



## **ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E**

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

c/o Lisner Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015

### Minutes of ANC 3E October 14, 2010 Meeting

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Lucy Eldridge, Beverly Sklover, Sam Serebin and Matthew Frumin were present.

#### **Announcements**

Commissioner Bender announced that the next public meeting of the Rock Creek West 2 Livability Study would be held on October 20, 2010 at the Chevy Chase Community Center. He explained that the Livability study could make recommendations regarding important transportation issues in the ANC 3E and residents should consider participating so that their voices could be heard.

#### **Open Forum:**

Peter Carlson of Brandywine Street, NW, explained to the Commission that the charge imposed on his property by the DC Water and Sewer Authority (“DC WASA”) for “impervious surfaces” was slated to go up 500% which, in turn, would result in a 33% increase in his overall water bill. He noted that all water bills were slated to go up to accommodate changes in the charge for impervious surfaces, the funds from which are to be used to address regional storm water run-off issues. Mr. Carlson, who is an expert in water policy, explained that he did not understand the rationale for the methodology used to apply the new charge to individual properties. He urged that the Commission look into this

issue as he expected others would have questions as they received water bills with significantly higher charges than they were used to.

Commissioner Sklover thanked Mr. Carlson for his report and suggested that he also contact Councilmember Mary Cheh and the Office of the People's Counsel. Commissioner Bender suggested that the Commission consider inviting a representative of DC WASA to come to the next ANC 3E meeting to discuss the change. Commissioner Frumin noted that another aspect of the issue is that Mr. Carlson had invested significantly on his property to address storm water issues and the new charges did not take into account any of those investments. The Commissioners agreed to assist Mr. Carlson in bringing the issue to the attention of Councilmember Cheh and to look into having a DC WASA representative at a future meeting.

Sintia Petrosian, a local realtor and member of St. Mary's Church, where ANC 3E meetings are held, reported that the church had an unfortunate incident surrounding its recent festival. After securing a proper permit from DCRA to hang a banner advertising its festival, the church was informed by DCRA that, despite its initial issuance, the banner was in violation of DC Code requirements. The church was told that the issue had been raised by a local ANC member and that the person had raised the issue with Councilmember Cheh and the Mayor's offices. In response, DCRA revoked the church's permit for the banner and froze its ability to secure other permits until the matter was resolved. Ms. Petrosian said she had come to understand that the complaint about the banner did not emanate from ANC 3E, but asked that ANC 3E help the church sort this out.

Commissioner Frumin apologized for the inconvenience caused by the episode, thanked her and the church for the generosity they had shown to ANC 3E by allowing them to use the church for meetings over the years and assured Ms. Petrosian that ANC 3E would do what it could to get the matter resolved. Commissioner Eldridge volunteered to look into the matter and clear it up.

### **Report of the Second District Police**

MPO Shannon Williams described the most serious crimes in PSA 202 since the last ANC 3E meeting on September 23, 2010. In that period, the only violent crime reported was a sex abuse case that related to events that occurred two years ago. In the same period last year there were 4 violent crimes in the PSA. There were 22 property crimes this year between September 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup> this year, compared to 43 last year. Year to date there have been 40 violent crimes in the PSA compared to 39 last year, and 378 property crimes compared to 469 last year.

MPO Williams stressed that the issue they were most concerned about now was burglaries as there has been an increase in such crimes in the area generally, perhaps because of the run up to the Christmas holidays. She explained that the modus operandi appeared to be that the burglars would drive to the head of an alley and then check the houses in the alley looking for an open door or window late at night or early in the morning. She indicated that PSA 202 was working hard to resolve these crimes and make arrests but that that had not yet happened. She urged residents yet again to lock their doors and windows and call the police if they see anything suspicious.

A member of the audience suggested that residents should avoid announcing on Facebook when they will be away. She explained while close friends would not use that information to commit a crime, others with access to the information on Facebook might. Sergeant Harry Hayes suggested that residents not put empty boxes from newly purchased electronic equipment with their trash as such boxes tend to serve as an advertisement to burglars.

