



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
February 28, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 9:31 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 (3G-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).

[00:02:31](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures**

The Commission has met virtually since the beginning of the COVID pandemic and continues to do so. Chair Speck briefly described its procedures, saying “We want to have community participation in our meetings, but at the same time ensure that the meeting is

orderly. Only the commissioners will have video and be enabled to speak until members of the audience are recognized.”

00:03:48 **Adoption of Agenda**

The Commission discussed moving draft testimony scheduled for 9 pm to the March 14, 2022 public meeting. The Commission adopted the revised agenda by a vote of 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstentions).

00:05:14 **Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Speck

Public Space Committee Actions — At its February 24, 2022 meeting, the Public Space Committee took action on two applications that had been considered by the Commission. The application to pave a portion of the paper alley behind 6455 Barnaby St NW (Tracking Number 384882) was denied by a vote of 5 to 0. The Commission had unanimously recommended denial. On the application for a curb cut on Nebraska Avenue for a driveway to the proposed parking lot for Maret’s sports field, the Public Space Committee approved the application by a vote of 5 to 0, conditional on the outcome of the special exception application at the BZA. The Commission unanimously recommended conditional approval

Police Meeting — The Metropolitan Police Department Second District [Community] Advisory Council will meet on March 1, 2022, with Second District Commander Bedlion via Zoom at 7:00 pm. The meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89684578136?pwd=dkMrUzNaMzIvbjhFR25XZEJCb1Mrdz09>. This is an opportunity for residents to ask questions and share concerns and feedback with MPD.

Commissioner Gosselin

American City Diner – In the wake of the ANC’s February 14, 2002 decision to ask the District’s Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to inspect the vacant diner at 5532 Connecticut Ave NW as blighted and examine whether the billboard above is being improperly used to advertise the space for a commercial message, Commissioner Gosselin said two things have happened. The property’s leasing agent has removed the billboard advertisement. In addition, Gosselin has spoken with the owners of the property, suggested they come before the Commission and encouraged them to clean up the site. He said he expects progress at the location.

Mamma Lucia – Gosselin discussed two, legally unrelated issues at the establishment. He said that the city’s Board of Zoning Adjustment (ZBA) will hold a hearing on March 2, 2022 to consider what has been described to the ANC as a routine special exception to continue operating as a fast-food restaurant. Separately, owner Pete Gouskos told Gosselin that the company that erected a canopy for the establishment failed to get a required public space use permit for it. Gouskos said that he would be willing to require the company to remove the canopy, apply for the permit and, only once it is approved, re-erect it. Gosselin asked the Commission whether it thought such a move was necessary. Chair Speck said that in his experience the Public Space Committee “does not look favorably” on people who erect something in public use and only then seek permission.

Vice Chair Gore

Oregon Avenue Reconstruction – Vice Chair Gore said the District’s Department of Transportation (DDOT) has notified her that over the next three weeks stream-bypass pump will continue and there will be an increase in truck and heavy equipment traffic in the vicinity of Pinehurst Run as crews seek to complete the bridge at the location. She said the department also said that Oregon Avenue between Beech and a private driveway north of Oregon Knoll will remain closed.

Commissioner Chang

Military Road Pothole – Commissioner Chang said that a depression left by roadwork on Military between Nevada Avenue and Chevy Chase Parkway will be repaired shortly.

Morrison Street Sidewalk – Chang praised DDOT for the work done on sidewalks on the south side of Morrison Street between Chevy Chase Parkway and Connecticut Avenue.

Commissioner Cadwell

Connecticut Avenue Changes – Commissioner Cadwell said that at a meeting March 1, 2022, he and Commissioner Chang, who Chair Speck named to replace former Commissioner Chris Fromboluti and himself, would assume their positions on a community group advising DDOT about changes to Connecticut Avenue. The Bowser administration has decided to permanently end the reversible-lane system on the thoroughfare and reserve the outside lanes on either side for permanent, protected bike lanes.

Small Area Plan and Historic Districts – Cadwell said that he would moderate a discussion about how historic districts interact with municipal planning efforts, including small area plans such as the one being conducted in Chevy Chase. The session is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 2, 2022. It will be the eighth information exchange session sponsored by the

Commission as part of the SAP process and will be co-sponsored by the Chevy Chase Citizens Association and Historic Chevy Chase DC.

Commissioner Zeldin

Traffic Calming Measures – Commissioner Zeldin said that a variety of calming measures are being put in place around Lafayette Elementary School, including 20-mile-an-hour speed signs, “Children at Play” signs and speed humps.

00:18:55 **Community Announcements**

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

Aura Cruz Heredia, Constituent Service Coordinator, Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

State Board of Education — On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the District Council will vote on an emergency legislation introduced by Councilmember Lewis George to allow DCPS teachers and DCPS staff to run for seats on the DC State Board of Education. The proposal would correct a longstanding imbalance in the way public and private or charter school employees are treated. Currently, private and public charter school employees can run for a position on the board while DCPS employees are excluded from serving.

Protecting Heritage Trees — Also on March 1, 2022, the Council will vote on emergency legislation giving DDOT's Urban Forestry division stop-work authority to prevent special trees and heritage trees from being cut down without a permit.

School Safety Hearings — On March 14, the Council will hold a hearing on Councilmember Lewis George's “Safe Routes to School Act” and Councilmember Nadeau's “Walk Without Worry Act” to require sweeping traffic safety improvements in the city, especially in the areas around schools. Hearing information can be found at: <https://janeeseward4.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-03-14-B24-565-Safe-Routes-to-School-Expansion-Regulation-and-B24-566-Walk-Without-Worry-Amendment-Act-of-2021.pdf> .

WARD 4 ANC Redistricting --The Ward 4 Redistricting Task Force has released four preliminary "discussion maps" on new Ward 4 single-member ANC districts. Residents can provide input by speaking at a Tuesday, March 8, 2022 task force meeting or emailing Ward4Redistricting@dccouncil.us or leaving a voicemail at 202-642-5714 The maps can be found at: <https://janeeseward4.com/redistricting/>.

WARD 4 Care Days – Councilmember Lewis George, staff and volunteers will canvass Ward 4 neighborhoods to check in on their neighbors, make sure they're connected to DC resources, and see what issues they're facing and what support they need. Residents can sign up for your neighborhood's event at: <https://janeeseward4.com/care/>

Ward 4 Small Business Summit – On Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 10am-2pm at Emory Beacon Center, the Beacon Brightwood Business Alliance in partnership with other local organizations will conduct workshops on capital from non-traditional sources, help from DC agencies, and support from neighborhood associations . For information about the business summit here, see: https://janeeseward4.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Rebuild_Ward4_flyer_february.pdf

00:36:24 Public Space Permit, 5600 32nd Street NW

Commissioner Zeldin introduced the issue. Denise and Greg Blanton on the address are seeking to expand a sunroom at their home to provide space for Denise's aging father to move from New York so they can help care for him. The proposed expansion would extend three feet into the public space. The Blantons have applied to the city's Public Space Committee for permission. Their neighbors support the application. After discussion, the Commission voted unanimously to support it as well.

00:51:02 Presentations, Wards 3 and 4 ANC Redistricting Task Forces

Redistricting has to occur after every constitutionally mandated decennial census to adjust to population changes and ensure people are equitably represented. The city already has redrawn its ward borders and is in the midst of redrawing its ANC and ANC single member district borders, which is also necessary because of a DC law that says no district can include fewer than 1,900 residents or more than 2,100. ANC 3/4G is unusual in straddling two wards, 3 and 4.

Ward 3 Redistricting Task Force chair and former ANC 3/4G commissioner Jerry Malitz said that the Ward 3 portion of the Commission's community has a population of 6,832. Currently, there are only three ANC districts in the area, which means that without changes, district populations would be almost 2,300, or well over the maximum allowable 2,100. Malitz said the 11-member task force is studying two options. One is to create a new, fourth

district, which would have the added advantage of providing parity with the Ward 4 portion of the community, which now has four districts with four commissioners. Alternatively, he said the group may propose moving about 600 people now represented by ANC 3/4G to an adjacent ANC. The Ward 3 task force websites are: <https://chevychasenews.com/redistricting> and <http://marycheh.com/the-ward-3-redistricting-task-force/>.

Janet Hailes, a member of the Ward 4 Redistricting Task Force, walked the Commission through a PowerPoint [presentation](#) of the group's process. Abe Clayman, another task force member and former ANC 3/4G commissioner, discussed four maps that embody options the group is considering. Clayman said the first three make comparatively minor changes. Their most important aim is to shift a group of several hundred residents who live south of Lafayette Elementary School, north of Nebraska Avenue and east of Broad Branch Road and are in Ward 3, but are now wrapped into a Ward 4 ANC district and represented by a Ward 4 to a Ward 3 district. He said the fourth map represented a more far-reaching change.

During a Q&A session, Commissioner Zeldin raised questions about the way the district he represents, 3/4G-04, appears in Map 3. Clayman said there may have been a mistake in drawing its boundaries. Vice Chair Gore said she needed street-level maps with the proposed changes because some would significantly expand the area she represents and she would like to walk the potentially new areas. Commissioner Zeldin said that it takes time for new commissioners to learn who their constituents are and what their concerns are. He said that, with the exception of Chair Speck, all current commissioners are in their first term. He said that the fourth map presented by the Ward 4 group appears to so shift that ANC district boundaries that neither he nor Commissioner Higgins would any longer live in the districts they now represent. He asked the task forces to take into account the value of having "continuity of representation" in proposing changes. Commissioner Chang asked what was the thinking behind the fourth map. While saying he had not participated in drawing the map, he said that one of the aims of task force members is to maximize geographic compactness. The Ward 4 task force's website can be found here: <https://janeeseward4.com/redistricting/>

The Ward 4 task force said their deadline for comments is March 11, 2022. Since the ANC does not have another regular meeting until March 14, commissioners discussed how they would handle the problem and ultimately decided to schedule a special meeting before the 11th.

