

MINUTES AUGUST 23, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C was held on August 23, 1976.

In the absence of Chariperson McGrath, Vicechairperson Williams called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken and the following members were present: Haugen, Coram, Van Way, and Williams. Smith, McGrath and Krucoff were out of town. Since two positions have been vacated, it was declared that the Commissioners present constituted a quorum. Commissioners verified that notice had been posted in all Single Member Districts. Minutes were distributed but their consideration was postponed until later in the meeting.

The first issue to be discussed was the Group Health Association Hospital proposed for the site at 4020 Wisconsin Avenue.

Pattie Macie was the first speaker. She presented facts concerning the severe problems of overbedding in the Metropolitan Area and the rising costs of hospital care. She suggested that the ANC should recommend that the application of GHA for a certificate of need be suspended or postponed until there is a regional hospital planning effort. She also suggested that a task force should be set up among health care/government/citizen/business interests to explore the possibilities for such regional planning. Mr. Segadelli of Group Health spoke next. He discussed the history of GHA's plan and the plans for the site. GHA reached its decision on the Hospital as a result of the economies that it could achieve by having its own hospital. They tried to find and purchase an existing hospital and were unsuccessful; they also found that decentralization would not be feasible. They will still buy a hospital if someone finds one. GHA feels that they are not planning to add any additional beds to the total population, but are trying to create more efficiently used beds and that excess beds should be taken away from other inefficiently used facilities. Segadelli stressed that Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) need only half as many hospital beds per member as regular hospitals need per capita, relative to the general population. The Department of Human Resources has encouraged GHA to provide a model HMO operation, including hospital facilities.

GHA believes that the only two ways to control rising medical costs are Health Management Organizations and price controls. Congress passed in 1973 an Act to encourage HMOs. The average hospital case is not complicated and these persons should not have to help pay for facilities needed to treat complicated cases.

Ms. Susan TRuitt of the Department of Human Resources spoke next. She is a special assistant to Yeldell and is in charge of consumer education. She reported that the Health Planning Advisory Council's decision cannot be made September 10, because the staff has not had adequate time to prepare for a decision. HPAC is being replaced by the State Health coordinating Commission. There is an excess of 500 beds in D.C. and 1700 in the Metropolitan Area. No new beds have actually been granted in the District since 1964. The official position of Dept. of Human Resources at this time is waiting, but it now seems they will oppose granting the certificate.

Segadelli spoke of efforts of GHA to buy a hospital. Facilities that were considered included Doctor's, Providence, Holy Cross, Sibley, Columbia and others. He expressed the opinion that some of the bed excess was only on paper. TRuitt replied that the excess includes only beds in existence or beds that have been certificated and financed. Homer Chapman of GHA said the entire emphasis on beds is irrelevant and that the focus should be on ambulatory care.

Citizens then spoke on the issue as follows:

Jean Pablo of St. Ann's Parish Council opposed the facility on the grounds that the neighborhood could not absorb the increased burden of traffic and congestion.

Jim Springman, speaking for himself and Frank Wolfsheimer spoke against the plan. His primary concern was economic.

Bob Flynn, a GHA trustee and HEW budget officer for Medicaid spoke in favor of the plan. He pointed out that the project would be financed by an increase in the premium paid by GHA members, which would not exceed 7.4%.

Maureen Mulliner a GHA member from Tilden St. supported the plan and said that a hospital would not necessarily bring traffic and noise problems.

Bill Geysman, a resident of McLean Gardens and a GHA member supported the plan.

Howard Caton supported the views of Mulliner.

Mike McKewon spoke on the issues involved: survival of GHA, Overbedding, and whether the proposed site is a good one.

Hugh Allen, the ANC's planning and zoning committee chairman presented a statement opposing the facility.

Commissioner Williams asked about GHA's plans for expansion. They said they had none.

Mabel Mason a GHA member favored the plan.

Roseanne Surulow of Friendship Neighborhood Coalition and Tenley Citizens Advisory Group said that it appeared to her that this plan would save GHA members money and cost others more.

Morton Weiss supported the hospital and said that GHA can no longer afford to support the waste at teaching hospitals.

Steve Schmall, a GHA member, spoke in favor of regionalization, but said that if neighbors oppose the plan they should gather data to support their views.

The question was asked of whether GHA opposes the Certificate that has been granted to Doctors' Hospital. They have no position, but would like to know, themselves, whether DHR is examining the misallocation of beds in the city.

Helen Wood of Friendship Neighborhood Coalition said that she supports the plan. She is a member of GHA.

Homer McConnell, Past President of Cleveland Park Citizens Association favored the facility.

The ANC decided to consider the issue further, in conjunction with ANC's 3D, 3E, and 3F.

Planning and site issues relative to the hospital were to be discussed next, but that discussion was postponed. While the Commission felt that it had not adequately considered these it was felt that, since the plan conforms to the present zoning, we have no legal basis on which to approach the issue.

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The next subject to be discussed was the Cathedral Heights Recreation Area. A motion was passed on the subject, as follows:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C recognizes the Cathedral Heights Recreation Task Force as the legitimate advisory body for the planning and development of Cathedral Heights Park and Recreation Area. The Commission requests that the Task Force report to the Commission as regularly as possible on the progress of the Task Force. The ANC encourages the Dept. of Recreation to assist the Task Force as much as possible. The Commission recognizes that the Task Force is made up of the following elements: 3 members from Cathedral Heights/Cleveland Park Citizens Association; 3 members from McLean Gardens Residents Association; 3 members from the Newark St. Community Garden Association; and the 2 ANC Commissioners most directly involved (3C05 and 3C09).

The next subject of discussion was the Friendship Postal Facility. Mary Barry of the Uptown Citizen had the most current information which was that the Postal Service had decided whether to use the McLean Gardens site. The local Postal Service had abandoned its application to use the site after the application was rejected by National Capital Planning Commission in July. However, the National office of USPS had reinstated the application. The application had passed 6 to 2 after its second hearing before NCPC. It is significant that the two dissenting votes came from the D.C. representatives, Rodney Coleman and Ben Gilbert. The Regional Office of USPS has not made up its mind on whether to use the site.

It was announced that there would be a food stamp certifier at Regency House on August 24 from 9 AM to 3 PM. This was announced with sound trucks. There was no notice of when such a service would be provided again. The ANC has consistently asked for better food stamp service for the Ward and had protested the closing of the facility which operated briefly at Chevy Chase Community Center.

The next subject was the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Lindsley Williams discussed upcoming METRO construction. He also announced that METRO considering ways to improve rush hour service, including the establishment of buslanes on Wisconsin Ave. It was decided that stop sign problems would be discussed in September.

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Next, funding was discussed. We will receive \$4700 for the present quarter. It is hoped that this money will become available this week. In October we must submit a budget.

Finally, the question of office space was discussed. We advertised in the Uptown Citizen for such space and got no response. However, the space in Woodley Park Towers Condominium is still available. A resolution was passed authorizing Col. Van Way and Neal Krucoff to investigate this further and to represent us in negotiations for this space.

In view of the hour it was agreed that the minutes would be read at home and discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 3C-76-12

ANC 3C, recognizing the need for the Commission to secure appropriate space for its office and files, authorizes Neal E. Krucoff and Charles W. Van Way, Jr., members of the Commission, to pursue negotiations with all parties from whom space might be secured and to report on the same at the earliest possible date. The above-named are authorized to obligate any sum that represents the lesser of \$5.00/sq ft/year or \$125.00 /month. Such obligations should carry a proviso recognizing the availability of appropriated funds, and should not obligate the Commission past January 1978.

ANC 3C, recognizing important issues in the area of transportation, traffic, and parking authorizes Lindley Williams, Chairman Protempore of the ANC Committee on Transportation, ~~Planning~~^{Traffic}, and Parking to represent the Commission before various boards and bodies of or relating to the District of Columbia on all matters except those proposing ~~policy~~ change of existing policy, the latter requiring affirmative action of the Commission. ~~§~~ This authorization takes place immediately and concludes December 31, 1976.

The Commission recognizes the following issues existing at the time of this resolution - but does not limit the Committee to these topics:

- Parking in the Commission area
- Traffic signs and controls
- Metro construction ~~at~~
- Public transportation

Passed ANC 3C
August 27, 1976