



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

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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Vice Chair 3/4G-02 - John Higgins, Treasurer
3/4G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Connie K. N. Chang
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Secretary 3/4G-07 - Charles Cadwell

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
January 24, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 9:10 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with 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), Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06), and Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07). Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:03:39](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures**

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

[00:04:35](#)

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Speck proposed two amendments to the draft agenda: (1) remove the “discussion and possible vote on application for a public space permit to extend an existing alley behind 6451 and 6455 Barnaby St NW to allow access to the rear of 6455 Barnaby St NW (TOPS Tracking Number 384882); and (2) add discussion and possible vote on testimony at the Council’s Committee of the Whole roundtable hearing on vacant and blighted properties. With those amendments, he moved that the agenda, as modified, be approved. The motion was passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[00:06:39](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Speck

Ward Redistricting — The ward boundaries are now set, but each ward is in the process of setting new boundaries for ANCs and for single member districts within each ANC. Each ward has appointed a task force to make redistricting recommendations. The Ward 3 task force is chaired by Jerry Malitz, former ANC 3/4G05 commissioner. It held its first meeting on January 18th. The task force’s [website](#) provides a great deal of demographic and other data about the Ward and the current ANCs, identifies the task force members, and describes the process they will follow, including meeting dates through the end of March.

The Ward 4 task force held its first meeting on January 23rd and among that task force members is Abe Clayman, former ANC3/4G01 commissioner, who serves as chair. The Ward 4 task force meeting schedule is available at <https://janeeseward4.com/Redistricting/>. All meetings are open to the public, and comments will be sought at the meetings on February 6th and March 8th. Any resident can provide input by email at Ward4Redistricting@dccouncil.us. The task force may also provide presentations at ANC meetings.

Each of the task forces is expected to provide its report to the Council by April 1, 2022. The Council will hold hearings on ANC and SMD boundaries in April. The Council’s Redistricting Subcommittee will vote on an ANC and SMD boundaries bill in May or June, with the final full council vote in June. More information is available on the Redistricting Subcommittee’s [website](#).

Engagement Software — For three years, the Commission has been advocating for the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to provide commissioners with tools that could help engage better with their communities. Following the Commission’s recommendation in 2019, the Council appropriated money in the FY 2020 budget for OANC to acquire that engagement software. Unfortunately, the OANC has not contracted for those services, but it looks as if they are on the verge of doing so now. The Commission believes that ANC 3/4G will be one of the ANCs that will get to use a software provided by CitizenLab. This is not a panacea, but is an important tool that should help the Commission better engage with the community on current issues like the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan and the Maret BZA application. The Commission will soon have more information on how everyone can participate.

Beach Drive — The National Park Service had been expected to issue its Environmental Assessment of the possible continued closure of Beach Drive to cars in January 2022. However, on January 24th, 2022, the Superintendent for Rock Creek Park reported that “We have encountered a delay. The draft EA must be reviewed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service due to the Park's threatened and endangered species. We are trying to get it through review as soon as possible. I'm not sure how long it will take.”

WMATA Budget and E6 Bus — [WMATA’s FY23 Budget Public Hearing](#) in the District is scheduled for February 8, 2022, at 6 p.m. at WMATA’s headquarters, 600 5th Street, NW. The proposed budget — including fare and service changes — is available at wmata.com/budget. Details about how to participate in the hearings — in person or by video — and the timeline for finalizing the budget are available on WMATA’s [budget website](#). Importantly for the Chevy Chase neighborhood, the proposed budget does not restore the E6 bus service. There is a [survey](#) that anyone can take, but the only time you can answer a question about the E6 is toward the end, when it asks for which route is closest to you or that you use most often. The Commission needs to organize comments and survey responses in favor of restoring the E6 bus.

Commissioner Chang

ANC3/4G Resources Table – Commissioner Chang has set up a resources table in the lobby of the Chase Chase Community Center with information about the Commission and upcoming events.

Commissioner Higgins

Episcopal Center for Children-Maret School Field Update – The Commission is continuing with its process regarding the ECC-Maret athletic field proposal. The Commission has

scheduled three special public meetings for February 1, 16, and 24, which will include presentations by the parties, information from related District agencies regarding Maret's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application and finally, discussion by the Commission regarding the Commission's resolution on this issue. Discussion will include an ANC-facilitated agreement among the parties about the impacts on neighboring properties and the broader community impact of the proposal. In the coming week, the Commission will continue its consultative meetings with an advisory group of community members and on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 Maret will hold a virtual meeting on the "3D" site model, and a second meeting on Friday, January 28, 2022 to discuss the transportation plan. Interested parties should visit the ANC3G website at anc3g.org under "Task Force and Issues" for our website page regarding the ECC-Maret proposal.

