



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

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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 – Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - John Higgins, Treasurer
3/4G-03 - Randy Speck, Vice 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
July 25, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 9:38 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

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

Commission Chair Lisa Gore (3/4G-01) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Also present were Commissioners Randy Speck (3/4G-03), Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04), Connie K.N. Chang (3/4G-05), Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06), and Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07). Commissioner Higgins joined about 20 minutes into the meeting. Gore declared a quorum (being four commissioners present).

00:05:41 **Adoption of Agenda**

Commissioner Gosselin asked that the published agenda be modified to include a discussion and possible vote on a liquor license renewal for The Avenue restaurant at 5540 Connecticut Avenue NW. So modified, the agenda was adopted on a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

[00:06:42](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Gore

Lifeline Program – The DC Public Service Commission helps make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers by providing eligible subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband service. The discounts can be applied to either a wireline or a wireless service, but customers may not receive a discount on both at the same time.

In the District, Lifeline is known as Economy II and is offered by Verizon DC. The charge for wireline local telephone service to qualified DC customers under 65 years of age are \$3.00 a month. The charge for those who qualify and are 65 or older is \$1.00 per month. DC residents participating in Lifeline have unlimited calling in the DC metropolitan area. To qualify, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs such as:

- [Medicaid](#)
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- [Supplemental Security Income](#)
- [Federal Public Housing Assistance](#) (Section 8)

To apply for Lifeline, call 800 234-9473 for detailed eligibility requirements and an application. For questions, contact the Office of Consumer Services at 202-626-5120.

Summer Hiring Fair -- The DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) announces a summer hiring event on Thursday, August 11 and Friday, August 12, “Hot Days, Hot Jobs with DC Government.”

Participating agencies will make on the spot job offers for nearly 1,000 vacancies in several industries to include health and human services, public safety, planning and economic development, internal services, education and operations and infrastructure. Registration for the event will open on Friday, July 29 and close on Sunday, August 7, at midnight. Individuals wishing to participate will be required to register.

<https://dchr.dc.gov/page/hiring-event>

Recess -- The Council is on August recess. The Council will meet next on Sept. 20, 2022 with a regular legislative session scheduled for Oct. 4, 2022.

Fighting for Elder Justice -- Join DC Attorney General Karl Racine and DC AARP State Director Louis Davis Jr. on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for a conversation about how the Office of the Attorney General helps protect older District residents from financial abuse and scams and how the office has become a national leader in stopping elder abuse so our older neighbors can live their golden years with dignity and security.

Citi Open Tennis -- Carter Barron athletic facilities at 5220 16th St. NW in Rock Creek Park will again host the Citi Open tennis tournament from July 30 to Aug. 6, 2022. The event is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious in the world. A portion of proceeds from the event will benefit the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF).

Monkeypox Vaccine in DC -- DC residents can [pre-register](#) for Monkeypox vaccination appointments by visiting preventmonkeypox.dc.gov. Once appointments become available, individuals will receive an email invitation to make a vaccination appointment and have 48 hours to claim their appointment. Here are the current [eligibility criteria](#) for monkeypox vaccination, but residents who do not meet the current eligibility criteria are still encouraged to pre-register so they can be notified about appointments if eligibility expands. DC has had 91 Monkeypox cases so far.

At-Home COVID Testing – DC Health provides residents who need reasonable accommodations, especially those with difficulty leaving their homes, [at-home COVID testing](#) Mondays through Saturdays. Appointment requests can be made by calling the DC Health COVID Call Center at 855-363-0333 at least one day in advance. A registered nurse will come to eligible residents' homes with both PCR and rapid-antigen testing options and assist with tests.

Run for ANC -- Petitions to [run for ANC](#) became available on July 20 and must be submitted to the Board of Elections by August 10 with at least 25 valid signatures from registered voters in a candidate's Single Member District (SMD). ANC 3/4G will have openings in SMD 07 to replace Commissioner Caldwell, and SMD 03 to replace Commissioner Speck. Consider running or encouraging a neighbor to do so.

Vice Chair Speck

Getting the Lead Out – An inter-agency task force examining DC Water's plans for removing lead water service lines to the 30,000 homes that still have such service by 2030 has issued a draft report and will hold two "listening" sessions on July 28, 2022, the first from noon until

1 p.m. and the second from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The report can be found at:
<https://doee.dc.gov/node/1567416> .

Commissioner Gosselin

ANC Seeking Volunteers – At its mid-June meeting, the Commission voted to establish a Standing Committee on Zoning, Design and Development (ZDD) to advise the ANC on a wide range of issues that are likely to come before it in the coming period, including redevelopment of the Chase Chase Community Center-Library campus, establishment of a special zoning district for the upper Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor, potentially the extension of protected bicycle lanes from Legation Street to Chevy Chase Circle and other issues. The Commission is seeking residents to join with commissioners to staff the committee.

Commissioner Chang

Not Seeking Re-election – Commissioner Chang said she will serve out her current term on the Commission and not seek re-election to a second two-year term. Chang has worked on many of the issues that are most important to her including working with the DC Office of Planning on the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan. She encouraged residents in her Single Member District to run for the seat. Her formal announcement and Chair Speck’s and Commissioner Cadwell’s can be found here: <https://anc3g.org/agenda/three-anc-3-4g-commissioners-in-single-member-districts-03-05-and-07-are-not-seeking-re-election/>.

00:19:05 **Community Announcements**

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

Storm-related Problems – Residents who see fallen tree limbs, downed utility wires or out-of-service traffic lights should contact Gur-Ravantab to expedite a response. His contact information is: emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov, C: 202-340-7853.

Flooding at Chevy Chase Circle – Commissioner Zeldin said that storm flooding on the western side of Chevy Chase Circle near the entrance of Western Avenue poses a severe

danger to vehicles and pedestrians. He said he has repeatedly asked the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) to correct the problem so far without result. Gur-Ravantab said he would look into the matter.

00:26:39

Discussion, Possible Vote, Special Exception 6801 32nd St. NW

Alan Korn and Claudia Simons have filed with the Board of Zoning Adjustment (ZBA) ([Case No, 20796](#)) for a special exception to build a one-story rear addition to their home at the intersection of 32nd and Beech Streets. Korn and the couple's architect, Jeffrey Haines, said the house is a one-story, U-shaped structure with an enclosed sun porch within the arms of the U. The couple is seeking to close in the sun porch to make working space and a bedroom with a bathroom. Korn said the couple have shown their plans to immediate and nearby neighbors, who have signed a letter of support. Haines said an exception is needed because the proposed addition extends beyond the building restriction line and reduces the rear lot clearance from 25 feet to about 17. The Commission voted to support the application for special exception. The vote was 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

00:44:20

Liquor license renewal, The Avenue, 5540 Connecticut Ave.

Commissioner Gosselin in whose single member district the restaurant is located, said he had talked with the owner, Tim Walsh, and been told that the renewal represented no change in hours or other aspects of the establishment's operation and that Walsh had received no complaints from neighbors. Because of this, he said he had not asked the owner to join the meeting. Chair Gore and Commissioner Zeldin said they felt the owner should have been present and the community should have been given some prior notice of the Commission's vote on the renewal so the matter was put off until the ANC's Sept. 12, 2022 meeting.

00:50:00

Vote on Resolution on Chevy Chase Circle Pedestrian Safety

Commissioner Gosselin said the resolution followed the Commission's discussion of the issue at its July 11, 2022 meeting with officials from DDOT, the Maryland State Highway Administration, the National Park Service and Friends of Chevy Chase Circle about the need for new pedestrian crosswalks to be installed in time for the spring 2023 unveiling of the renovated Circle with lighting. He said the resolution urges stakeholders to quickly agree on interim safety measures for improving pedestrian access to the Circle and quickly implement them. It also urges the stakeholders to study longer-term measures, possibly including installation of traffic lights. At the suggestion of Commissioners Zeldin, Chang and Speck,

Gosselin agreed to add a call for immediate synchronization of existing traffic signals. The Commission approved the amended resolution on a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

[01:03:02](#)

District Bridges Management of Chevy Chase Main Street

The Commission invited Brianne Dornbush, executive director of District Bridges, which manages the Chevy Chase Main Street (CCMS) program, to continue a discussion about the local program's effectiveness that it began with her at its May 23, 2022 meeting. In opening comments, she cited six areas of progress:

- Hiring a new program manager – The previous manager left in early 2022. Dornbush said District Bridges has several “really great candidates” going through the interview process, but appealed to commissioners to refer other people.
- Street banners – She said the program will erect street banners along the Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor in time for Chevy Chase Day, Sept. 17, 2022.
- First Friday – She said CCMS will begin sponsoring an early evening, street fair-like monthly program to attract residents to the commercial corridor and highlight local businesses. The first is scheduled for Aug. 5 and the second for Sept. 2.
- Call boxes – CCMS in conjunction with Historic Chevy Chase DC, the Chevy Chase Citizens Association and Ch/Art, is repurposing five abandoned police and fire call boxes in the neighborhood for art installations. She said the program has issued a request for proposals to local artists.
- Technical assistance – Dornbush said that CCMS has provided more than 340 hours of assistance to local businesses in the current fiscal year, including legal and mediation services to handle landlord-tenant problems.
- Community map – She said that a long-delayed community map went to the printers in mid-July and should be available for distribution shortly.

Commissioner Gosselin began the discussion by pointing out that all of the items Dornbush mentioned are ones that are about to happen. He said this would be encouraging if the local program that had only recently started, but that CCMS has been operating for more than 18 months.

Gosselin asked how many of the 67 businesses on the commercial corridor Dornbush mentioned were members of CCMS, had contributed, or were on the program's local oversight body, the Neighborhood Strategic Council (NSC). Dornbush said that businesses aren't required to be members. She said that the program only recently re-launched its fundraising efforts and the NSC had 14 members, although she was not sure how many were businesses. He asked how many landlord-tenant problems CCMS had handled since what

Dornbush said was the June launch of the legal assistance effort. She said four, but that that number was city-wide, not local.

Commissioner Chang quizzed Dornbush about who's running the local program in the absence of a manager and what will happen if District Bridges does not find a good candidate for the CCMS job. Dornbush said CCMS is being run by District Bridges' staffers and, should a good candidate not surface, will continue to be run in this way. Chang reacted saying "I think there is a lack of transparency. There is not enough getting the work done." She cited the example of the community map, which the previous manager promised more than six months earlier in December, 2021 and the fact that no one from CCMS or District Bridges regularly attended ANC meetings. "I'm disappointed. I truly am..."

After comments from Chair Gore and Commissioner Caldwell, Gosselin closed the discussion, telling Dornbush "I will have to be convinced that you should continue to run this program. I do not think you have done a good job."

01:37:04

Resolution Calling for Permanent Closure of Beach Drive

The National Park Service (NPS) recently decided to abandon the pandemic-period closure of Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park to vehicle traffic in favor of a seasonal closure that would keep the park roadway closed for recreational use from Memorial Day to Labor Day annually, but open it to vehicles the rest of the year. The decision has stirred substantial controversy with the DC Council, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Montgomery County governmental units and a number of local organizations calling for maintaining the status of full closure to vehicles.

Chair Gore drafted a resolution calling for the Commission to join those recommending that NPS reverse its decision and permanently close the roadway to vehicles. Among her arguments in favor of permanent closure to traffic: that it would maintain popular recreational space, protect pedestrians and move the city towards achieving its environmental goals of reducing commuter traffic by 25% by 2032. Gore criticized a recent DDOT assessment of the effect of permanent closure on city streets saying the data was from 2017 through 2019, prior to the pandemic. She was particularly critical of NPS' environmental assessment, which concluded that increased pedestrian use of Rock Creek Park during the pandemic has resulted in a rise in so-called "social trails" that are not official trails and that returning vehicle traffic to Beach Drive would help solve the problem.

Commissioner Speck, the Commission's vice chair, thanked Gore for raising the question of what should be done with Beach Drive, but said that with an issue that has produced such divided opinion, he supports a compromise. He acknowledged that the compromise of

seasonal closure on which NPS has settled was not his first choice. He and some other commissioners believe that a better approach would have been to open Beach Drive to vehicles during morning and evening weekday rush hours, but otherwise keep it closed for recreational use. But he said that the NPS decision was a compromise and addressed recent DDOT findings that permanently closing Beach Drive would increase congestion on city streets, result in greater congestion and cause an increase in auto emissions. He said the Commission has relied on DDOT studies that are based on 2017-2019 data in other instances.

Commissioner Gosselin said he supported Speck's position. He said the NPS compromise is "easily reversible or adjustable." If after examining city street traffic when the roadway is open to vehicles and at other times closed closure is found to make little difference, then the Park Service policy can be changed. He agreed with Gore's assessment of the environmental assessment.

Commissioner Zeldin said that full closure to vehicle traffic would best protect the environment and the community. He said that the country and the world are in an "environmental existential climate crisis" that requires discouraging use of vehicles and that if the Commission failed to support permanent close "then we are part of the problem."

Commissioner Higgins focused on what he said was Beach Drive's fundamental purpose. "It's a road. The taxpayers of this country paid \$30 million to restore this road." He said that the compromise allowed for adjustment in the future as post-pandemic transportation trends become clear. He labeled the idea to permanently close the road "radical," a characterization that brought a sharp response from Gore and Zeldin, who pointed out that Beach Drive is currently closed so that the abrupt, radical change is to re-open it, not to keep it as is.

Commissioner Cadwell said that while he understands the environmental argument for permanent shutdown, the proposal to permanently close Beach Drive comes as the city is preparing to substantially reduce the vehicle capacity of Connecticut Avenue by converting two of six lanes to protected bike lanes and that pursuing both proposals would unduly inconvenience people who need to drive downtown.

Commissioner Chang said that she found the case for keeping Beach Drive permanently closed the most compelling. She said that if it turns out that the closure produces problems in the coming years the issue of reopening can be raised then. "The road is there," she said.

The motion failed. The vote was 3 yes (Gore, Zeldin, Chang), 4 no (Higgins, Speck, Gosselin, Cadwell), 0 abstentions.

- **Minutes** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its July 11, 2022 meeting.
- **Possible Items for the ANC’s Sept. 12, 2022 Meeting** – report on and discussion of the Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lanes and Multimodal Safety Project; discussion and possible vote on BZA application at 6130 32nd Street, NW; presentation by Trey Holloway on ECC/Maret updates;

[02:37:54](#)

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 Sept. 12, 2022, by a vote of **X** yes, **X** no, **X** abstentions.



Lisa R. Gore, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary