



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 - Charles Cadwell

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
March 28, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 9:26 pm
Meeting [LINK](#)

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

Commissioner Randy Speck, Chair (3/4G-03), called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also present were Commissioners John K. Higgins (3/4G-02), Connie K.N.Chang (3/4G-05) and Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07). Commissioner Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04) joined later. Commissioners Lisa R. Gore (3G-01) and Peter Gosselin (3G-06) were absent. Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:01:56](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures**

Chair Speck said the Commission is now in its third year of meeting virtually because of the COVID pandemic. He said that ANC's last in-person meeting was March 9, 2020. He briefly

described the meeting procedures. The Commission recently began asking to register in advance of the meeting to try to prevent a repeat of a Zoom-bombing incident.

[00:04:38](#) **Adoption of Agenda**

On a motion by Chair Speck and with Commissioner Zeldin now in attendance, the agenda was approved. The vote was 5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstentions).

[00:05:04](#) **Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Speck

Redistricting — On March 20, 2022, the Ward 4 Redistricting Task Force voted to approve [this map](#) as its recommended new ANC and SMD boundaries for Ward 4. The map reflects the Single Member District borders that our ANC recommended in its March 10, 2022 resolution. The Task Force is reviewing a soon-to-be completed draft that it will consider at its meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Anyone can register for the upcoming meeting at <https://janeeseward4.com/redistricting/>. The recommended map and an accompanying report will be submitted to the DC Council Subcommittee on Redistricting on April 1, 2022. The Ward 3 Task Force report will be released soon and will be available [here](#). The map that the Task Force approved is the same as the one the Commission previously reviewed and mostly preserves the existing boundaries with some reduction in size to fit within the population limits. The map retains the three single member districts in 3G.

Lisner Home — At its meeting on March 17, 2022, the Zoning Commission unanimously approved the Lisner Home’s application for a zoning map change so that it can build 93 units of affordable housing for seniors. The ANC supported that application in a March 14, 2022 [resolution](#).

Protection for Sidewalk Cafes — After the Parthenon accident, we contacted the District’s Public Space Committee about the possibility of installing bollards to protect patrons at sidewalk cafes. Commissioner Speck spoke with the chair of the Public Space Committee on March 28, 2022, and he said that an outdoor cafe can apply for and be approved to install planters and other materials and fixtures at the perimeter of the café, with certain limitations regarding removability and height. He said that the accident at the Parthenon was tragic, but there was nothing at that location that would make it particularly vulnerable. DDOT does not have plans for adopting a citywide policy with regard to protections for sidewalk cafes from vehicles in situations like the Parthenon.

Maret BZA Application — As required by the BZA’s order at the March 9, 2022 hearing, Maret filed its post-hearing submission on March 16th. The opposition group Friends of the Field filed what it styled as a Response to the Applicant’s Post-Hearing Submission on March 23rd. On March 24th, the Commission filed a motion to reopen the record to receive the Commission’s response to the Friends of the Field. All of those documents are on the Commission’s [webpage](#) devoted to this application. The BZA will make its decision on Maret’s application at its April 6, 2022 meeting, and information about watching that meeting is available on the BZA’s website.

Commissioner Higgins

Oregon Avenue Reconstruction – A new bridge over Pinehurst Run, which most recently was expected to be completed by mid-March, 2022, is now slated for completion by April 7th. (The completion date was later extended until late May.) Related work such as landscaping may extend beyond that date.

Commissioner Chang

Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lane Study – The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) recently formed a community advisory committee to provide input about its efforts to remove reversible lanes and install protected bike lanes on Connecticut Avenue. Commissioners Chang and Cadwell are members. Commissioner said that the committee’s next meeting is April 6, 2022 from 5 to 6:45 p.m. and the public is invited. For further information, go to: <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/connecticut-avenue-nw-reversible-lane-safety-and-operations-study>.

Commissioner Zeldin

Department of Parks & Recreation Summer Jobs & Camp –

[00:14:41](#) **Community Announcements**

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

Sidewalk Repair Blitz – DDOT is seeking to repair as many sidewalks as possible March 29, 2022. The repair blitz is only for existing sidewalks.

00:17:58 **Public Space Application by Blue 44 Restaurant for Awning**

Commissioner Chang, in whose district the restaurant is located, introduced Blue 44 owner Christofer Nardelli. Nardelli said the restaurant at 5507 Connecticut Ave. NW has been in business since 2011 and until now has used umbrellas to shade its outdoor seating. He said that with outdoor dining more popular with COVID, the restaurant needs a more durable structure to shade customers. He said it would be similar to the canvas and steel structure outside Little Beast Café at 5600 Connecticut Ave. NW. He said there would not be a raised floor.

On a motion by Chang, the Commission vote 5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstentions) to support Blue 44's application to the Public Space Committee permission to erect the structure.

[00:25:48](#)

Discussion with DCPS Chancellor Ferebee, FY 2023 Budget

Chancellor Ferebee was introduced by Commissioner Zeldin, whose district includes Lafayette Elementary School. The chancellor began by speaking broadly about Mayor Bowser's \$19.5 billion FY 2023 budget. He said the schools portion reflects no decrease from the current fiscal year, a big improvement over what happened between the current and previous year, as well as a six-year, \$2.5 billion capital improvement Plan. Among projects to be tackled are renovation of the former Georgetown Day School on MacArthur Boulevard into a new high school, creation of a new athletic facility at the RFK site, and repair of school boilers and air conditioning.

Zeldin led off the questioning, reminding Ferebee about Commission efforts last year to find additional space for Lafayette pre-kindergarten programs that were hampered by the city's inability to enter into long-term leases. The problem led to talks between DCPS and the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) at 5901 Utah Ave NW to break down. Ferebee said the city can now enter long-term leases and is again talking with ECC, as well as owners of other nearby properties to see if it can find space for the pre-kindergarten classes. Zeldin asked whether DCPS can involve community members in the process earlier to avoid a repeat of what happened last year when school officials surprised the neighborhood by announcing it had purchased the Military Road School at 1375 Missouri Ave NW and intended to relocate the Lafayette pre-K classes to the facility. Ferebee made not specific commitment, but said DCPS wants to include the community in decision-making.

Zeldin turned to the issue of traffic safety around schools and said that the response time by DCPS and DDOT to requests for stop signs and other traffic-calming measures seemed slow. He cited the example of the corner of Broad Branch Road and Northampton Street NW next to Lafayette School as an intersection where cars don't come to full stops, endangering students. Ferebee said the Mayor's proposed budget includes \$10 million for traffic calming and \$9.4 million for hiring more, and full-time, crossing guards for all schools.

Zeldin said cutbacks in public bus service is making it hard for many students to get to and from school and singled out the cancellation of the E6 bus in Chevy Chase. He said that schools and parents complain of long delays between when a school repair issue is identified and the repair is made. He said teacher applicants and principals complain that the school system is slow in bringing new teachers onto the job for which they were hired. On the last two points, Ferebee said that DCPS has been working with companies like Salesforce to devise tracking software. He compared the applicant tracking system to a pizza delivery model where every step in the process can be followed.

Chair Speck and Commissioners Higgins and Chang returned to the issue of Lafayette pre-K and leasing space at ECC. Ferebee indicated that the school system is in discussion with ECC, but gave little other information saying "I'll leave that there." Chang asked about DCPS COVID rules. The Chancellor said that the school system has dropped mask mandates, but continues to mandate vaccinations for students eligible for them and staff. Chang asked DCPS to work more closely with the Commission regarding the issues discussed at this meeting.

[01:09:25](#)

Presentation by the DC Office of Campaign Finance

Belinda Perry, a lawyer with the General Counsel division of the DC Office of Campaign Finance described the origins, aim and mechanics of the District's public campaign finance program.

She said "The objective of public funding programs is to take big money out of elections, to level the playing field, to allow individuals that have passions and concerns and genuine interest in their communities to be involved in the game, not be beholden to campaign finance, to large corporate donations or, if they're incumbents, existing constituents that carry a heavy influence by their donations."

She said the basic requirements that a candidate must meet in order to qualify for public financing are that they take no corporate donations, that they and their immediate family contribute no more than \$5,000 to the campaign, and that they collect a certain number of donations of a fixed -- and comparatively small -- amount and reach a certain dollar total of donations from DC residents. If they meet the requirements, a candidate's DC donations are matched with public dollars on a 5-to-1 basis. She said that the total amount of public campaign money provided candidates for a given DC office is based on expenditures for the four previous cycles of the race for that office. She said that publicly funded candidates running in contested races for citywide office are required to participate in a debate. She said there is no public funding for ANC races.

[01:39:05](#)

Chevy Chase Small Area Plan Update

Commissioner Chang said that the city's Office of Planning issued its draft plan on March 14, 2022, with the intention of conducting a 30-day comment period, releasing comments at the end of the period and holding an April 13th hearing before making possible adjustments and transmittal to the Council. At a March 10th ANC meeting with OP officials and in a March 14th letter to OP's acting director, Anita Cozart, the Commission asked for three changes: lengthening the comment period to 60 days, real-time release of comments, and a larger venue for the hearing. On March 21st, Cozart agreed to the 60 days and said the agency was looking for a larger hearing venue. Chang noted that OP held office hours in person at the library on March 24, 2022 and will hold two more office hours on April 7, 2022 (in person) and May 3, 2022 (virtually) at various hours to accommodate people's schedules.

Commissioner Cadwell, who also sits on the board of Historic Chevy Chase DC, said that group and smart-growth advocates Ward 3 Vision would co-sponsor a discussion of the draft plan on April 7th starting at 7:30. Chang said that the ANC would sponsor the ninth in its information exchange series on topics relevant to the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan with Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing and Determined by Design on April 21st at 7 pm (details forthcoming).

[01:50:57](#) **ANC Testimony to Council on Agencies' FY 2023 Budgets**

- Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE): The testimony to alert the Council to upcoming needs of a Task Force reviewing the plan to replace all 28,000 remaining lead service lines in the city. On a motion by Chair Speck, the vote was 5 (Yes), 0 (No), (0) Abstentions.
- DC Public Library: The testimony to restore language from the previous year's budget describing the intention to redevelop the Chevy Chase Library and Community Center as a single project with affordable housing. On a motion by Chair Speck, the vote was 5 (Yes), 0 (No), (0) Abstentions.
- Office of Racial Equity in the Office of the City Administrator: The testimony asks that money be included for a full-time equivalent staff for one year to work with the ANC to develop and implement a racial response network in Chevy Chase as a pilot for what might become a District-wide program. Commissioner Higgins said he would like more details. Commissioner Zeldin said he supports the concept, but that residents staffing the network will need training to properly handle requests for help and so as not incur liability. On a motion by Chair Speck, the vote was 5 (Yes), 0 (No), (0) Abstentions.

[02:07:26](#) **Commission Business**

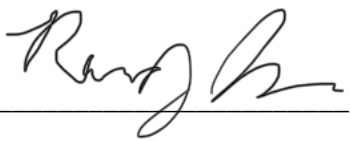
- Minutes: Minutes for the meetings of February 24 and 28, March 10 and 14, 2022 were approved. The vote was 5 (Yes), 0 (No), (0) Abstentions.

- Checks: Checks for \$61.48 to Commissioner Zeldin to reimburse for an ANC sign and \$162.88 to Verizon for phone services were approved. The vote was 5 (Yes), 0 (No), (0) Abstentions.
- Correcting a Quarterly Financial Report: Commissioner Higgins said that the Office of ANC's found some documentation problems with one of the Commission quarterly reports. He made the following motion to correct it: "A motion to approve and submit to the OANC the ANC 3/4G third-quarter 2021 financial report showing an ending balance of \$22,903.02 and to enter a notice of correction to the minutes for the appropriate reporting period." The motion was approved on a vote of 5 (Yes), 0 (No), (0) Abstentions.
- Temporary ANC Office Assistant: Commissioners Chang and Higgins said they have found someone who will take the job, which has been vacant since last summer, on a temporary basis and are trying to work out contract details.
- Possible Items for the April 11, 2022 Meeting including discussion of the draft [Chevy Chase Small Area Plan](#).

[02:25:26](#)

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 April 25, 2022, by a vote of **7 (Yes)**, **0 (No)**, **0 (Abstentions)**.



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary