



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
Sept 12, 2022
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 10:08 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) and Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06). Commissioner John Higgins (3/4G-02) joined five minutes late. Commissioner Charles Cadwell (3/4G-07) was absent. Gore declared a quorum (being four commissioners present).

[00:02:56](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures and Adoption of Agenda**

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

[00:05:44](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Gore

Commissioner Zeldin

Bioretention Basin Problems -- Commissioner Zeldin said that on Sept. 21, 2022 he would be walking the neighborhood with representatives of the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) to examine the state of disrepair of the bioretention facilities. He asked that residents with concerns about specific basins send him a note. Zeldin also announced that DOEE advised him that it has signed a contract with an outside vendor to begin repairs/maintenance of basins in the coming DC fiscal year.

Vice Chair Speck

Lead Service Line Removal — The inter-agency Task Force on Lead Service Line Replacement has completed its work on a report to the Council with recommendations for ways to improve DC Water’s plans to replace all lead service lines in the District by 2030. The latest version of the report is not yet available publicly, but the draft is available on the DOEE website, <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1567416>.

The two public representatives appointed to the Task Force by the Council have made a number of additional proposals, including specific legislative language that would require replacement by 2030, and they will be transmitting those recommendations to the Council as well. The Council’s Committee on Transportation and the Environment will hold a roundtable hearing on this report on September 27, 2022, at 2:00 pm. The notice of the hearing is available at <https://dccouncil.gov/event/transportation-the-environment-public-roundtable-25/>. Anyone wishing to testify should contact Ms. Aukima Benjamin, Staff Assistant to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing at [\(202\) 724-8062](tel:(202)724-8062) or via email at abenjamin@dccouncil.us.

Sidewalk Palooza! — The second annual Sidewalk Palooza will be from October 7-17, 2022, when community leaders and residents walk/roll the neighborhood; submit 311 requests related to sidewalk repairs, sidewalk gaps, pedestrian crossing protections, safe passage to school, and more; and talk and learn about the challenges of walking and rolling in the District. Sidewalk Palooza! is designed to highlight pedestrian infrastructure challenges and possible solutions, while also being fun and building community. You can see what last year’s

events looked like at <https://sidewalkpalooza.org/>, which will be updated soon to reflect this year's events.

Respect for Different Viewpoints — Residents have called the Commission's attention to the theft of some yard signs that advocate views related to the proposed bike lanes on Connecticut Avenue. Regardless of individual's positions on this issue, we should all respect everyone's right to state their views and advocate for them. We urge everyone to participate in productive dialogue and to allow others to express their opinions freely. This should be the hallmark of our community.

Commissioner Gosselin

Update on Zoning, Design and Development Committee - 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. The resolution the Commission approved called for appointment of committee members at its Sept. 12, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Gosselin said that a slate of committee members was not quite ready. He took responsibility for the delay and said that a slate would be ready by the Commission's next meeting on Oct. 24, 2022. He added that he and Commissioner Chang would be meeting Sept 13th 2022, with officials of the DC Office of Planning to receive an update on OP's progress designing a special zoning district for the upper Connecticut Avenue commercial core.

Commissioner Chang

Chevy Chase Day – Noted that she arranged for the Department of Health (DOH) to return to Chevy Chase Day which takes place this year on Sept 12, 2022 with their Pop-Up Vaccination Clinic. DOH will administer Covid vaccinations for those aged 12 and up and will provide flu shots for the first 25 who show up. There is no need to sign up and the shots are free.

Chevy Chase Community Center – Has changed their hours starting this Fall 2022 from 12 pm to 8 pm (shorter evening hours) due to staffing shortages. The Fencing Club is unhappy. Department of Parks and Recreation will revisit this in the spring. Trying to hire 90+ people to staff community center across the District.

Blue 44 – Canopy cost twice as much as estimated and took more time to expedite and get the permitting. Luckily, received two grants to pay for cost. Expect the canopy to be constructed in November.

Accident on CT Ave – There's been media reports of police activity on Connecticut Avenue. Early in the morning on Sept 6, 2022, a driver fell asleep and drove into five parked cars on the west side of Connecticut and Legation, which all sustained damage. The driver's vehicle was flipped upside down, but no one was hurt. Later that day, many police cars were on the Avenue. The following day, Commissioner Chang asked an officer who was sitting in a parked police vehicle what had happened. Apparently, a person had alarmed the Exxon station with his behavior and may have been armed, which was reported to the police. The same person returned to fill up his tank. The Exxon station took a photo of the license plate and police learned that the vehicle was registered to an individual (a female) who lives in an apt building on Connecticut. The police went to the building and saw the person at his car, that person ran off and the police tried to apprehend him, but were unsuccessful. The police are aware of this person and he is not a danger to the public. There is no known resolution. You will notice more police presence given the heightened activity.

00:23:02 **Community Announcements**

Anna Claire Walker, Manager, Chevy Chase Main Street

First Fridays – Chevy Chase Main Street is sponsoring community gatherings on the first Friday of each month that are designed to entertain and showcase Connecticut Avenue businesses. The organization had its second event, the first one in August was rained out, Sept 2nd in the PNC Bank parking lot with music, games and a story-telling hour. Further events are planned for October and November.

Holiday Lights – The organization is planning an event around the holiday shopping season when businesses will decorate their storefronts, street trees may be lit and there will be some sort of additional celebration.

Problems with Community Map – Questioned by Commissioner Chang, Walker acknowledged that the organization published a map on which the names of a number of businesses were mis-located. In addition, there were problems with a QR code that appears on the document. She said that Main Street will correct and update the map in the new fiscal year.

Jim Lewis, Constituent Service Coordinator, Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Senior Jubilee – The councilmemeber announces the first annual Ward 4 Senior Jubilee is happening on October 19th! Be sure to RSVP to: bit.ly/w4seniorjubilee.

CARE Day – The councilmember will be at Riggs-Lasalle Community Center on Thursday Sept. 15, 2022 for Ward 4 CARE Day! The event will feature a resource fair of various public agencies + our team will be going door-to-door to meet residents where they are. Join at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/ward4-care-riggssouthmanor/>

Green New Deal – The councilmember introduced The Green New Deal for Social Housing bill in April to address the need for green and affordable housing across the District. The bill has been scheduled for a hearing on Nov. 17, 2022. Sign up to testify at: <https://twitter.com/CMLewisGeorgeW4/status/1567544818892505088>

Disappearing Litter Cans -- The councilmember announced legislation to stop the removal of litter cans from the ward. She previously introduced the CLEAN Collections Act to address inadequate solid waste management at multi-family buildings across the District that leads to an increase in litter and rodents.

Anthony Scerbo, Legislative Director, for At-large Councilmember Anita Bonds
Emir Gur-Ravantab, Ward Liaison, Ward 3 | Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)

Maternal & Infant Health Summit – The city will sponsor the summit Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022 that focuses on maternal and infant health and especially on black women in the context of infant mortality and childbirth complication rates.

COVID Vaccines -- Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are now approved. The bivalent vaccines have antibodies against the original COVID strain as well as the Omicron strain, and are being given on-demand at the city's 8 Covid Centers. The closest to ANC 3/4G is the Ward 3 center, at the Chevy Chase Pavilion, and is open 6 days a week.

Kids and Public Transit – The Kids Ride Free Smartrip program is back in effect. Students who live in the District and attend any school inside the District are eligible for these cards. If your child hasn't received one yet, please contact your school administrator.

Housing Help -- Mayor Bowser announced the Home Purchase Assistance Program, administered by the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is receiving additional funds. First-time homebuyers across a wide spectrum of incomes are eligible for higher down-payment assistance as of October 1, 2022.

Helping Migrants -- The mayor has announced establishment of the Office of Migrant Services within the DC Department of Human Services (DHS) to assist with the humanitarian crisis created by the governors of several border states busing migrants to

Washington and other cities. The Office will replace SAMU First Response with which the city contracted to provide migrants services.

00:52:52 **Liquor License Renewal, The Avenue, 5540 Connecticut Ave.**

Commissioner Gosselin, in whose single member district the restaurant is located, said this issue came up at the ANC's July meeting, but commissioners asked to delay a vote because the Commission had not adequately publicized the fact so that any neighbors who might have complaints could register their views. Gosselin said no neighbors had come forward and Avenue owner Tim Walsh said he has received no complaints. The Commission voted 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention to approve the renewal.

00:54:41 **Zoning Special Exception, 6130 32nd St. NW**

Commissioner Zeldin, whose district includes the location, introduced Adam and Cassie Pergament of 6130 32nd St. NW. The Pergaments are applying to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) (Case No. 20804) for a special exception to construct a two-story rear addition on their home and asked the Commission to support their application. The couple said they had presented their plans to neighbors who have no objections to the project. The Commission voted its support 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

01:05:32 **Public Space Application, 5619 Western Ave. NW**

Commissioner Gosselin, whose district includes the location, introduced Loree Lipstein of 5619 Western Ave. NW. Ms Lipstein is seeking a public space permit (Case No. 391221) to widen the driveway at her residence so two cars can maneuver in and out. The small triangular area where she wants widened is beyond the building restriction line and she has been told she needs a permit. She said that she has talked with her immediate neighbors and neither object to the plan. The Commission voted to support her application 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

01:13:09 **Update, Maret School-ECC Project**

Stephanie Nash, the president of the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) at 5901 Utah Avenue, said renovation work on the facility is underway in anticipation of a partial re-opening of the school perhaps as early as the second semester of the current school year and fuller re-opening in the fall of 2023. Prior to its closure in 2019, ECC provided a K-8 school for children with emotional problems. She said many rooms in the current facility are small because they served as beds or bathrooms when the Center was an orphanage. These are being re-modeled to provide additional teaching and therapeutic space. In addition, the

Center gym is being refurbished to serve both athletic and meeting purposes. Nash said the ECC hopes to restart an after-school program for neighborhood children once construction permits. It hopes to again admit students from kindergarten to third grade in the fall of next year and eventually expand to kindergarten through sixth grade.

Maret School plans to construct a multi-field athletic facility on a portion of the ECC campus that borders Nebraska Avenue. Trey Holloway, Maret's assistant head for operations, and Marjo Talbott, the school's head, said Maret spent the spring and summer preparing four of six large trees that will remain on site to be moved by pruning their canopies and roots and by installing an automatic irrigation system for them. Holloway said that Maret hopes to move the trees once their leaves are down sometime between November and February. It will take down those trees that are not being saved at the same time. Depending on when Maret receives city permits, he said construction could begin as early as the spring of 2023. Maret estimates that construction will take four to six months.

During a question-and-answer session, Talbott repeated Maret's intention to install artificial turf rather than retaining grass, saying that turf will stand up better than grass. She said that a decision to release for public use more time at the Jelleff off Wisconsin Avenue on which it has a lease until the end of the decade will depend on Maret being able to adequately serve the athletic needs of its students. She said Maret redeveloped the Jelleff field and shares its use. She said that fields at the school's Cathedral Avenue campus are also used by youth athletic groups from around the city. "We know that there's a dearth of fields" in the city for youth athletics, Talbott said. "We are part of the solution, not part of the problem."

01:55:02 **Racial and Social Equity (RASE) Committee Update**

RASE member Libby Martin said the committee met on Aug. 30, 2022, and will meet again on Sept. 20, 2022. She reported on several matters of concern to the panel, which advises the Commission on racial and equity issues.

Martin invited commissioners and the public to a series of anti-racism webinars being jointly sponsored by Friendship Place and the Council's Office of Racial Equity.

She said the committee advised the ANC to seek changes to two small pieces of public art that will accompany renovation of several abandoned police and fire call boxes in the community. In the case of one, she said the panel said text describing early Chevy Chase as a "streetcar suburbs" should be amended to note that the streetcar was used by Blacks working as domestics to comply with "sunset-sunrise" rules that required them to arrive after daylight and be gone before sundown. In the case of the other, the committee asked that the ANC either discourage use of the box to honor early 20th century developer Fulton Gordon or

require that accompanying text explain that he was a heavy user of covenants preventing the sale of homes to Blacks.

Martin said the committee suggested the Commission seek to review in advance proposals for all of the callboxes.

Chair Gore said she talked with leaders of Historic Chevy Chase DC, which is heading the callbox restoration effort, and had been assured Gordon would not be honored. She asked what the Commission thought about RASE's advance review proposal. Commissioners Gosselin and Higgins said that while the ANC could exercise some influence over text, they did not like the idea of the panel becoming gatekeeper for public art in the community. Higgins and Commissioner Chang said that if proposals for the callboxes run counter to long-stated objectives of the Commission then it should raise the subject with those overseeing the project. The callbox renovation is partially funded by an ANC grant. Chang said that in the future if RASE identifies what it sees as an issue, the committee should forward its views to the ANC, the Commission should put it on its agenda and conduct a public discussion and handle the matter on a "case-by-case basis."

Chair Gore moved the Commission reply to RASE in the fashion suggested by Chang. The motion carried 5 yes, 0 no, 0, abstentions, Commissioner Zeldin having left the meeting.

02:21:30

Discussion of RASE and Standing Committee Process

Chair Gore introduced the subject. In early May of 2022, as the Commission was preparing to vote on the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan (SAP), the RASE Committee issued recommendations. The Commission did not take the recommendations up. Subsequently, a RASE member, Mara Verheyden-Hillard, testified before the DC Council about the SAP and the Commission's performance and attached a copy of the RASE document. Gore said that Verheyden-Hillard did not include the fact that the ANC did not adopt the RASE recommendations or that some RASE members opposed the recommendations. She indicated that inclusion of the RASE recommendations violated ANC By-Laws, which say that standing committees such as RASE are advisory only to the Commission. Gore said the Commission needed to discuss the matter to improve how its standing committees operated. She said the Commission might consider reprimanding Verheyden-Hillard or removing from the RASE or alternatively could take no action.

Verheyden-Hillard said Gore's account was premised on the notion that Verheyden-Hillard had misrepresented to the Council that the ANC had approved the RASE recommendations when, according to Verheyden-Hillard, the weight of her testimony was the opposite, that the Commission has – wrongly in her view – not approved the recommendations.

Verheyden-Hillard complained that subsequent to her testimony, Gore and Vice Chair Speck

wrote to the Council asking that her testimony be struck from the record without notifying her of the request.

When Verheyden-Hillard suggested that Gore had engaged in improper fundraising during Gore's recent run for Council, Gore responded, "That's not correct" and the two engaged in an extended exchange. At various points, Vice Chair Speck and Commissioner Gosselin sought to end the exchange, without success. The Commission eventually agreed to end discussion and review its rules and procedures governing its advisory committees. The vote was 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

02:55:09 **Commission Business**

- **Minutes** – On a motion by Commissioner Gosselin, who serves as secretary, the Commission unanimously approved minutes for its July 25, 2022 meeting.

- **Payments** – On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, who serves as treasurer, the Commission approved a check for \$222.58 to reimburse Vice Chair Speck for its Zoom subscription.

- **ANC Budgeting** – Chair Gore suggested that the Commission look into adding a public engagement process as it writes its budget for next fiscal year.

- **Possible Items for the ANC's Oct. 24, 2022 Meeting** – report on and discussion of the Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lanes and Multimodal Safety Project; formation of the Zoning, Design and Development Standing Committee.

03:08:06 **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 Oct. 24, 2022, by a vote of **6** yes, **0** no, **0** abstentions.

Lisa R. Gore

Lisa R. Gore, Chair

Peter Gosselin

Peter Gosselin, Secretary