

	ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA <i>CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK • MASSACHUSETTS AVE. HEIGHTS</i> <i>MCLEAN GARDENS • WOODLEY PARK</i>
Single Member District Commissioners 01-Dia Black; 02-Deborah Jane Lindeman; 03-Stephanie Zobay 04-Avram Fechter; 05-Bruce Beckner; 06-Trudy Reeves 07-Sheila Hogan; 08-Catherine May; 09-Nancy MacWood	2737 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20008 TEL 202/232-2232 • FAX 202/232-0667 Email anc3cmail@gmail.com Listserv http://groups.yahoo.com/group/anc3cgroup Website http://www.anc3c.org

Minutes
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C
August 21, 2006 Public Meeting
Second District Police Station
7:30PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Nancy MacWood called to order Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C (ANC3C's) regular monthly meeting for August 21, 2006 at 7:33 p.m. The meeting was held in the community room at the Second District Police Station, 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Other commissioners present included, Dia Black, Bruce Beckner, Sheila Hogan, and Catherine May. Pending establishment of quorum, the Chair decided to proceed with introduction of and discussion with Commander Solberg.

II. VERIFICATION OF NOTICE

Chair MacWood verified that the proper notice was published in the Northwest Current and posted on the Cleveland Park list serve, the Woodley Park list serve, and the ANC3C website.

III. Introduction of Commander Andy Solberg, Second District Police Station (Andrew.solberg@dc.gov)

Commander Solberg assured everyone that the officers in our area were "top notch", but warned those present to know their community and alert the police should anything look "suspicious." Call 311 in a non-emergency (not a crime in progress); call 911 for a non emergency. Commissioner Lindeman noted that you cannot call 311 on your cell phone.

Commissioners asked that the police be more vigilant in enforcing blocked driveways and reporting to the towing unit at Dept. of Public Works, in ticketing trucks that violate truck restrictions on neighborhood streets, and in enforcing traffic rules at public schools when school opens. Commander Solberg said he would and asked commissioners to send him detailed information about locations where infractions are occurring or where more enforcement is necessary.

In response to a question, Solberg clarified the laws about parking distances in some areas: between 10 pm and 7 am you cannot park w/in 25 ft of intersection. During the day you cannot park w/in 40 ft. That means you get a few extra spaces at night. Solberg reviewed the crime statistics in the area. Stats can be found on the web at www.mpdc.dc.gov. In the past 30 days, compared to 2005, Public Service Area (PSA) 204 has 13% more crime; from year to date, we are down 3%. Although crime is down overall, there has been a recent surge in past 30 days, largely due to theft. He cautioned everyone to take measures to protect their belongings, including: lock up your bikes, secure your

laptops even at work, watch your purses and wallets at restaurants, always lock your door, and don't leave things in your car.

Inspector Solberg responded to the recent Georgetown robbery and indicated that police are investigating whether or not the recent incidents are connected to anything else.

Solberg responded to questions from the audience. Commissioner Reeves asked if the ANC could have an office in the police station. Inspector Solberg denied the request.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

At 7:35, Commissioner Trudy Reeves arrived; and at 7:40 Commissioner Lindeman arrived. At 8:07 p.m. Chair MacWood acknowledged that a quorum had been established. Commissioners Fechter and Zobay were absent.

V. Approval of Agenda

Chair MacWood moved for approval of the following agenda:

- a. Presentation of plans to occupy public space at site of former Park Bench Pub, Connecticut Avenue and Ordway Street
- b. Consideration of a resolution regarding text amendments approved by the Zoning Commission that would allow charter or traditional public schools to locate in residential zone districts if they meet land area and frontage requirements, or if they include 16 or fewer students
- c. Presentation by Sidwell Friends School of plans to landscape the Quebec Street frontage

VI. Announcements

DC public schools are having a beautification day on Saturday, August 26 from 8-1 pm; public schools will open on August 28th.

VII. Community Forum

Audience members, Ginger Hubbard and husband, raised their concerns about the St. Sophia Greek Festival. They stated that DCRA has given permits to the festival even though their permit applications have been flawed. DC regulations require festival applicants to get 90% of neighborhood approval; they asserted that St. Sophia has regularly failed to get the necessary signatures. For example, in 2005 festivals, of 81 residences needed, they had 27 signatures. She also raised concerns about transparency, as the festival did not post their permit, and lack of communication, because festival leaders put off her request for a meeting. Hubbard submitted copies of all public records and her correspondence.

Commissioner May has been working on this issue, with both Ms. Hubbard and St. Sophia's. She mentioned that the 90% rule is a recognized problem; honored in the breach as in the observance, and that the DCRA is aware of this and is examining whether 90% is a reasonable percentage. At this point, the Greek Festival is on hold for the Fall. On a separate matter, the church has agreed to rehabilitate 3 houses that it owns in the area.

Paul Cunningham, President of Massachusetts Avenue Heights Community Association voiced his support of the festival and Commissioner May's work. Thanks to May's efforts, he said, festival has fixed their garbage problem and has gotten better policing. Assuming St. Sophia remains cooperative, he supports the continuance of the festival. Chair MacWood commented that there are often two perspectives: those who live on top of the activity and those who enjoy it, but can leave it.

Commissioner May identified two issues, safety and trash, which has soured St. Sophia's relationship with their neighbors, and what the church has done to address those legitimate concerns. For example, they hired a nine-man security force; hired a visible trash management team; made sweeps through the neighborhood to get trash; and spent time getting dumpsters moved

Commissioner May acknowledged that there have been problems with the festival and added that she is having another meeting with St. Sophia's in September. She believes that the neighborhood's long-term interest is to work through these issues with the church and that the movement is in the right direction. It is her understanding that there is not going to be a festival in the fall.

Chair MacWood concluded by stating that the Commission would discuss how best to address the permitting issues with DCRA.

VIII. Commission Business

a. Presentation of plans to occupy public space at site of former Park Bench Pub, Connecticut Avenue and Ordway Street. Presenting: David Metzner, business owner, and Maurice Evans.

Metzner and Evans presented plans to build an enclosed outdoor café with full service family restaurant. The structure (9 ft high; 22 ft wide; 64 ft long) would have rollup aluminum sides with glass windows and a tin roof. It would seat 40 people, with heating in winter and open air in summertime. It would have a service bar and would be connected to the kitchen via an underground walkway. The owner verified that he had applied for a public space permit but that the application had not been accepted pending an indication from the ANC that it would be willing to consider such an application at a later date.

Chair MacWood read the resolution on behalf of Commissioner Fechter, Commissioner May seconded. Commissioner Beckner moved a substitute amendment that reflected the absence of a filed application and the request from the Public Space Office for an indication of ANC willingness to consider such an application. Commissioner Lindeman seconded. **Substitute amendment to support the concept of a sidewalk café was approved 7-0-0 as follows:**

Commissioner Beckner - yes
Commissioner Black - yes
Commissioner Lindeman - yes
Commissioner May - yes

Chair MacWood - yes
Commissioner Reeves - yes
Commissioner Hogan - yes

The resolution as amended by the substitute amendment was approved by a vote of 7-0-0 as follows:

Commissioner Beckner - yes
Commissioner Black - yes
Commissioner Lindeman - yes
Commissioner May - yes

Chair MacWood - yes
Commissioner Reeves - yes
Commissioner Hogan - yes

b. Chair MacWood moved a resolution commenting on text amendments approved by the Zoning Commission that would allow charter or traditional public schools to locate as a matter of right in residential zone districts if they meet land area and frontage requirements, or if they include 16 or fewer students. Commissioner Lindeman seconded. Chair MacWood explained that this is a land use issue—using zoning to deal with a schools issue. MacWood's resolution urged the Zoning Commission to rescind the provisions and conduct more hearings that would evaluate the affect on residential zone districts and whether the proposals were warranted. **The resolution was adopted 7-0-0 as follows:**

Commissioner Beckner - yes
Commissioner Black - yes

Commissioner Lindeman - yes
Commissioner May - yes

Chair MacWood - yes
Commissioner Reeves - yes

Commissioner Hogan - yes

C. Presentation by Sidwell Friends School of plans to landscape the Quebec Street frontage.
Presenting: Mike Saxenian

Mr. Saxenian reviewed plans to use some shrubs and replace current fence with black chain link on Quebec Street. He would also ask city to repair sidewalk. He emailed the plans to the neighbors as requested, but had not received any comments from them because they are on vacation. Sidwell suggested use of trumpet honeysuckle vines, because other vines are invasive. Chair MacWood also noted that the vines on Wisconsin in front of parking need to cover the fence on Wisconsin during the winter so that the parking garage is never visible from the street or sidewalk.

Commissioner May suggested that Saxenian provide more details at the September meeting.

Commissioner Lindeman raised concerns about the emergency exit on Quebec. Saxenian explained that the existing gate has to be widened to make it compliant as an emergency exit. Lindeman asked for a copy of the application for widening the exit. Commissioner Beckner suggested that if Sidwell wants to use the exit as a service entrance only they should get temporary no parking signs when they need access to their property rather than eliminate permanently public parking spaces.

Commissioner Beckner asked Saxenian to investigate alternative locations to satisfy the Fire Dept's requirement that the school have 2 emergency access points. Beckner also asked about the construction schedule. Saxenian was confident the school would open on time due to the approved extended construction hours. He noted that the Vice President of the construction management company (JFW) has been on-site and has given the Construction Liaison Committee daily reports and has done some enforcement.

IX. SMD and/or Committee Reports

Commissioner May reported that construction projects for cornerstone projects at Cathedral are going off with no complaints so far.

Chair MacWood reported that the Giant website is up. Street Works developed website to show concepts to develop the area.

Commissioner May revisited the discussion about the St. Sophia Greek Festival. She suggested that ANC ask DCRA for a general response to the problems with permits—being general would be more affective and likely to generate a response. Commissioner Lindeman thought that the commission should ask some specific questions about a lot of things. Commissioner May and Chair MacWood decided to discuss the issue and distribute a response.

X. Adjournment

Chair moved to adjourn. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

The next meeting of ANC 3C will be Monday, Sept. 18, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Second District Police Station.