with the removal of mature trees and the large amounts of artificial turf could impact drainage for homes on all sides. Has there been a drainage study on how this will impact houses on Nebraska, Rittenhouse, Utah, and 28th? What will can be done if neighbors start having water issues?

Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 8:20 PM

The chat is on the bottom of the screen

Bocanegra / Rathbone 8:20 PM

Michael, if those times are used on an unofficial basis by teams as you suggest, how would Maret control its use and the conduct of those using it?

Kim Hutchinson 8:26 PM

Games and practices generate lots of trash (water bottles, wrappers). How will waste be managed at field? Also Being a park like area there are numerous wild animals in the area that would be harmed by excess waste and bring unwanted pests to the area including our backyards.