

Minutes - Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D – September 8, 2004

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D met at the Ernst Auditorium of Sibley Hospital on Wednesday, September 8, 2004, at 7:30 pm. Present were Commissioners Gates, Heuer, Shapley, Finney, Haas, Hamilton and Mullane. There were about 15 people in the audience.

1 POLICE CONCERNS

- 1.1 Commander, Capt. Robert Contee – The new commander of the Second District introduced himself to the ANC3D and the community. He noted he had served previously at the Second District and has since been assigned elsewhere within the Metropolitan Police Department. He pledged to work with the ANC and the community to improve service. With him were Officer Anthony McElwee, who will supervise the traffic oversight with a new rolling schedule of concentrated coverage, and Officer A. D. Parry, who will be on call for the 2 - 10 p.m. shift for PSA 205. The commander's e-mail is robert.contee@dc.gov.
- 1.1.1 Commissioner Shapley called Commander Contee's attention to an on-going problem of not getting timely response to commission inquiries for assistance and an apparent lack of coordination between shift personnel and PSA205 personnel. She also pointed to the related problem of getting timely and then tracking reportage of incident calls.
- 1.2 Lt. Jeanne Sullivan reported on crime statistics for PSA205.

2 COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- 2.1 Kevin Soto announced a petition drive to save the Jesse Baltimore House in Palisades, a Fullerton model Sears kit house.

3 SIBLEY HOSPITAL, GRAND OAKS FACILITY EXPANSION

- 3.1 Jerry Price, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Sibley Hospital, presented plans for new construction at Grand Oaks, the senior assisted-living facility on the hospital grounds. Also attending was the Grand Oaks Executive Director, Heidi Braun. The construction of a new wing at the facility will require a special exception to zoning regulations with respect to height, number of stories and the rear yard setback requirement.
- 3.2 The plan adds 56,000 square feet of building space for 33 new residences and parking. However, the new addition will result in an overall loss of 15, but Mr. Price explained not many residents of Grand Oaks actually keep a car at the facility very long. The same height variances (46ft vs. 40ft for part) apply in this application as were granted in the original R5A application for the Grand Oaks facility, which mirrors the original building. Parking for Grand Oaks will be in a courtyard behind the buildings, entered from MacArthur Boulevard. The rear yard setback extends 14 ft beyond Sibley's property line leaving only 6 ft. from a property line shared with a PEPCO substation. Commissioner Finney suggested full-size sidewalks be added along the MacArthur side of the building as well as a shelter for the bus stop on MacArthur. Mr. Price agreed to consider those requests. Construction is to begin in spring 2005 and should take 14 months. The BZA hearing occurs in mid-November.
- 3.3 Mr. Price also noted that there has been discussion in the past regarding Sibley's plans to add an on site doctor's office building. He reiterated that there are currently no plans to move forward with that addition.
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3.5 **ANC ACTION:** The commission voted unanimously 6-0-0 to support and approve the application. It cited as reasons the important role Sibley plays in serving the local community and the role Grand Oaks plays in Sibley's overall viability and service; Sibley's willingness to encourage employee use of public transportation and provide pedestrian accommodation; the heights' conformity with the existing and previously approved structure; and the fact that the smaller rear yard setback does not intrude on any other structure, residence or view. (att. A)

4 **BZA #17212 – 4527 Q ST., NW – HOME**

4.1 The owner, Cheryl Tlam, appeared on behalf of her application and that of her husband, Harold Foster, for a special exception to allow construction of a one-story sunroom addition to the rear of their home. The existing lot is non-conforming and does not meet minimum lot area, minimum width or minimum rear yard requirements.

4.2 While the 8x20 ft. extension would only add 8 percent to the lot occupancy, bringing it to a total of 27 percent, well under the 40 percent allowed, the lot is only 3000 sq.ft., as contrasted with the R1B's provision for 5000 sq.ft. lots. However, the extension would leave 16 feet to the rear property line and is comparable to other houses on the block. The owner presented signatures of support from neighbors. The hardship need to provide for a family was recognized.

4.3 **ANC ACTION:** The commission voted unanimously 6-0-0 to approve and support the application of Ms. Tlam and Mr. Foster. (att. B)

5 **DDOT ON FOXHALL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

5.1 Muhammed Khalid, program manager for Wards 3 and 4, and Don Goffredi, infrastructure project engineer, presented their plans for safety improvements to Foxhall Road, from Canal Road northward to Nebraska Avenue. They hope to make the plans final so that contracts can be made in time for spring 2005. Work should be completed within six months.

5.2 Foxhall Road would be re-surfaced from Reservoir Rd. to Nebraska, excluding the Field School portion. South of Reservoir, there would be repairs and re-painting of striping and sign replacement. Intersections would be altered and/or re-signed. The high, crumbling slope at the Northeast corner of Reservoir and Foxhall is to be shored up and the visibility for the westbound turn increased.

