

ANC 3 -4 G FIELD TASK FORCE

COMMUNITY UPDATE #2

January 1/26/2023

ANC Field Task Force Update #2

Hello Neighbors,

On Wednesday, January 18 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, the newly constituted ANC 3/4G Field Task Force held our first public meeting via Zoom. Below is a quick summary of the meeting, and posted on our website is the transcript of our Zoom chat and a list of questions we received via our RSVP form from the meeting. We had conversion problems with the Zoom video which are being addressed by a Zoom upgrade, so apologies for not having that. We should be good to go for future meeting recordings.

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Co-Chair Mike Osborne at 7:02 PM. Four of the five Task Force members were in attendance including Co-Chair Jenny Backus, Marek Gootman, ANC 3/4G-02 Commissioner Bruce Sherman along with Co-Chair Osborne. ANC 3/4G-03 Commissioner Jim Nash was out of the country and unable to attend.

In addition, ANC 3/4G Commission Chair Lisa Gore was in attendance in her ex-officio role along with non-voting Task Force members Trey Holloway from Maret, Johnny Seikaly from MCN Build, and Stephanie Nash from the ECC. There were 19 community members who RSVP'd and 12- 23 who joined on the Zoom throughout the meeting.

The meeting opened with a brief overview of the mission and purpose of the Task Force, particularly to define what topics and functions are within its mandate versus what is outside its scope to address.

Per Task Force Co-chair Osborne, the purpose of the Task Force is to ensure that Maret and their General Contractor (GC) uphold the commitments made in regard to the construction of the new field at the ECC in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed between Maret and the ANC in March 2022. The MOU called for the creation of the Field Task Force. The MOU consists of the ANC Resolution and the conditions Maret agreed to with the ANC. You can read the whole MOU [here](#):

ANC Commissioner Sherman and ANC Chair Gore informed the Task Force about a [letter](#) the ANC had sent to the Office of the Attorney General per the request of Commissioner Sherman and the Friends of the Field community group on January 17, 2023, asking for an opinion on an Advisory Neighborhood Commission's authority to enter into an agreement with a developer on a construction project located within the jurisdiction of the ANC.

Chair Gore told the Task Force that meetings, updates, and other Task Force intermediary activities could and should continue, but no official actions by the Task Force (such as recommending fines) could be taken until receiving the opinion.

The full ANC also discussed it at their community meeting on Monday 1/23/23. You can watch a recording of their meeting [here](#).

The Task Force then discussed the various ways they would be sharing info with the community including our webpage on the ANC 3/4 website. Commissioner Gore said she hoped to update it to look like the [Racial Social Equity Standing Committee page](#). The Task Force members agreed with this change and thanked her for her help.

The Task Force then moved to updates from the ECC, Maret and MCN Build.

ECC UPDATE

Stephanie Nash from the ECC reported that the ECC's construction project- which is not part of the Task Force's remit - is almost 75 percent done. She highlighted that the site was still an active construction zone and stressed the need for safety around the site.

MARET/MCN BUILD UPDATE

Trey Holloway from Maret gave an update on the newly updated Maret Construction page as a resource for the community. He mentioned that Maret and MCN were working to finalize the format of their construction update report which will start when construction begins on the site. Reports will include a look back, a look forward, and pictures of activity that has happened to date. He discussed plans for signage called for in the MOU, including permit boards, renderings of the completed project, and ways for community members to get more info.

Maret also asked to give a quick update on tree removal – despite the fact this issue isn't in the official remit of the Task Force – because they received lots of questions in the public forum about tree removal at the site. In the interest of informing the community, the Task Force allowed for a brief tree update. Maret stressed that they would be giving a more detailed update at the 1/23/23 full ANC Meeting plus were hosting a community [meeting](#) about the tree removal process on Tuesday 1/24/23.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TREE REMOVAL UPDATE

- Tree removal/tree transplantation will start around February 6 because it is critical to move trees before the spring to ensure successful transplants.
- Beginning in late February 2023, the tree transplant process will take 3 to 4 weeks. Four trees will be moved by EDI, a well-regarded Texas firm.
- Tree crews will enter via Nebraska Ave. They are not expected to use heavy equipment for the removal part of the process although there will be some digging and more consequential machinery needed for the tree transplant process.
- All necessary permits for tree removal have been approved and received from the Department of Urban Forestry
- Tree removal permits are independent of construction permits, issued by the BZA, Board of Zoning Adjustment. Tree work and construction are reviewed and approved by separate agencies, and DC does not treat either as dependent on the other.
- Final issuance of construction permits remains pending, although BZA voted unanimously in their April 2022 decision to approve the project.
- More info on the Tree Removal process can be found [here](#).