[01:31:11](#) **Vote, Resolution and Conditions, Maret-ECC Proposal**

Chair Speck summarized the history of the Commission's consideration of Maret School's proposal to build athletic fields on a portion of the campus of the Episcopal Center for Children at 5901 Utah Avenue NW and a timetable. He said the city's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) will hear Maret's application for a special exception on March 9, 2022. The ANC's comments on the proposal are due to the BZA March 2, 2022. Speck said that the Commission had planned to vote on a resolution and condition at a special meeting February 24, 2022, but delayed until this meeting to take into account the latest information, including testimony at the February 24th session. Speck described the changes that had been made in the resolution and conditions since the last meeting. They include:

1. Updates to include comments that the Commission received from Maret, ECC, and Friends of the Field, actions by the Public Space Committee on Maret's application for a curb cut on Nebraska Avenue curb cut, and reports by the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Office of Planning (OP) reports filed with the BZA on February 25, 2022;
2. Adding references to the ECC stormwater infiltration pit, which was raised at our February 24, 2022 special meeting and its disposition;
3. Addressing the significance of the closure of Oregon Avenue and possible permanent closure of Beach Drive on the Comprehensive Transportation Review for the Maret project, which was also raised February 24th;
4. Adding a condition requiring continued maintenance of the stormwater system;
5. A provision permitting a change to the hours of usage, if requested by ANC 3/4G or Maret and modified by the BZA;
6. Incorporating DDOT's and OP's recommended conditions (although many were already in the Commission's draft);
7. Making the ANC Commissioners the members of the Maret Project Task Force that will oversee compliance with the construction conditions;
8. Setting a cap on the amount of fines during the construction period; and
9. Clarifying the continuing responsibilities to comply with the conditions so long as the field continues to be used primarily as a private school athletic field.

Speck said that with the adoption of the resolution and attached conditions, the Commission will file these documents pursuant to Subtitle Y [§ 406](#) of Title 11 DCMR Zoning Regulations, along with BZA Form 129, as the written report of the ANC.

On a motion by Speck, the Commission approved the resolution, including the attachment with the Commission's proposed conditions and authorized Commissioners Higgins and him to represent the Commission at the BZA. The vote was 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstentions).

[01:40:38](#)

Chevy Chase Small Area Plan Update

Commissioner Chang, who represents the east side of Connecticut Avenue, reported that the city's Office of Planning (OP) conducted an open house in the community room of the Library on February 23, 2022, from 3 to 7 p.m. at which they presented picture and text poster boards about possible changes to the upper Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor. The session was in response to ANC complaints that OP's previous event, a January 22, 2022 online design workshop was too short and the visual representations were too limited to help residents understand what is at stake in the plan. Chang said the agency provided additional visual representations at the open house that were done by an in-house group rather than the architect-planners the city has contracted for the planning process, Cunningham | Quill Architects. She said that the contractor's more elaborate representations will be in the draft plan that OP is expected to release in March. She said that many senior OP officials, including interim director Anita Cozart attended the open house. She estimated that over 100 residents attended.

Commissioner Gosselin, who represents the west side of Connecticut, said he believed the turnout indicated that residents are very concerned about what will come out of the planning process. He said he was struck by the number of attendees who said that hadn't previously heard of the process. He said he thought OP's response to the Commission's concerns growing out of the January 22, 2022 session was inadequate and the poster pictures were "really subpar." Chair Speck said he generally agreed with Gosselin's assessment.

[01:48:53](#)

Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee

Chair Speck reported the group met on February 16, 2022. Discussion primarily focused on ways to work with Mayor's Office of Racial Equity. Committee members are scheduled to meet with the director on March 11, 2022 with the primary topic being the creation of a racial awareness network. At their February 16th meeting, committee members also discussed the possibility of preparing testimony for the FY 2023 budget hearing for the Office of Racial

Equity to ensure that the agency is adequately funded. The Office of Racial Equity is part of the Office of the City Administrator. The Council's Committee on Housing and Executive Administration oversees the Office of the City Administrator, and the budget hearing for that agency is [on April 7, 2022 at 9:00 am](#).

[01:55:11](#) **Discussion, Vote, ANC Testimony at DCPS Oversight Hearing**

Commissioner Zeldin briefly described testimony that he has drafted that covers the following issues related to the city's public school system:

- Overcrowding at Lafayette Elementary School;
- Teacher hiring and retention;
- Relationship between DCPS and WMATA and whether the elimination of the E6 bus endangers students;
- Confusion over DCPS COVID policies;
- Whether the school is prepared to put to good use new money for dyslexia;
- School and the Department of General Services

Vice Chair Gore said the school system does not adequately support club sports teams and asked that Zeldin add something on this subject. After discussion, the Commission unanimously approved the testimony.

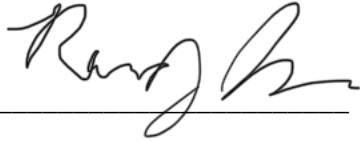
[02:07:38](#) **Commission Business**

The Commission unanimously approved:

- Minutes for the February 10 and 16, 2022 meetings;
- Check for \$155.76 to Verizon and \$222.58 for Chair Speck to reimburse him for the ANC's Zoom subscription.

[02:11:31](#) **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 March 28, 2022, by a vote of **5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstentions)**.



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary

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