



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
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<http://www.anc3g.org> | YouTube: ANC3G

COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman, Secretary, 3/4G-03 - James Nash, 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Peter Lynch 3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Vice Chair 3/4G-07 - Zachary Ferguson, Treasurer

Regular Meeting
Minutes
June 10, 2024

00:00:21: Meeting called to order.

00:00:33: Commissioner introductions. Commissioners Ferguson, Lynch, Gosselin, Gore, Nash and Sherman in attendance. New tech aide Luis Chica is introduced.

00:04:03: Proposed changes to agenda: Commissioner Nash wants Transportation Committee report moved to later 8:00, Commissioner Sherman wants Maret resolution moved to next meeting to be able to focus on a possible resolution on the Lafayette field instead. Maret updates can be discussed during Maret Task Force report. Amended agenda passes, 6-0.

00:06:22: Consideration of consent agenda: meeting minutes and expenditures. Consent agenda passes 5-1. Ferguson abstains.

00:07:10: Resident forum.

(Commissioner Zeldin is online – participated in last two votes, but not recorded.)

00:10:05: DDOT presentation regarding bio-retention beds with Acting Director Kershbaum.

00:11:06: DDOT staffer Morvarid Ganjalizade presents Powerpoint on new guidelines for bio-retention beds:

- No bed longer than 40’.
- No more than one bed per block.

- DDOT will prioritize placing beds at intersections to minimize loss of parking and maximize traffic calming.
- Every residence will have at least one parking space.
- Beds will contain low-maintenance plantings. Maintenance guaranteed for two years by DDOT.

00:21:53: Chair Gore asks for clarity on beds planned for 28th St. Dir Kershbaum confirms they have been removed for this round.

00:23:03: Commissioner Ferguson complains that DDOT has failed to give ANC “great weight,” citing 2020 report by DC Auditor. Claims written response is required by DC Code. Dir Kershbaum notes that the total revamp of their original plan was entirely in response to ANC input.

00:26:05: Commissioner Nash decries the absence of any mention of 28th St. Morvarid explains the new guidelines they are using came out of considerations regarding 28th St, but later other considerations led to the complete removal of the 28th St beds.

00:29:16: Commissioner Lynch asks about the maintenance budget. Dir Kershbaum confirms DDOT will cover for two years, then maintenance will be the responsibility of DOEE.

00:30:44: Commissioner Zeldin asks about the placement of the new speed camera on Western, asks for it to be moved.

00:32:50: Commissioner Sherman notes his SMD has 26 bio-retention beds – more than any other SMD in 3/4G, and the beds are being well-maintained through a successful partnership with DOEE. Adequate maintenance is key to continued public support for the beds.

00:35:12: Commissioner Lynch presses for estimate of maintenance cost for beds in 3/4G – Morvarid pledges to get back to him.

00:37:23: Constituent comments on bioretention bed plans and adjustments:

- A constituent on 28th St, after confirming removal of the planned beds, thanks DDOT and the ANC for their advocacy and consideration.
- Another constituent on Chevy Chase Parkway applauds the new plan, asks for further study both on the effectiveness of the current beds and on new designs to answer climate change challenges.

Dir Kershbaum notes the current design is not experimental, but a proven tool used nationwide in a broader EPA effort. They have other tactics for more severe flooding.

00:40:52: Discussion and possible vote on proposed adjustments to the ANC April 25, 2024 resolution on the proposed rezoning of Upper Connecticut Avenue. Commissioner Gosselin provides background.

00:43:09: Commissioner Sherman notes the well documented preference in the community for lower building heights, and support for affordable housing but against over development. There is an opening to work with OP for a compromise position before June 13, otherwise the Zoning Commission is likely to embrace taller buildings.

00:47:19: Commissioner Zeldin supports the proposal as the best compromise. Every bidder he has spoken to can produce substantial affordable housing within a 65’ height limit.

00:47:57: Commissioner Lynch is opposed to anything more than 40% lot coverage.

00:48:54: Commissioner Nash also opposes more than 40% lot coverage.

00:49:47: Commissioner Ferguson focuses on affordable housing and claims Chevy Chase has provided zero units towards District goals. He notes family homelessness is up 39% and OP has already compromised on height.

00:53:27: Commissioner Zeldin confirms with Commissioner Gosselin that every developer they met with affirmed that 60' with 60% lot coverage would result in more open space than currently exists at the site, due to parking being moved underground.

00:54:12: Commissioner Gosselin agrees, noting the proposed changes would adjust benefits up not down. He claims objections are based on bad comparisons.

00:56:20: Commissioner Lynch offers a friendly amendment calling for 40% lot coverage, which is declined by Commissioners Gosselin and Sherman.

00:57:52: Constituents comments:

- There would be no loss of open space.
- New housing is more likely to be market-rate than affordable, thereby.
- Open space is not green space. The community wants to preserve grass and trees, not concrete.
- ANC has ignored the recent survey on issues of green space.
- Privatization of public land, upzoning, and any housing of any kind at the Commons site are unwarranted.
- Many residents opposed upzoning at the May 23 Zoning Commission hearing.
- A lawsuit is pending against both ZC Chairman Anthony Hood and Mayor Bowser.

01:04:24: Commissioner Gosselin calls for the vote.

01:06:03: Roll call vote on amending Commission's position on zoning amendments: Commissioners Zeldin, Gosselin, Sherman vote yes, Commissioners Nash, Lynch and Ferguson vote no, Chair Gore abstains. Motion fails to carry.

01:07:23: Discussion of ANC website. Commissioner Gosselin proposes hiring Maan Sacdalan to upgrade ANC's WordPress website and migrate all existing content to new site. Sacdalan provides brief report. New site will be more user friendly and easier to access. Cost would be \$10,000. Proposal approved, 7-0.

01:12:18: Discussion and possible vote on Lafayette resolution. DC Council will take up temporary legislation tomorrow. Commissioner Sherman reads the resolution. DGS has repeatedly failed to respond to calls by Councilmember Lewis-George to engage the community.

01:14:28: Commissioner Lynch supports the resolution but asks for additional language to urge the city to move in the direction of natural grass whenever possible, and to add staff to properly maintain grass fields. Commissioner Sherman is okay with proposed changes.

01:14:56: Commissioner Ferguson will abstain as he had insufficient notice of the proposed resolution.

01:15:11: Commissioner Gosselin notes the objections to artificial turf but has not had time to look into the matter. He is concerned the city budget doesn't have money to maintain natural grass.

01:15:38: Commissioner Sherman notes the new resolution is only reiterating what the ANC has twice resolved. He moves for this additional resolution as its timing could have impact.

01:16:39: Commissioner Nash is in favor and asks for a vote.

01:16:57: Vote on further Lafayette field resolution: approved 4-0-3, yes (Sherman, Nash, Zeldin, Lynch) abstentions (Gosselin, Gore, Ferguson).

01:17:36: Discussion and possible vote on sidewalk installation along eastern side of 6200 block of 32nd place NW. Citizens have been asking for sidewalks to fill the gaps for three years: there is no continuous sidewalk on either side of the street, but the eastern side currently has several isolated pieces of sidewalk. Residents along the entire eastern side support the sidewalk.

01:21:25: Commissioner Zeldin clarifies that the street is currently scheduled to get a sidewalk in the summer of 2025. Constituents are asking the ANC to press for an earlier date.

01:22:55: Commissioner Gosselin notes the new formula for determining priorities for new sidewalks is causing difficulty across the city and in his own SMD.

01:25:04: Vote on sidewalk resolution, approved, 7-0.

01:25:22: Discussion and possible vote on resolution concerning WMATA Better Bus Proposal.

Commissioner Nash clarifies his resolution is not yet written but will follow the lines of the ANC's 2023 resolution. He asks Commissioners to review that resolution and communicate to him any objections or changes. WMATA's proposal will extend the bus desert in time and space: the E4 route will move south to Military and there will be no weekend service. Proposed changes need to be considered in the context of changes proposed for Connecticut Avenue.

01:28:33: Transportation Committee member Michaela Platzer reports M4 will remain the same except there will be no added service during rush hour. The loss of the E6 will be permanent.

01:29:52: Commissioner Nash complained of changes and was told they are all based on data. The neighborhood does not have the ridership to maintain current bus service.

01:31:14: One constituent notes workers at Knollwood rely on bus service and need to be considered.

01:32:08: RASE Committee member Libby Martin offers video on Undesigning the Redline, but there are technical difficulties.

01:35:03: Transportation Committee report. At recent CAC meeting (?) Connecticut Avenue was discussed. Left-turn lanes will be added. There are currently 650 parking spaces. There will be 550 with the new turn lanes. Concept C would have reduced the number to 350. The avenue will have two lanes of traffic in each direction at rush hour. Buses may be given priority.

01:37:52: A constituent objects to the membership on the Transportation Committee. The issue was tabled for future discussion.

01:40:25: Maret Task Force report. Co-chair Jenny Backus lists issues likely to be discussed at Wednesday's (June 12) Task Force meeting.

01:42:55: Meeting adjourns.

Lisa Gore, Chair

Bruce Sherman, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Sherman', positioned above a horizontal line.