5.3 Sidewalks would be added to the east side of Foxhall north of Reservoir to Whitehaven. Residents from this area advocated several additions and changes for these sidewalks. Present were Terrence Straub, James Rosebush (president of Colony Hill Association), Peter VanAllen, Michael Mihalke, Camille Hebert, Mark Vershbow, and Gary Baker. Also suggesting changes was Robert Andrew, current president of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association. [He spoke later in the meeting in favor of a Community Relations Team to form a liaison with DDOT and WMATA on issues about roads and buses in the area, a detailed proposal of his having been circulated to the ANC-3D.] It was apparent that much more detailed work and consultation would be needed on this part of the plan. Also speaking in support of sidewalk construction were representatives from George Washington University's Mount Vernon campus, Robert Snyder and Capt. Darrell Johnson, who reiterated their organizations commitment to provide \$30K toward the project.

5.4 Several safety repairs were strongly advocated by residents where there were sinkholes or failed old patches and immediate attention for the area between Whitehaven and Hoban Road was advocated. Muhammed Khalid said that he would

- take action within the next two weeks to repair the area between Whitehaven and Hoban Road. This was in response to an expression of concern from the Chair.
- 5.5 DDOT pledged to take into account all the suggestions and demands of the community as it makes a final plan.

6 LAWYERS HAVE HEART RACE 2005

- 6.1 Jeff Witten, VP of the American Heart Association of the Greater Washington Area, presented the plan for the 2005 race on June 11. It would use the same course as in 2004 and follow the same procedures for notification and signage. They raised \$425,000 in 2004 and had some 3,500 runners.

- 6.2 **ANC ACTION:** Based on the lack of community disruption from the 2004 race, the commission voted unanimously 6-0-0 to support the race with a letter to the DC Special Events coordinator, which oversees police and emergency arrangement for groups using public streets and space. Chairman Gates asked that the group make a donation to the Palisades Community Fund as a matter of principle, to which Mr. Witten agreed while remarking on the community training AHA already offers for CPR and related measures for enhancing health of citizens. (att. C)

7 GIANT FOOD BIKE TOUR, SATURDAY, SEPT. 18, 2004

- 7.1 Eric Gilliland, director of the Washington Area Bicycle Association, presented the plan for this year's "BikeDC" ride. They expect 4,500 riders, half of whom do the 20-miles course, with the others doing a 12-mile closed course. There will also be a kids safety rodeo, and free helmets.

- 7.2 **ANC ACTION:** The commission voted unanimously 6-0-0 to support this event and to send a letter to the DC Special Events coordinator. WABA was also asked to make a donation to the Palisades Community Fund. (att. D)

8 UPPER WISCONSIN AVENUE CORRIDOR FRAMEWORK PLAN

- 8.1 Cindy Petkac, the new Ward 3 planner from the DC Office of Planning, introduced herself and presented the revised Upper Wisconsin Framework Plan to manage the proposed development over the next ten years. The framework is to be presented to Council in the fall, where it will be considered for adoption as a Small Area Plan addition to the Comprehensive Plan. While no changes in current zoning are being sought there is emphasis on anticipated use of Planned Unit Developments (PUD), which will allow for additional public review and de facto negotiation with regard to community amenities, as well as ANC review. The plan will use Transoriented planning guidelines for the two Metro Rail station areas. Tenley is a multi-neighborhood center and Friendship Heights being is regarded to be a regional center. A traffic study of the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor is underway to include areas from Fessenden Street to Whitehaven Parkway in Glover Park. The basic framework is for commercial development to be graduated in mass and heights as it approaches adjacent residences. The Office of Planning will be applying for a Main Streets designation to assist in development, as well as encouraging a Tenley Merchants Association. The Office will be using students from the University of Maryland's graduate program in this effort. On September 28th there will be a Ward 3 meeting of ANCs to discuss the framework plan further with the Office of Planning.

- 8.2 **ANC COMMENT:** The commission emphasized the desirability of including as much green and open space as possible in the plan and also as part of any amenity negotiation with developers of PUDs. Streetscape trees and other planting, pocket

parks, green roof construction, green-planted balconies were some of the approaches recommended. Chairman Gates commented that the studies to support the proposed plan have not been conducted and added that traffic impacts are of major concern to the 3D commission area.

9 GOALS

- 9.1 The draft statement of our ANC-3D goals for 2005 was reviewed discussed and decided. Commissioners Mulvane and Finney had departed before this occurred. Goals One (annual award) and Three (commercial sprawl) were not voted to be carried forward. For Goal One's purpose, individual letters of commendation were deemed sufficient. Goal Four (tree infill and green space) was to be revised by Commissioner Shapley. Goal Seven (aqueduct sediment disposal) was deleted as being part of a larger study underway by the staff of the Dalecarlia Water Treatment facility.

10 COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- 10.1 The July Minutes were accepted by a vote of 5-0-0.
10.2 The Treasurer's report was accepted and the proposed budget for FY'05 was approved by a unanimous vote (4-0-0)
10.3 The next meeting will be October 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stowell Shapley, Secretary, ANC-3D