Commissioner Gosselin

Recent Arrest and Firearm Incident – Commissioner Gosselin told the Commission that a suspect was arrested January 19, 2022, on first-degree murder warrant at the Kenmore Apartments at 5415 Connecticut Ave. NW, which is in his single member district. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) issued a press release [here](#). During the course of the arrest, a firearm was thrown out an apartment window and discharged. No one was hurt; the bullet hit an air-conditioning unit. Gosselin said that while his information was incomplete, he believed that between the time of the murder on September 18, 2021, and the arrest, the suspect applied for an apartment at the Kenmore under the Housing Choice Voucher Program and was approved. He said that he understood that law and regulation require building managements to do background checks before approving tenants and, in this case, it appeared that the check was either not performed or performed inadequately. In addition, to the murder warrant, the suspect had several outstanding warrants for firearms violations. Gosselin said that the Chevy Chase community wants to make progress on affordable housing and diversity and that vouchers are an important tool in pursuing those aims, the only way the program can work is if the community knows the rules are being followed and its safety is being protected. He asked and received Commission permission to make arrangements for a meeting between District housing officials and local landlords and building managers to review the rules on background checks and ensure they are followed. Commissioner Gore, who recently retired from the Inspector General's office of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is knowledgeable about the rules, said that she had discussed the matter with Gosselin and agrees on the need for a meeting.

[00:23:42](#)

Community Announcements

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

DC COVID Vaccine Mandate – The mandate, known as VaxDC, has gone into effect and applies to people who are indoors for non-essential activities for extended periods of time. Related, seniors can pick up COVID rapid tests at the six senior wellness centers in DC, the ones closest to Chevy Chase being Bernice Fontenau in Ward 1 and Hattie Holmes in Ward 4. Additionally, there are full-fledged covid centers open 6 days a week in Wards 1, 2, and 5-8. Wards 3 and 4 will have covid centers opening soon. Residents can receive vaccinations, boosters, take-home rapid test and walk-up PCR testing at the centers.

Special Trash Pickups -- Leaf collection has ended. Christmas tree pickup continues until February 28, 2022. Gur-Ravantab asked to be notified of any leaf piles or Christmas trees that need to be picked up and he will convey the message to the DC Department of Public Works (DPW). He said he canvasses various areas in Ward 3 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Residents needing help getting service issues addressed, should let him know and he will visit the site.

Retail Grants – The Great Streets Retail Small Business Grant program, run by the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), is online until January 31st, with applications due online. Great Streets include the entire stretches of Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues.

Separately, DMPED has reintroduced the Bridge Fund, intended to help small businesses that earned \$5 million in revenue or less and experienced at least a 30% reduction in revenue during the pandemic. The Bridge Fund is a non-competitive grant program that will award small businesses financial help based on core expenses, economic distress, location, length of operation and District resident employment. Priority review will be granted businesses with no more than \$2.5 million in revenue each in 2019, 2020, and 2021 and those that did not receive an award from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP loans)

The application period is open until Friday, February 25th at 5 pm.

Budget Hearings – Gur-Ravantab is collecting public input on the District's fiscal 2023 budget. Budget questions will be aired during a virtual tele-townhall, where constituents' questions will be directly answered by members of Mayor Bowser's cabinet. If residents want to participate, send Gur-Ravantab a video of themselves stating their names, wards, and budget-related question or concern.

In an exchange after his announcements, Vice Chair Gore urged Landrieu to encourage the Council to come up with a better process for taking live testimony, whether virtually or in person. Currently,

the Council provides a list of who's scheduled to testify the evening before an event, but otherwise gives no indication about when a speaker's time slot is coming up. As a result, Gore said people can spend all day online waiting for their turn. Gore suggested the Council devise a system for sending out email or text alerts a few minutes before a person is to testify so that person can be doing other things while waiting. Commissioner Chang shared her recent experience testifying at a BZA hearing. BZA staff asks for a phone number to call testifiers fifteen minutes to half an hour before the committee is ready to hear the case, which can be past the scheduled time. This was a smooth process and allowed Chang to be on another call until BZA was ready. She supported Gore's suggestion to the Council.

00:39:34 Schedule of Special Meetings for ECC-Maret Field Plan

Chair Speck said he and Commissioner Higgins are proposing that the Commission conduct three special meetings in February to consider Maret School's application to the District's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) (Case No. [20643](#)) to build sports fields at the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC). He said the schedule would be:

February 1, 2022— Presentations by and discussions with the parties — Maret, ECC, and Friends of the Field, a group of residents skeptical of, or opposed to, the project. The agenda will be publicly posted on January 25, 2022.

February 16, 2022 — Presentations by and discussions with municipal agencies that must review the Maret application – the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), and the Urban Forestry Division. The agenda will be publicly posted on February 9, 2022.

February 24, 2022 — Discussion and possible vote on a proposed ANC resolution. The agenda will be posted on February 17, 2022. The Commission will also post a draft of the resolution before the meeting.

00:45:37 Discussion and Vote on ANC Grant Applications

The Commission makes grants to local organizations that it decides, among other things, “serve in part or in whole the public and/or public good within the geographic area...” Under its procedures, the Commission hears presentations by grant applicants at one meeting, then votes at a subsequent meeting. In this instance, it heard presentations at its January 10, 2022 public meeting by the Chevy Chase Citizens Association (CCCA) for \$2,000 to upgrade and migrate the organization's website to a new platform and by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for \$1,989 to purchase materials to improve the Western Ridge Trail in Rock Creek Park. In separate votes, the Commission approved both grants. The vote was 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) on each.

[00:53:58](#)

Discussion of Just-completed Small Area Plan Workshop

Commissioners were uniformly disappointed by the January 22, 2022 virtual community design workshop that the District’s Office of Planning (OP) put on. Commissioner Chang and Chair Speck said the session, which was supposed to be the penultimate session in the small area planning process, was not long enough and did not have adequate graphics to help residents understand what is at stake in various design decisions that private property owners could take in the future. Commissioner Gosselin said the session felt like a community beginning, not finishing a planning process. Vice Chair Gore said that after so much involvement by the Commission in trying to push OP to improve the planning, it was unclear what course the Commission should now take. Several commissioners suggested asking OP to conduct more sessions with better graphics, but both Commissioner Higgins and Zeldin said the Commission has done that repeatedly to little effect. Zeldin asked whether it was time to go over OP’s head to Mayor Bowser and The Washington Post. Ultimately, the Commission agreed to an interim step suggested by Speck of seeking a meeting with senior OP officials to express the community’s disappointment and ask for improvements. A meeting with the agency’s interim director, Anita Cozart, was held on January 27, 2022.

01:20:00

Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee (RASE) Update

Vice Chair Gore, who co-chairs the committee, said it met January 18, 2022 and discussed setting up a session with Amber Hewitt, the District’s chief equity officer, to discuss a RASE proposal for a racial incident reporting network.

[01:22:59](#)

Feasibility Study for a Ward 3 Senior Wellness Center

Chair Speck said that Ward 3 is one of only two wards in the city – the other being Ward 2 – that does not have a brick-and-mortar senior wellness center. This, despite the fact the ward has the largest portion of its population over 65 of any ward. Commissioners agreed on the need and that it is a particularly auspicious time for the municipal government to consider such a center with community planning efforts underway in several Ward 3 neighborhoods and facilities such as the Lisner Home seeking to expand. On a motion by Speck, the Commission voted to request that at least \$100,000 be added to the District’s fiscal 2023 budget to study the feasibility and possible locations for a center in Ward 3.

[01:30:57](#)

ANC Testimony to the District Council

Chair Speck, who's a public member of a Council-appointed task force examining how the city can replace 30,000 lead service lines by 2030, said that testimony on the budget for the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) will call on DC Water to provide more information to help the task force assess the plan. The Commission adopted the testimony. The vote was 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

Speck also said he will testify at a Council roundtable on vacant and blighted properties in the ANC 3/4G's neighborhood and on a pilot program commissioners from several ANCs had been working on with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) until the agency stopped providing information. The Commission adopted the testimony 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[01:46:34](#)

Coordinating Community Center-Library Capital Budgets

Chair Speck reported that on December 16, 2021, the Mayor made an announcement about affordable housing in Rock Creek West on the plaza between the Community Center and the Library and reiterated her support for the single campus for the public facilities and affordable house that we have advocated. We should evaluate the Mayor's proposed budget when it's submitted to the Council in late March and consider then what testimony we should give to the Council in support of the budget for the Community Center, Library, and Housing. While we support funding to begin the design and planning process in FY 2023, we recognize that much work remains to hear from the community about the facilities that we want on this campus and how it will be designed.

[01:52:48](#)

Commission Business

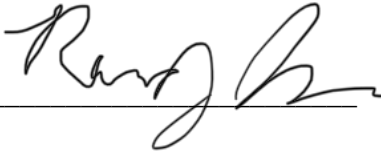
- **Minutes** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, who serves as secretary, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its December 1, 2021 special public meeting and its December 13, 2021 and January 10, 2022 regular public meetings.
- **Checks** – On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, who serves as treasurer, the Commission unanimously approved a check for \$155.76 for Verizon for phone services.
- **Commissioner Respect Resolution** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, the Commission approved an administrative resolution that says each commissioner agrees to respect the single member districts of others and agrees to consult with the affected commissioner before intervening in issues that primarily concern the affected commissioner's district. The vote was 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

- **ANC Executive Administrative Assistant Position** – Commissioner Chang reported that the Commission is having trouble attracting candidates for a part-time, administrative assistant position, the posting for which is scheduled to close January 28, 2022. She suggested advertising on LinkedIn or seeking a share arrangement with a nearby ANC in hopes of being able to offer more hours and somewhat better pay. Commissioners discussed how to handle applications and agreed to explore a share arrangement.
- **Next Meeting** – Possible items include a report on Small Area Plan process; report on the Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee; discussion and possible vote 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 for a public space permit to extend an existing alley behind 6451 and 6455 Barnaby St NW to allow access to the rear of 6455 Barnaby St NW (TOPS Tracking Number 384882); DDOT presentation on Oregon Avenue rehabilitation project and its Traffic Safety Investigation Process; discussion and possible vote on Maret’s public space permit application for a curb cut on Nebraska Avenue (Tracking No. 383995)

[02:09:53](#)

Adjourn

APPROVED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of four (4) of seven (7) members was present on February 14, 2022, by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary