

ANC 3/4G FIELD TASK FORCE COMMUNITY UPDATE #3 - 2/17/2023

Hello Neighbors,

On Wednesday, February 15 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, the ANC 3/4G Field Task Force held our second public meeting via Zoom. Below is a quick summary of the meeting and the link & passcode to watch the Zoom recording are pasted below. We have also posted the transcript of the chat and the transcript of the questions we received in advance.

RECORDING OF MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/jDYVuqKt0pLnK3Y4U4cezoN2bbIIYBvdGRNBFBVFGAzj3Opmx5MkwNVJ8XcaG58S.-8fL8nM1NvGKRRCz>

Passcode: 9Wb@+UuJ

These materials are also posted on our ANC Field Task Force website page which can be found at

https://anc3g.org/task_forces/maret-school-ecc-sports-field/maret-school-ecc-sports-field-project-task-force/

MEETING SUMMARY

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

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 9 community members who RSVP'd via the RSVP form and 9-14 folks who joined on Zoom throughout the meeting.

The meeting opened with a brief hello from 3G03 Commissioner Jim Nash who was attending his first Task Force meeting. The Task Force Chair then discussed how all Task Force members have access to the ANC Task Force email, Google Drive, ANC Task Force Complaint Form web sheet tracker form which tracks questions and complaints, the RSVP meeting web sheet tracking form, and other resources so they can have awareness of what the community is talking about between meetings. The Co-Chairs talked about how they monitor those platforms on a daily basis. We stressed the importance of using these tools to log problems, questions, and interactions we received even if they are resolved quickly so that the whole Task Force could have awareness of issues and stressed the need to try and give each other a heads up if things were occurring on the site.

We then moved on to an update on the tree removal work by Maret. The Chair recognized that the tree removal work wasn't under the official remit of the Task Force but noted that the majority of complaints and comments and questions to date sent to the Task Force have been related to tree removal activity on the site. The Task Force decided to have questions about removal come at the end of the Maret briefing on the agenda.

MARET/MCN BUILD UPDATE

Trey Holloway of Maret opened their update by reintroducing Johnny Seikaly of MCN Build, the site manager for the Maret/ECC Field and a nonvoting member of the Task Force. Holloway then informed the Task Force that they expected the tree removal phase of the tree project to be completed by midday Thursday 2-16. He said the crews would then begin mulching the trees that have been taken down in the wood chipper and using that mulch to build access paths for the equipment which will be needed to transport the Heritage Trees. Trey said next week he expects the crews to haul any spoils from the site.

He also announced the DDOT and DOEE - two city agencies had visited the site before the work started and during the removal phase - had asked for some modifications to plans like using Super Silt Fencing to mark off some protected trees

which is higher and sturdier. He also talked about moving the signs with all the permits on them currently located on the field closer to Nebraska Ave. so folks could see them. Holloway and Seikaly mentioned that all relevant OSHA permits were posted on the back of the permitting signs so workers could see them. Commissioner Nash requested that photos be taken of those permits and notices and sent to the Task Force.

Trey also talked about an issue that arose earlier in the week when some of the tree crew removed some trees from the ECC property that were very close to the properties around Nebraska and 28th. They dropped branches from these trees in the yards of the neighbors and went in to clear debris without asking permission. He said he visited the property owners to apologize and he and MCN have stressed the importance of advance notice and seeking permission before anyone enters any private property.

Holloway and Seikaly then discussed outreach and unveiled a new construction progress report that they will be using to update the community. You can find the first Progress Report posted on Maret's ECC Construction Website. Here is the link to the web page <https://www.maret.org/athletics/proposed-new-fields-at-ecc/construction> and here is the link to the report https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1676553771/maret/ulycwsbebi2tk0trsxof/23-02-14_v3_ProgressReport.pdf

The Progress Report includes a look back, a look forward, and pictures of activity that has happened to date.

At the conclusion of their update, Holloway and Seikaly took questions pertaining to tree removal from the community.

TREE REMOVAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- A question was asked about why trees were cut down outside the property line in the Rittenhouse alley. Trey Holloway said that the trees were part of the tree removal permit that had been granted by the City and were removed to make it easier to transplant heritage trees to the northwest part of the property.
- A question was asked about whether it was safe to transplant the trees due to all this warm weather we have been having lately. Holloway said that they are following the advice and guidance of DOEE/Urban Forestry who have told Maret's tree transplant team that it was okay to move them. Maret has also sought the advice of their own arborist regarding transplantation, who has given them the green light.
- A question was asked about how many trees have been cut down. Trey reported that all but a few trees have been cut down and that all the cutting should be completed by Thursday 2/16.
- More info on the Tree Removal process can be found [here](#).
- Commissioner Sherman flagged that he had been contacted by one of the neighbors who had a tree branch fall in her yard and that it may have hit a tree on her property. She spoke with Maret/MCN and then with the Urban Forestry folks from the city who came out to her property and gave her some helpful advice which helped to resolve the situation.

Commissioner Sherman spoke about how hard it was for the neighbors to see the trees come down and the strong emotional ties that nearby residents have to the trees and the site. The Task Force acknowledged, supported, and recognized this reality. There was also discussion of the need to keep lines of communication open, be transparent about what is happening on the site, and for all parties – especially the Task Force – to be respectful of all opinions and understand that different people living in one community can have differing opinions.

The Task Force Chairs also stressed the importance of continuing the dialogue to ensure the success of the project.

ECC UPDATE

The Task Force then asked Stephanie Nash of the ECC if she wanted to do a quick update for the community on the ECC Construction. She reported that the ECC's construction project -- which is also not part of the Task Force's remit -- will reach the substantial completion stage in mid to late April. She and Commissioner Sherman also discussed some

vandalism that had occurred on the site. She will be sending an ECC update to the community in the next few days on these matters and more.

TASK FORCE FRAMEWORK

Task Force then discussed the need to complete a “Framework” for the ANC to have prior to the beginning of the construction phase of the field. Task Force members are working on a draft and hope to present a first version of the Framework at the next meeting which will be held on March 22nd. Commissioner Sherman asked the Task Force to think about the scope and depth of monitoring of the site and how the Task Force would work with and incorporate the monitoring and oversight that the City will do as part of their permitting and compliance work.

The Task Force closed out the meeting with questions from the community received via the meeting RSVP form, via the complaint form and via Chat. A transcript of those questions and the Chat has been posted to the Task Force website’s document library.

The meeting concluded at 7:58 PM.

The next meeting of the ANC Field Task Force will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM EST.

Thank you to all the community members who have submitted questions, sent comments, and attended the meetings, to the ECC and Maret/MCN build folks for reacting quickly to questions and concerns and to the ANC Commission Chair and 3/4G ANC Commissioners for their help, advice and guidance. We are committed to working closely and transparently on behalf of the community. Below please find some important information about us..

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 - https://anc3g.org/task_forces/maret-school-ecc-sports-field/maret-school-ecc-sports-field-project-task-force/
- [ANC 3/4G Field Construction Task Force Community Question/Complaint Form](#)

TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULE:

- **Our next public Task Force meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, March 22 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 MARCH 22, 2023 TASK FORCE MEETING:

- Welcome
- Construction update from Maret/ECC/GC
- Task Force MOU Framework Discussion
- Questions/Comments/Complaints from the Public

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY

The ANC created a [dedicated page on its own website for the Task Force](#).

https://anc3g.org/task_forces/maret-school-ecc-sports-field/maret-school-ecc-sports-field-project-task-force/

[Maret Athletic Facilities Project Website](#) - <https://www.maret.org/athletics/proposed-new-fields-at-ecc/construction>

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. They will post the latest [Progress Report](#) in the calendar section

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. 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>

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.