

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Cathedral Heights · Cleveland Park · Massachusetts Ave. Heights · McLean Gardens · Woodley Park

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Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy MacWood called to order Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C (ANC 3C's) regular monthly meeting for June 21, 2004 at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was held in the community room at the Second District Police Station, 3320 Idaho Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Other commissioners present were Allen Hahn, Sheila Hogan, Sally MacDonald, Nancy Nord, Trudy Reeves, John Welsh and Kurt Vorndran.

II. VERIFICATION OF NOTICE

Chair MacWood verified that the proper notice was published in the *Northwest Current* and posted on the Cleveland Park listserv and ANC 3C web site.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Chair MacWood acknowledged that a quorum (at least five members of the commission) was present. Chair MacWood asked the commissioners to introduce themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair MacWood called for approval of the month's agenda. She removed consideration of a resolution regarding minor amendments to the Sidwell Friends Construction Management Plan from the agenda. Other items on the agenda were re-arranged so that the shorter items would be presented first. The agenda was unanimously approved without objection.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair MacWood asked if the commissioners had any announcements.

It was announced that the Ward 3 Democratic Committee would meet in the Great Hall of St. Columba's Church located at 4201 Albemarle Street, NW, on June 22, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss electricity price increases. Councilman Phil Mendelson was also planning to attend.

Chair MacWood announced the opportunity to meet with MPD 2D's prosecution team on June 23, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

Victoria Nan from the DC EMS Awareness Outreach Committee asked for support for D.C. Council bill 15-0836, introduced by Council Member Chavis and co-sponsored by Council Member Schwartz, to establish the District of Columbia Emergency Medical Services Agency as a separate administrative unit within the executive office of the Mayor. Ms. Nan introduced Kenny Lyons, president of the American Federation of Government Employees' Union local that represents firefighters and EMS employees. Mr. Lyons provided an overview of the District of Columbia's EMS capabilities. He indicated that they were losing employees to surrounding localities and explained that their budget had been cut by the fire chief. EMS was allocated \$28 million in the budget, but received only \$10 million. He further explained that the fire chief had hired 90 fire fighters since the beginning of 2004 but only 7 paramedics. Mr. Lyons indicated that his group studied the EMS operations in other major cities and found that these other cities have moved away from the concept of the "Dual

Role Cross Training System.” In summary, he stated that the system of dispatching units to cover emergency situations is flawed nearly to the point of collapse and noted that, in Ward 3, there is only one ambulance service.

Mr. Walker of the Fire Department expressed his support Mr. Lyons’ statements and then expanded, indicating that the city’s ambulances were in poor condition and dirty, that the department had not been provided with the training mandated following September 11, 2001 and that, although the city had received an \$80 million federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security, they are still operating at less than 60 percent of efficiency. The money has not been used for its stated mission and, in fact, the previous Deputy Mayor indicated, when questioned, that she was not obligated to provide an accounting for the expenditure of the funds.

The presentation was received with much enthusiasm by the attendees and many questions were asked, both by the commissioners and attendees.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair MacWood introduced a request by the owners of 3300 Cathedral Avenue for a BZA special exception for a renovation that runs two inches over their zoned allowance into their back yard. The item was posted on ANC 3C’s web site and no comments were received. Accordingly, the request was unanimously approved by all commissioners.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS

a. Chair MacWood introduced an application for a curb cut at 3515 Lowell Street, NW. The architect for Fairmont Developers presented an overview of the project, to which the Commissioners had no objection. Chair MacWood moved for approval of the application. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0-1, with Commissioner MacDonald abstaining due to her absence from the room at the time of the vote.

b. Commissioner Vorndran introduced a request by the owner of 2606 Connecticut Avenue, NW for installation of a pay phone. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0-1, with Commissioner MacDonald abstaining due to her absence from the room at the time of the vote.

c. Commissioner Nord introduced a resolution supporting Bill 15-0210, which was introduced by DC Councilmembers Patterson and Evans. Commissioner Nord read her proposed resolution, which asked that the assessment process be reviewed so that allowances are made for properties where no improvements have been made. Commissioner Nord explained that the DC Office of Assessments has requested seven additional assessors; council members feel there should be fourteen additional assessors.

Commissioners stated that the city has several methods at its disposal to make the process more equitable, such as reviewing permit applications. However, the appeal process is cumbersome and places a burden on the homeowners to prove that they did not improve their property and that the assessment is wrong in order to obtain a roll-back of the increase. Commissioner Hogan shared that the process of appeal is one year. Therefore, if the city has not completed the paperwork within that year, the roll back is not likely to take place unless the owner re-files, even though the paperwork may have been timely filed.

Peter Espensheid indicated that the city’s determination to assess on an annual basis is unwieldy and not feasible to implement. He noted that other cities assess on a three-year basis and some even use a ten-year basis. If the city returned to three-year assessments, the number of assessors would, effectively, be tripled, since only one-third of the properties would be assessed in a particular year.

The question was called. Commissioner Nord moved approval of the resolution. Commissioner Welsh seconded. **Resolution 2004-019 was approved by a unanimous vote of 8-0.**

d. Commissioner Hogan introduced a resolution opposing residential parking aligned by neighborhood clusters. The resolution specifically opposed paragraph 4.4.1., "Short-Term Recommendations" contained in the Major's Parking Taskforce Report dated December 2003. This report recommends that the "current ward-based residential parking program (RPP) boundaries are far too large for effective management of parking in the District" and that "neighborhood-based boundaries (i.e., the Mayor's office's concept of 'neighborhood clusters') are recommended."

Commissioner Hogan read the resolution, which strongly opposed the use of clusters, rejected the report's use of Cluster 14 or Cluster 15 as a parking zone, and called for the Major's office and the Council to create a zone that is identical to ANC3C's boundaries. Commissioner MacWood stated that the Mayor's plan contains several innovative ideas, such as three-hour parking for individuals who park in the neighborhood without residential parking permits. A friendly amendment was offered by Commissioner Vorndran and accepted by Commissioner Hogan. Commissioner Hogan moved for approval of the resolution. Commissioner Hahn seconded. **Resolution 2004-020 was approved by a unanimous vote of 8-0.**

e. Commissioner Hogan introduced a resolution endorsing the National Cathedral's planned parking garages, but opposing the location of the proposed Woodley Road entrance and exit. The Cathedral's architects presented updated drawings depicting the location of the North-face garage entrance/exit. The drawings showed that the opening will be barely visible from Woodley Road, NW. However, the architects did not provide the Commissioners with a depiction of the view of this garage opening from the perspective of the Cathedral.

On Monday afternoon, several residents of apartments across from the Cathedral sent e-mails to all ANC3C commissioners asking that the commission vote against rejecting the Woodley Park entrance/exit, arguing that the entire brunt of the traffic to and from the garages would be borne by Wisconsin Avenue, NW, which would impact them. Commissioner MacWood explained that there was no intent to do that and that these residents had not been provided accurate information regarding the traffic. The residents of Woodley Road have petitioned for a traffic plan that provides an equitable balance. Commissioner Hogan indicated that it would not make sense to divert the majority of traffic from the Cathedral garages out onto Woodley Road. She explained that the current plans are to house busses underground and accommodate over 400 parking spaces for private vehicles. She felt that removing idling busses from Wisconsin Avenue would be of tremendous benefit to the neighborhood and that the logical and best method for bringing in traffic to the Cathedral and into the garages is by way of Wisconsin Avenue.

Some discussion was raised by the Cathedral's proposal to construct a foot bridge across Woodley Road to provide access to the Close from the National Cathedral School to keep the students from having to cross the street. However, the topic was dropped as the matter would be considered in a future application to the HPRB. Commissioner Nord asked the Cathedral what would happen if the HPRB did not approve the garage. They responded that the Cathedral would not build the garage if the second garage entrance/exit was not approved. Lars Hildebrand read a proposal asking that the ANC3C approve this request because the Cathedral has taken many steps to alleviate parking and traffic problems in the neighborhood since 1991. Peter Espensheid indicated that he opposed Lars' proposal. Commissioner Hogan then proposed that the ANC3C postpone any decision on this HPRB application until the Cathedral provides drawings showing the view of the parking garage from the Cathedral. Chair MacWood seconded her motion. Commissioners MacDonald, Nord, and Reeves opposed the motion. Based on the lack of support, Commissioner Hogan withdrew her proposed resolution. Commissioner Reeves made a motion that the ANC3C vote to approve the Cathedral's application to the HPRB for the underground garages. **The motion was approved by a vote of 6-1-1.**

VIII. OFFICERS REPORTS

a. Consideration of the May 2004 minutes was postponed until the July 2004 meeting due to the administrator's absence.

b. Commissioner Welsh provided the second-quarter 2004 financial report. Commissioner Nord asked if the ANC could consider allocating funds for school grants. Commissioner Welsh explained that there were some expenditures that would decrease the outstanding balances which had not yet been expensed on the report. He further noted that he needs to follow up with the DC auditor's office and needs to receive a written report of grant expenditures from John Eaton School. Commissioner Welsh moved that the 2nd Quarterly Report be approved. Commissioner Vorndran seconded. **The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 8-0.**

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lars Hyde asked that the Alban Towers Traffic Committee be extended until December 2004. If it cannot be completed by December, the ANC3C would allow the committee to expire. Commissioner MacWood asked Commissioner Reeves if the ANC3C's Traffic Committee could enlist more expert help for this study. Commissioner Reeves suggested trying to get support from the Department of Transportation at the next Transportation Committee meeting. Commissioner Hogan moved to extend the committee until December 2004. Commissioner Vorndran seconded. **The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 8-0.**

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair MacWood adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m. without objection.