



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
May 23, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 8:50 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

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

Commissioner Randy Speck (3/4G-03), the Commission’s chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Also present were Commissioners John K. Higgins (3/4G-02), Connie K.N. Chang (3/4G-05), Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06), and Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07). Commissioner Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04) joined about 10 minutes into the meeting. Commissioner Lisa R Gore (3/4G-01) was absent. Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:02:11](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures**

The Commission is now in its third year of meeting virtually because of the COVID pandemic. Chair Speck described the ANC’s Zoom meeting procedures, including its request

that residents register in order to attend the meeting as a means of controlling so-called Zoom bombing.

[00:03:29](#) **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted on a vote of 5 yes, 0 no, 0 absentions

[00:05:25](#) **Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Speck

Bingham Drive — Despite assurances from DC Water that work to restore Bingham Drive would begin in the spring, nothing has been done. DC Water’s contractor says that the current holdup is with permitting from District’s Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Surprisingly, DDOT at one point held up the process claiming that a public space permit was required even though Bingham Drive is entirely within National Park Service land. There has been a great deal of finger pointing between the agencies, with DDOT and the CFA now saying that the ball is in DCRA’s court. The Commission is trying to cut through the bureaucracy to get the permits issued promptly. DC Water says that once it gets the permit, construction will take 90 to 120 calendar days to complete.

Hybrid Commission Meetings — Some have asked when the Commission will return to in-person meetings. ANCs are authorized to continue holding virtual meetings at least through November 19, 2022. Because Covid continues to be a public health concern, particularly for those with medical conditions that make them more vulnerable, the Commission is not yet ready to hold fully in-person meetings. We would like to have hybrid meetings that will allow those who wish to meet in person while also allowing others to participate virtually. There are three prerequisites for hybrid meetings: (1) a venue that has adequate Wi-Fi connections and acoustics to permit virtual meetings; (2) equipment for hybrid meetings; and (3) protocols and procedures for conducting hybrid meetings. With regard to the first requirement, the Chevy Chase Community Center does not provide suitable Wi-Fi or acoustics, so the Commission will have to find another location for meetings. It has been working with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) on obtaining equipment, protocols, and procedures for hybrid meetings. There is now funding in the OANC’s FY 2023 budget for these items, but OANC says that it will not be able to assist us until the fall, when that money becomes available. For now, the Commission must continue to meet virtually.

Task Force to Study Senior Wellness Center for Ward 2 and 3 — As announced at the ANC’s last meeting, the Council approved \$500,000 in funding to study the

feasibility of a brick-and-mortar senior wellness center to serve Wards 2 and 3. The Budget Support Act passed by the Council on June 7, 2022, includes creation of a commission to oversee this study. The commission will include 13 members — 3 representing Department on Aging, the Department of Health, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, 4 appointed by the chair of the Committee overseeing the Department of Aging (2 from Ward 2 and 2 from Ward 3), and 3 each appointed by the Ward 2 and the Ward 3 Councilmembers (two of whom from each ward must be ANC commissioners). Funding for the study will be available beginning on October 1, 2022.

Carnegie Neighborhood Lecture — Carnegie’s Earth and Planetary Laboratory will hold its second spring virtual lecture on June 16, 2022, from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm. Dr. Michael L. Wong, an astrobiologist and host of the Strange New Worlds podcast, will discuss the Science of Star Wars. More information is available on Carnegie’s [website](#), and you may register [here](#).

Commissioner Higgins

M4 Bus Route Extended – The M4 has added a segment of the discontinued E6 route and now is in operation, serving the Western and Oregon Avenues route to Knollwood as the terminus. Knollwood residents and management thank the ANC for its support.

00:11:48 **Community Announcements**

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

Overgrown Grass – Residents who spot public areas of overgrown grass should send photos and locations to Gur-Ravantab at emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov. Many areas under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service are overgrown because the federal agency has had some trouble with its landscaping contractor.

Chevy Chase Parkway Repaving -- Commissioner Gosselin said the city is planning on repaving the block of Chevy Chase Parkway between Legation Street and Military Road. He asked Gur-Ravantab to make sure that once the paving is complete that DDOT replace the pavement warning markings and bollard island that the ANC and neighbors fought a long bureaucratic battle to get installed.

00:16:55 **DDOT Update on Connecticut Avenue NW Redesign**

Ed Stolof, a DDOT project manager, said the agency will conduct two public meetings to discuss planned changes for Connecticut Avenue from Calvert Street NW in Woodley Park to Legation Street NW in Chevy Chase. The first will be a virtual session on June 28, 2022 from 9 until 11 a.m. The second will be an in-person session on June 29, 2022 from 6 until 8 p.m. at University of the District of Columbia (UDC), 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW, in the third-floor ballroom of the Student Center Building. He provided the ANC an update on the project.

It appears the major decisions about the project already have been made. Mayor Bowser and DDOT have chosen the overall design. The public meetings and ANC update were informational only.

While the Connecticut Avenue project began as an effort to eliminate the reversible lane system, it has now expanded to include elimination of a motor-vehicle lane on each side of the avenue and their replacement with protected bicycle lanes, reduction of the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25, a revamping of intersections and a review of the number and location of bus stops. Because of the project's original focus, the proposed changes now stop at Legation where the reversible lanes had begun, just short of the Chevy Chase's commercial core. Stolof said DDOT is now studying whether to extend the changes to the Chevy Chase Circle.