Another member of the audience asked about what he perceived to be an increase in crime particularly violent crime recently. Commissioner Frumin explained that violent crime generally was not up compared to last year and property crime was down. He reported though that when he discussed the issue with Lieutenant Hill, Lieutenant Hill expressed ongoing concern about crime and in particular about episodes where either burglaries or robberies or both have been up for particular periods. Commissioner Frumin noted that there was a period when robberies were up in the Spring and Lieutenant Hill and his team aggressively and successfully worked to address the increase. There was a similar issue regarding burglaries earlier in the year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District worked hard to address it. And, now again, burglaries are up and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District officers are working to address that. Finally, Commissioner Frumin noted that the number of crimes in which guns were used was up this year which was an issue of significant concern. Commissioner Bender pointed out that he and Commissioner Serebin had advocated for PSA 202 to receive additional officers and that there was some indication that that would happen soon if it had not already happened.

**Agenda:**

Presentation by OPEFM on Janney Modernization Project

Tony Robinson of the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (“OPEFM”) introduced the Janney Project and team. Mel Butler of OPEFM described the general layout of the school and approaches to site security, including the installation of sixty-six cameras as a means of providing surveillance to protect against crime and vandalism.

Barbara Lurie of Devroux & Purnell architects walked through the plans for the school. Commissioner Sklover asked Ms. Lurie why the artificial turf soccer field was not placed by the library and whether that was to allow for a public private partnership to place apartments or condominiums above the library and on the field. Ms. Lurie said that they had simply been instructed not to build on that portion of the lot. Mr. Butler explained that while OPEFM had no position on whether or not such a project should ever go forward, they viewed their role as protecting Janney no matter what might happen in the future and that militated in favor of placing the turf field in the location chosen. He also said that a larger field, one that comports with generally recognized specifications for children of the relevant ages, could fit in the location chosen, but because of the trees on the site by the library would not fit there.

Chuck Gunther of Winmar-Dustin provided a report on progress with construction. He indicated they hoped to get the addition under roof by January 2011 and completed by August 2011. He said that they expected to begin work on the underground parking garage in March 2011 and complete the full project in August 2011. He noted that some time in the coming weeks or months they would be doing work on utilities which would result in additional disruptions

on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and perhaps Albemarle. He said they would work to minimize those disruptions but they were inevitable.

Maren Siegel of Yuma Street asked what the plans were for play space while the construction was occurring. She noted that older children were playing on what had been the old parking lot but that was unsafe. She asked whether it could be modified to make for a safer playspace. Mr. Gunther explained since much of the area was to be converted into an underground garage in a few months, modifying it now did not make sense. It was suggested that finding workable play space was in the purview of the school administrators as opposed to the builders.

A resident of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street noted there were concerns about crime in the area behind the school and asked what was being done to police it. Mr. Butler explained that there was a police car posted there after school until the after-school programs were completed but that after dark there was not. He noted that after the construction was completed cameras would provide surveillance. Commissioner Bender asked who would monitor those cameras. Mr. Butler said an office at DCPS dedicated to school security.

Judy Downey of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Elizabeth Legrain of Yuma Street expressed concern about the placement of the soccer field so close to their homes. Tony Robinson of OPEFM said he thought it unlikely the field would be used for organized weekend games. Commissioner Serebin asked why it was different to have a soccer field next to their fence then a playground. Ms. Downey and Ms. Legrain said they expected to have much more noise from the soccer field. Commissioner Frumin said that he was not persuaded that the difference was

significant and suggested perhaps any issues could be managed through operation of the field – not allowing games in certain hours – and buffering. Mr. Robinson said operational issues were not covered by OPEFM but they would explore buffering options as they had at Deal Middle School with the neighbors on Fessenden. Ms. Downey asked if any other school in Upper Northwest had a field so close to residences. Mr. Robinson said that none to his knowledge did, but said the field at Oyster Elementary School abutted an apartment building.

John Richotte of 37<sup>th</sup> Street asked for information regarding the Environmental Impact Statement suggesting the one posted covered only the process of construction but not the impact of the resulting building. Ms. Lurie said that it in fact covered both.

David Frankel of Garrison Street asked if OPEFM had seen a study by Jair Lynch regarding potential mixed use projects on the library site and portions of the Janney field. He noted that he had made a Freedom of Information Act request for that document and not been provided it. Messrs. Robinson and Butler said they had not seen it.

#### Vote on Grant Application by the Cultural Tourism DC

This application had been presented at the ANC 3E April 2010 meeting. Cultural Tourism DC representatives, Maggie Downing (Project Associate) and Leon Seeman (Deputy Director) offered to answer any follow-up questions.

Commissioner Bender urged that in the event the launch earned more revenue in grants and advertising than the costs associated with it, that before Cultural

Tourism DC kept the excess revenue, it return granted funds to ANC 3E. Mr. Seeman said that he thought securing such a surplus was extremely unlikely but agreed that Cultural Tourism DC would refund any portion of the granted amount not used for distribution of the pamphlet or other unfunded qualifying expenses up to the amount of such a surplus.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to provide \$395 to pay for a full page advertisement in the flyer for the launch event and \$1605 as a grant to be used in the first instance to fund distribution of the educational pamphlet for the trail and if there were an any remaining funds that they would be used to fund other qualifying unfunded elements of the launch event.

#### Annual Presentation by Georgetown Day School

Russell Shaw, the new Head of School at Georgetown Day School (“GDS”), gave a report recounting the history of GDS and describing its recent contributions to the community. Commissioner Sklover asked if he could report on the agreement GDS had made to provide a scholarship to a student from the ANC 3E area. Mr. Shaw reported that GDS provided four full scholarships to children from ANC 3E. Commissioner Serebin asked if GDS was providing access to its field for Janney during the modernization. Mr. Shaw reported it would. Commissioner Sklover thanked him but noted it was also a commitment GDS had made at the time its enrollment cap was increased.

Commissioner Bender asked what GDS planed to do to prevent a recurrence of the kind of incident that occurred earlier this year in which disturbances at a GDS concert required police from three districts to break up. Mr. Shaw indicated that they were working closely with both Deputy Police Chief

Groomes and Lieutenant Hill of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District to insure that no such issues would arise in the future and any future dances would be limited to two schools and no tickets would be sold at the door. Commissioner Bender asked whether GDS would commit to notify the police in advance of any further go-go concerts. Principal Kevin Barr replied that GDS would do so.

A nearby resident reported that GDS parents and students frequently parked in the Safeway parking lot. GDS Community Relations representative Rahel Rosner said that that was in violation of GDS policy, that GDS provided parking to parents and students and urged that a resident call her to let her know if and when it happened in the future. The resident suggested that it was a common occurrence and said she would point it out to GDS.

Commissioner Frumin thanked GDS again for providing access to its theater for the Wilson High School 24 Hour Plays. He also noted that while he appreciated that GDS had adhered to the agreement to provide scholarship funding for students in the ANC 3E area, he had not been enthusiastic about that condition associated with the enrollment cap increase because he hoped children from the local community would attend the local public schools and more room would be available at GDS for children from other parts of the City. Commissioner Eldridge noted her disapproval of her ANC colleagues' effort in January 2009 to require that GDS deliver certain financial and non-financial benefits to the community in order to secure ANC 3E approval of its request to increase the high school enrollment cap.

### Resolution on Proposed Changes to N8 Bus Route

Commissioner Frumin presented a resolution on the N8 bus explaining that while WMATA had presented options for changes to the bus line, part of what had been announced as agreed to at the most recent WMATA Board meeting – terminating the N8 at the Tenleytown Metro Station instead of the Van Ness-UDC one, had never been proposed. He explained, however, that the materials from the Board meeting could be interpreted to indicate that the change to the N8 was not explicitly considered by the Board at that meeting. Commissioner Frumin noted that the change significantly diminished the utility of the bus for Wilson kids during the year the school is located at UDC while the building is being modernized.

Commissioner Frumin acknowledged that there had been a push by neighbors on Yuma to eliminate the portion of the line on the street but that WMATA had chosen instead to limit service to 6:00 am to 8:00 pm and reduce service in off-peak times. Maren Siegel of Yuma Street urged again that ANC 3E call for elimination of the line on Yuma Street arguing it was unsafe and under-utilized. John Wheeler of Yuma Street expressed similar concerns.

Commissioner Frumin's resolution did not ask for elimination of the line on Yuma. Commissioner Sklover proposed a friendly amendment g calling for re-evaluating the N8 line. Commissioner Frumin accepted the amendment. Commissioner Bender suggested another friendly amendment to ask WMATA to do what ANC 3E had originally asked which was to conduct a hearing focused on the N8. Commissioner Frumin accepted the amendment. As amended, the resolution passed unanimously.

### Presentation of Grant Application by Wilson Crew

Stephen McCreary and Marc Pfeiffer of the Wilson Crew Boosters presented an application for grant funds to help purchase a new boat for the Wilson Crew team. Mr. Pfeiffer explained that Wilson Crew had been in existence for 25 years and served thousands of kids exposing them to the sport of rowing. He explained the team tries to purchase a new boat every couple of years and sells the boat it replaces. This year the Crew team hopes to purchase a four person boat which it expects will cost between \$16,000 and \$28,000 depending on the quality of the boat and if it is new or used. Mr. Pfeiffer explained they hoped to raise at least \$5,000 for the purchase at a fundraiser in November this year and \$9,000 from ANC 3E, 3F and 3G combined and finance the balance.

Commissioner Bender, noting ANC 3E grants are supposed to benefit ANC 3E residents, asked how many ANC 3E residents participated in the Crew program. Mr. Pfeiffer explained there were approximately 800 alumni of the Wilson Crew program in the last 10 years and that proximately one quarter of them were from ANC 3E. Mr. McCreary explained the ratio partly drove the idea of seeking equal grants from ANC 3E, 3F and 3G which all contribute a significant number of kids to the program with the remaining kids in the program coming from other parts of the City and other DCPS schools (since the Wilson program is open to any DCPS student.)

Commissioner Frumin explained that under the process, the presentation was made at this meeting and a vote on the grant would occur at the next one.

Vote on Requests for Special Exceptions for 5009 and 5011 Belt Road

Commissioner Eldridge introduced a resolution to approve the request for a special exception that was presented by applicants Jon Lemoine and Ari Zentner at the last meeting. Since the time of the last meeting, ANC 3E was provided with written support for the project by the adjacent neighbor, which support ANC 3E stated it wanted to see before voting on the request. The resolution passed unanimously.

**ANC Business**

The Commissioners approved the September financial report unanimously.

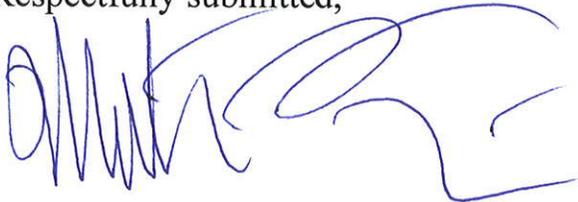
The Commissioners approved the September minutes unanimously.

The Commissioners approved payment of Diana Winthrop's invoice for the period from September 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 13<sup>th</sup> for \$250.00 unanimously and payment was made by check number 1277.

The Commissioners approved the FY 2010 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report and a revision to the FY 2010 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Frumin, Chair