There were several questions from the Community regarding the trees, with tree removal commencing before all construction permits are finalized. This included a question from Commissioner Sherman about what would happen to the field if there was action like a lawsuit that deferred or stopped construction after the trees were removed. These questions were referred to the ANC 1/23 meeting and the Maret tree meeting on 1/24/23 because governmental action on permit approvals and litigation matters are outside the Task Force remit for construction operation impacts on the neighborhood.

The Task Force closed out the meeting with questions from the community received via the meeting RSVP form and via Chat. A transcript of those questions and the Chat has been posted to the Task Force website's document library. Some questions addressing how the Task Force was formed and appointed were referred to the full ANC 3/4G as the entity responsible for that process. Questions regarding who constituted proximate impacted neighbors for the purpose of receiving more direct communications were clarified by not assuming a restrictive street boundary. Questions about whether Maret was making a profit from renting the field out to local youth sports groups were answered by Trey Holloway, who responded that no profit would be generated and any use payments help to offset ongoing field maintenance. Finally, several questions about the underlying MOU were referred to the full ANC 3/4G.

The meeting concluded at 8:03 PM.

The next meeting of the ANC Field Task Force will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

While construction is happening on ECC buildings now, no work has begun on the ECC/Maret Field that the Task Force will be monitoring. Again, Maret has indicated that they expect to begin construction work within the purview of the Task Force likely to begin later in the first quarter of 2023. We will share more specific updates from Maret about those plans and timelines as soon as approvals are given to advance.

We are committed to working closely and transparently on behalf of the community. Below please find some important information about us and what the Task Force will be doing in the next month.

Mike Osborne & Jenny Backus, Task Force Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Task Force

HOW TO CONTACT US:

- Task Force email address - ancfieldtf@gmail.com
- Task Force webpage on the ANC 3/4G website (See link below)
- [ANC 3/4G Field Construction Task Force Community Question/Complaint Form](#) (Will also be linked to on the ANC3/4G Task Force webpage)

TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULE:

- **Our next public Task Force meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM EST. [Please RSVP here.](#)**
- All of our public meetings will be on Zoom and will be conducted in the same manner as Zoom meetings of the ANC.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2023 TASK FORCE MEETING:

- Welcome
- Update on Task Force work on MOU Framework
- Construction update from Maret/ECC/GC
- Questions from the Public

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY

[Maret Athletic Facilities Project Website](#) - Designed to provide updated information about the construction of the project to the community. Includes maps, timelines, and contact information for Maret's Construction Manager. Maret is mandated by the MOU to post updates to this site and the Task Force will be monitoring the site to ensure up-to-date info is being provided.

The MOU signed by the ANC and Maret is linked to the [Maret webpage](#). The MOU contains a detailed explanation of what the project is and is not and also includes important information about the use of the field once construction is completed. There has been a great deal of misinformation in the community about the project. Again, here's the link to the MOU through the ANC website:

<https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ANC-34G-Resolution-re-Maret-BZA-Case-No.-20643-2-28-22-FINAL.pdf>

The ANC created a dedicated page on its own website for the Task Force. Here's a link to that page. We will be working with ANC Chair Gore to make the page a bit more user-friendly in the next few weeks: 11

WHERE YOU CAN FIND FIELD TASK FORCE UPDATES

The Chevy Chase ListServ

Chevy Chase Chatter Facebook Group

Next Door

[ANC 3/4G Website on the ANC Field Task Force Page](#)

[Maret Athletic Facilities Project Page](#)

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES:

- The Task Force is designed to get questions and concerns from the community about the construction of the new field addressed quickly and efficiently by Maret/ECC/General Contractor (GC).
- The Task Force will conduct our work in a transparent manner with a focus on respectful listening and speaking.
- Working with the ECC, Maret, and the GC, we will provide factual information to the community quickly and transparently and work to ensure clear lines of communication between all parties involved.
- Through meetings of the Task Force and regular updates, we will keep the community apprised of how the work is going, what's coming next, and what, if any, concerns have been raised and how they are being addressed.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING:

- Developing a Framework to present to Maret/ECC/GC on how the Task Force will operate, including monitoring and acting on community questions and concerns around the construction. This is required by the MOU.
- Setting a regular briefing and public meeting schedule.
- Sharing accurate information about the project with the community on a timely basis.
- Ensuring citizen complaints are addressed and resolved in a timely manner.
- Holding Maret/ECC/GC accountable.
- Making recommendations to the ANC to levy fines if there's a violation of the MOU and resolution is not achieved, up to a total maximum of \$25,000 per the MOU.

WHAT WE WILL NOT BE DOING:

- Revisiting whether or not this project will happen – the BZA unanimously approved the project on April 9, 2022, following ANC unanimous support of the project with MOU and conditions in March 2022.
- Overseeing the parts of the MOU concerning future field use or traffic that is not related to the current construction phase; our mandate is solely to oversee the construction of the project and will cease operations two months after completion.
- Challenging any permits granted by a DC government agency concerning construction work at the Maret site.