Stolof said that DDOT already has largely dismantled the reversible-lane system, removing signs and pavement markings and will have installed the new speed-limit signs by the end of the summer. He said that between now and the end of the year, the agency will refine its design for the Avenue, as well as examine the need for traffic calming on sides streets that may receive cut-through traffic trying to avoid a narrowed Connecticut Avenue.

Stolof said that DDOT has divided the Avenue into 11 segments and is seeking to establish mini-task forces or community advisory groups to make suggestions about how to handle parking and loading in various neighborhoods. He said that the reconstruction of the Avenue will begin in the fall of 2024 and extend into 2025.

During an initial Q&A segment, Stolof said that the protection of the bicycle lanes will be some combination of marked pavement, flex-posts and concrete curbing. He said that there will be limited parking on one side of the street in some commercial areas. Responding to a question from Commissioner Zeldin about the fact the protected lanes would end at Legation Street, Stolof said DDOT will examine extending them to the Chevy Chase Circle.

Commissioner Gosselin asked where DDOT intended to allow street parking along the six-lane, 60-foot-wide Connecticut Avenue if it intends to have four vehicle lanes and two bicycle lanes. Stolof said the bicycle lanes will require about 10 feet, which leaves road designers with the remaining 10 feet for turn lanes, bus stops and parking.

Gosselin said that DDOT is designing the bike lanes based on a long-term and optimistic view about usage levels and asked whether its planning involving buses will be similarly optimistic. Stolof said that WMATA does not do long-term projections so DDOT doesn't have anything to go on.

Chair Speck asked whether DDOT has funding to study extending the project beyond Legation Street to the Chevy Chase Circle. Stolof said the agency expects to have the money in hand within weeks. Speck asked about the overall cost of the project, Stolof said about \$7.7 million. Speck said that there is increasing concern in the neighborhood that "This project is not senior-friendly" because it will eliminate street parking and make vehicle travel more difficult.

During a Q&A session with meeting attendees, Michael Harrison, who manages the Parthenon restaurant at 5510 Connecticut Ave. with his father, said that removing street parking would hurt businesses as well as older residents. He also said parked cars along the sides of streets act as a protective barricade for pedestrians and people dining outside. Two people were killed at the Parthenon March 11 when a driver lost control of his vehicle and plowed into the restaurant's outdoor dining area.

Jessica Lee said DDOT estimates that with the changes in Connecticut Avenue about 7,000 vehicles a day will divert onto already heavily used side streets to avoid congestion. She asked why the Commission supported the changes. Commissioner Chang said that the panel believed all users -- drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists -- should have access to the Avenue, but added that the Commission remains concerned about overloading side streets. Stolof said that the 7,000 figure was for both local and regional diversions. He said that about half of that number would divert at the Capital Beltway, a considerable distance from Chevy Chase. Only the other half would divert onto local streets.

[01:15:25](#) **DDOT Presentation on Revamp of Two Local Intersections**

Jo-Elle Burgard, a DDOT project manager, described [plans](#) to eliminate so-called "slip lanes" at Utah Avenue NW and Tennyson Street and re-engineer the nearby intersection of Utah and 32nd Street NW to calm vehicle traffic, increase pedestrian safety and provide a greener habitat. In both cases, the changes will narrow the roadway and bring drivers to a stop sign.

[01:34:58](#) **Discussion & Vote, Pending Reproductive Health Measure**

The issue before the Commission was whether to support the "Enhancing Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act" that the Council will take up in July. The act would change DC law to cover "self-managed" pregnancy termination and prohibit penalizing

people or parties who participate in facilitating this method. The Commission agreed to support the measure. The vote was 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

01:42:11 **Commission Business**

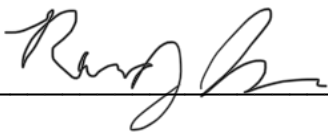
- **Minutes** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its May 23, 2022 meeting.
- **Finances** – On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, the Commission unanimously approved checks for \$222.58 to reimburse Chair Speck for its Zoom subscription and \$162.26 for Verizon. Higgins said the ANC has a Bank balance of \$39,408.77, reflecting recent allotments from the DC government totaling \$14,158.80.

He said he is discussing with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) the use of debit cards to pay bills. In reviewing the financial summary reports of other ANCs across the District he said he sees a lot of expenses for consultation services and suggested the Commission look into whether it, too, might use such services.

- **Possible Items for the ANC’s June 27, 2022 Meeting --**
Meeting with Christopher Geldart, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, regarding enhancing public safety in apartment buildings; discussion and possible vote on Knollwood’s application to renew its C Restaurant liquor license (License Number: ABRA-096716); discussion with District Bridges regarding needed improvements to Chevy Chase Main Street; presentations and discussion on improving pedestrian access to Chevy Chase Circle; HCCDC grant with CCCA and Ch/ART to restore call boxes in the community; and final Chevy Chase Small Area Plan-related work, including creation of a standing committee, Council’s upcoming roundtable on the final plan, and the Commission’s draft testimony.

01:49:21 **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 June 27, 2022, by a vote of **7** yes, **0** no, **0** abstentions.



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary