

# ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS McLEAN GARDENS • WOODLEY PARK

Single Member District Commissioners 01-Lee Brian Reba \* 02-Gwendolyn Bole \* 03-David Valdez 04-Vacant \* 05-Margaret Siegel \* 06-Carl Roller 07- Victor Silveira \* 08-Catherine May \* 09-Nancy MacWood

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# MINUTES **Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C** June 15, 2015 Public Meeting MPD2D Community Room, 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW 7:30PM

Establishment of Quorum:

At 7:35pm, Commissioner Roller acknowledged that, with five Commissioners present, a quorum had been established and called the meeting to order. Other Commissioners present included Catherine May, David Valdez, Nancy MacWoo and Gwen Bole. Commissioner Silviera arrived at 7:39pm and Commissioner Reba arrived at 7:40pm. Commissioner Roller announced that fact that the meeting was being audio recorded in accordance of DC law.

- II. Verification of Notice (Listserves: CP, WP, MAHCA, CAH, MG, OG, QH, Ward3DC, and NWC, Twitter) Commissioner Roller verified that notice was given on the ANC3C website, local community listservs, Twitter and in the Northwest Current newspaper.
- III. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner May moved the application for 3400 Massachusetts Avenue NW be moved off of the Consent Calendar to Commission Business. Motion was approved by voice vote. Commissioner Roller moved approval of the amended agenda. Motion was approved by voice vote.
  - I. Establishment of Quorum
  - II. Verification of Notice (Listserves: CP, WP, MAHCA, CAH, MG, OG, QH, Ward3DC, and NWC, Twitter)
  - III. Approval of Agenda
  - IV. Announcements
  - V. Community Forum
  - VI. Consent Calendar
    - 1. No Opposition to Consideration of an BZA Special Exception application regarding the side yard requirement for 3401 Macomb Street, NW
  - VII. Commission Business
    - 1. Consideration of a resolution concerning proposed regulations regarding digital billboards
    - 2. Consideration of a DDOT PS application for new sidewalk cafe enclosed for Raku, located at 3312 Wisconsin Avenue NW
    - 3. Consideration of an ABRA application (#098875) for Grilled Oyster, located at 3401 Idaho Avenue NW (application)
    - 4. Consideration of a BZA application for a special exception to raise lot occupancy limit for 2905 28th Street NW
    - 5. Consideration of ABRA request for substantial change to current liquor licensure hours by District Kitchen, 2606 Connecticut Avenue NW
    - 2. Consideration of a resolution in support of an historic preservation application for 3400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
  - VIII. ANC Coordination Issues
    - Mayor's Meeting:
       Council
       ANCs
  - IX. Officer's Reports/Committee Reports, Administration Issues, SMD Reports
    - 1. Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2015 meeting

    - Treasurer's Report:
       Administrative Issues:
    - 4. SMD Reports:
  - X. Adjournment

#### III. Announcements:

Commissioner MacWood announced that Tuesday, June 23, 2015 was the next public meeting forum for the new Cleveland Park Library. This is part of a continuing series between the design team and the District Public Libraries. The meeting will be held at 6pm at the Cleveland Park library.

Commissioner May stated that the Vatican was not going to proceed with their request for a perimeter fence until after the Pope's visit.

### IV. Community Forum:

A community member expressed concern regarding the homeless people on the porch of St. Luke's Church, noting the are becoming a public nuisance. The church is located to the east of the corner of Calvert Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW.

### VI. Consent Calendar

 No Opposition to Consideration of an BZA Special Exception application regarding the side yard requirement for 3401 Macomb Street, NW:

Commissioner MacWood moved approval of consent calendar. Motion was approved by voice vote.

### VII. Commission Business

Consideration of a resolution concerning proposed regulations regarding digital billboards:
 Commissioner MacWood provided an overview of the matter. Comment period has been extended until July 13, 2015.

 Commissioner MacWood read and moved a resolution on this matter. The motion was approved via voice vote.

# ANC 3C Resolution No. 2015-022 Regarding DDOT Proposal to Expand and Consolidate Sign Regulations in Title 13

Whereas, construction of new outdoor advertising billboards was banned in Washington, DC in the early 1930's; and

Whereas, the billboard industry has responded to nationwide prohibitions and restrictions on billboards by attempting to redefine them as "signs" rather than "billboards" in order to circumvent legislation prohibiting billboards (outdoor advertising of goods and services not sold on the premises); and

Whereas, the billboard industry has developed even larger and more intrusive advertising that utilizes video and other digital technologies; and

Whereas, the billboard industry found entre into Washington, DC in 2000 when the Council permitted 64 "special sign" billboards as large as 10,000sf to be installed on sides of DC buildings, and subsequently reduced that number to 32 billboards restricted to the downtown in response to citizen outrage; and

Whereas, the billboard industry made further inroads into Washington, DC in 2004 when the Council relaxed restrictions to permit huge, full motion video and other forms of electronic billboards in Gallery Place; and

Whereas, the billboard industry attempted in 2010 to fight enforcement of removal of illegal billboards in Washington, DC by proposing to swap the removal of five (5) illegal billboards for an increase in the 32 sign limit, which the Council rejected after hearing strong citizen opposition to the deal; and

Whereas, the billboard industry was successful in convincing Council to extend the Gallery Place permitted billboards to even larger and more numerous ones on the Verizon Center in 2011; and

Whereas, the billboard industry renewed its previously rejected attempts to overturn the citywide billboard prohibition in 2012 and the mayor agreed to propose sweeping regulation changes that would give him authority to approve "special sign" billboards as large as 10,000sf and video billboards as large as 1,200 sf in any area he deemed to be an entertainment district; and

Whereas, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has been writing and revising regulations to implement the mayor's directive and to open up DC to largely unregulated advertising in the form of super-sized billboards, including digital billboards, as well as rooftop signs and migration of massive wall signs throughout the city; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court has upheld the right of local governments to regulate the size, lighting and placement of signs as a land use issue and the Home Rule Act authorizes only the Zoning Commission to write land use laws; and

Whereas, cities nationwide (386 communities in Texas, 287 cities and counties in Florida, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Denver) have stopped the construction of new billboards to stem the blight of visual pollution that will erode revitalization of their cities; and

Whereas, Washington, DC, the nation's capital, has been a national leader in rejecting the overt commercialization of Washington, DC:

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C opposes any weakening of billboard or sign regulations and that the ANC makes no distinction between digital advertising signs and print advertising signs that advertise goods and services not sold on the premises as they are all billboards;

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C opposes rooftop signs that would alter the skyline and detract from the beauty of the city (Sec. 712). This proposal is the antithesis of findings in the Height Act master study that found that habitation of rooftop penthouses would improve aesthetics by fostering better design no one suggested that illuminated billboards would improve rooftop aesthetics or the iconic horizontal DC skyline;

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C strongly opposes Chapter 9: Designated Entertainment Area Signs. This chapter would give the mayor unilateral authority to authorize massive variable message signs, including full motion video screens, with only "consultation" as any check on the mayor's implementation of this vast authority. The mayor could designate any area that provides events, performances or activities designed to entertain as a DEA with permission for 200 sf illuminated rooftop signs displayed up to 90 ft above ground and within 500 ft (one block) of the White House, US Capital, Mall or any national monument. The proposal would immediately create DEAs at Gallery Place, Verizon Center, the Ballpark area, and the SW waterfront and provide no public process to prevent this flashy branding of our waterfront or the emerging residential and retail/office complexes near the ballpark;

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C opposes variable message signs (signs with changing images or messages) that could be 40 sf and 20 ft above ground on any building in any commercial or mixed use zones. The condition that these signs cannot be within 200 ft (less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a block) of a residential zone (Sec. 714) does not render the potential visual sign pollution in DC commercial or mixed zones reasonable or supportable;

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C opposes freestanding signs as permitted in Sec. 713. The proposals are confusing and appear to allow 15 ft billboards, including variable message signs, on any commercial property and distinguishes them only regarding the location of attachment;

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C urges Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to rigorously enforce existing regulations and to prevent billboard and "special sign" creep;

Be It Resolved the ANC 3C urges the Council to transfer policies governing regulation of signs and billboards to the Zoning Commission while continuing to maintain DDOT's and DCRA's roles in permitting and enforcing the regulations;

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C encourages Mayor Bowser to conduct a multi-disciplinary study of the effects of existing digital and variable message signs at Gallery Place and the Verizon Center on residents and office tenants focused on the impact of these billboards on quality of life, safety, noise and light pollution, and property values;

Be It Resolved that the Chair and Commissioner 3C09, or their designees are authorized to represent the ANC on this matter.

Attested by

Carl Roller

Chair, on June 15, 2015

This resolution was approved by a voice vote, on June 15, 2015 at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.

- 2. Consideration of a DDOT PS application for new sidewalk cafe enclosed for Raku, located at <u>3312 Wisconsin Avenue NW</u>: Commissioner Silveira provided an overview on the matter. He then moved no objection to application. Motion was approved via voice vote.
- 3. Consideration of an ABRA application (#098875) for Grilled Oyster, located at 3401 Idaho Avenue NW (application): Commissioner Roller provided an overview on this matter. Owner introduced the aspects of the application. Commissioner Roller read and moved a resolution protesting the application. The motion was approved via voice vote.

# ANC 3C Resolution No. 2015-023 Regarding ABRA Class C Application (ABRA - 098875) for The Grilled Oyster Company, 3401 Idaho Avenue NW

WHEREAS, Olliejack DC, LLC with a trade name of "The Grilled Oyster Company" (hereinafter "the Applicant"), with a business address of 3401 Idaho Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016, has applied for a Class "C" ABRA License;

WHEREAS, the actual place of business will be on the 3700 block of Newark Street NW, between Wisconsin Ave NW and Idaho Ave NW;

WHEREAS, ANC3C has concerns about the proposed hours as to their effect on the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood, specifically:

- The Applicant's business will be located in a mixed-use development with approximately 144 residences, with additional residences in the immediate vicinity, including both single-family and multiple-unit dwellings;
- ANC3C is unaware of any Class "C" establishment in the neighborhood licensed for the hours proposed on the Application;

WHEREAS, a nearby establishment was recently issued a Class "C" license with the following hours:

- Inside, Sunday through Thursday: 11:00am to 1:00am
- Inside, Friday through Saturday, 11:00am to 2:00am
- Outside, Sunday through Thursday: 11:00am to 11:00pm
- Outside, Friday through Saturday: 11:00am to 12:00 am

WHEREAS, the Applicant and its Attorney have indicated a willingness to amend the Application so that it is consistent with the above hours but have asked for ANC3C to first file this protest before amending the application;

WHEREAS, ANC3C favorably notices the lack of a request for hours for live entertainment in the summer garden/sidewalk Café and would protest the application or any amendment if it included such a request;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ANC3C protests the application on the basis that the requested hours would disrupt the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commissioner for 3C06, the Chair, or their designees are authorized to represent ANC3C on this matter.

Attested by

Carl Roller

Chair, on June 15, 2015

This resolution was approved by a voice vote, on June 15, 2015 at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.

4. Consideration of a BZA application for a special exception to raise lot occupancy limit for 2905 28th Street NW: Commissioner Valdez provided an overview of this matter. The owner provided additional details about the project. Commissioner Valdez read and moved a resolution supporting the application. After some discussion Commissioner Valdez moved to table the resolution at this time. Motion was approved by voice vote. Commissioner May moved to authorize Commissioner Valdez to send a letter to DDOT requesting a review of the alleyway. Commissioner Reba offered a friendly amendment to the scope of the letter, which was accepted. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Commissioner Valdez moved to revisit the resolution regarding 2905 28<sup>th</sup> Street NW. The motion was approved by voice vote. Commissioner Roller offered a friendly amendment to the resolution, which was accepted. The motion was approved by voice vote.

ANC 3C Resolution No. 2015-024 Regarding BZA Application to expand lot occupancy at 2905 28<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Whereas the owner of the property located at 2905 28th St. NW, Washington, DC wants to close off an existing garage and repurpose it for internal living use; and

Whereas the owner of said property intends to create a new opening of 11 ft immediately behind the property from the alley to accommodate a car pulling into the yard and parking under the deck; and

Whereas the owner of the said property proposes to demolish an existing rear deck and rebuild across the back of the deck which will increase the lot occupancy of the structure to 52.7%, which is greater than is allowed in an R3 zone; and

Whereas R3 zoning regulations provide special exceptions to increase the standard lot occupancy from 40% to as much as 70%; and

Whereas the standard of review for special exceptions is primarily consideration of any adverse consequences on neighbors or creation of issues of light, air, and congestion; and

Whereas the owner has obtained written confirmation from his immediate neighbors that they do not oppose the proposed changes to the said property; and

Whereas there are no known adverse impacts on light or air as a result of the proposed changes to the said property; and

Whereas the neighbors have expressed concern about the speed of vehicular traffic at this location as well as sight lines and safe stopping distances; and

Whereas ANC3C has voted to request DDOT's evaluation of these safety concerns of the alley on the 2900 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Street, NW and to make recommendations to improve safety measures:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC3C requests BZA review these safety concerns as it considers the application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC3C has no objection to the application to increase lot occupancy to 52.7%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commissioner for 3C02, the Chair, or their designees are authorized to represent ANC3C on this matter.

Attested by

Carl Roller

Chair, on June 15, 2015

This resolution was approved by a voice vote, on June 15, 2015 at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.

5. Consideration of ABRA request for substantial change to current liquor licensure hours by District Kitchen, <u>2606 Connectic</u> Avenue NW:

Commissioner Bole provided the overview of this matter. She read and moved a resolution protesting the application. The motion was approved via voice vote.

# Resolution to Protest the Application to the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration by The District Kitchen (ABRA License – 08757) for a Substantial Change of Licensure Hours

WHEREAS, The District Kitchen, (Applicant) a Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant, located at 2606 Connecticut Avenue, NW (ABRA license—08757) has applied for a substantial change of licensure hours; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has filed to extend the sidewalk cafe hours from the present 11:30pm until 2am on Sunday through Thursday and until 3am on Friday and Saturday; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has filed to change the morning hours from 11:30 am to 9am on Saturday and Sunday and Monday through Thursday from 11:30 to 11am; and

WHEREAS, Applicant's currently proposed hours for alcohol sales, service and consumption would result in the disturbance of the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has verbally agreed with his ANC3C Commissioner to modify his application to ABRA as follows:

- 1) maintain sidewalk cafe alcohol licensure hours at the current 11:30pm for Sunday through Thursday;
- 2) increase the sidewalk cafe alcohol hours until 12:00 am on Friday and Saturday;
- 3) begin alcohol sales on the premises and the sidewalk cafe at 9:00 am on Saturday and Sunday and at 11:00 am Monday through Friday;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC3C protests the Applicant's current request for a substantial change in hours for it's ABRA licensure, but will withdraw the protest upon notice from ABRA that the Applicant has submitted a modified application as outlined above.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chair and the Commissioner for 3C02 or their designees are authorized to represent the Commission in this matter.

6. Consideration of a resolution in support of an historic preservation application for 3400 Massachusetts Avenue NW: Commissioner May provided an overview of this application. Traceries provided further information regarding filing of the historic landmark application. Commissioner May read and moved a resolution opposing the raze permit and supporting the historic preservation application. The motion was approved via voice vote.

ANC 3C Resolution No. 2015-026
Regarding DCRA Historic Designation Application

# for 3400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Whereas, on April 23, 2015, ANC3C received notice that a raze permit had been filed for 3400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, a single family home located on a double lot in a neighborhood zoned R-1-B; and

Whereas, this property is located at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, Observatory Circle, and Edmunds Street, NW; and

Whereas, the property is a prominent visual landmark along Massachusetts Avenue, helping to define the gracious architectural and urban character of that avenue, and is in close proximity to the U. S. Naval Observatory in addition to numerous embassies, religious and cultural institutions, and private residences; and

Whereas, the property contributes both to the aesthetic beauty and cultural heritage of the District of Columbia, is both historically and architecturally significant, and is eligible for listing in:

The D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites under *Criterion C*, *Individuals*;

The D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites under *Criterion D*, *Architecture and Urbanism*;

The National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion B*, *Individuals*, in the areas of Industry and Health/Medicine; and

The National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Avenue Heights Citizens Association has engaged EHT Traceries, Inc., a historic preservation consulting firm, to prepare an application to formally designate this property as an Historic Landmark and to document in detail the manner in which the property fulfills the stated criteria.

Be It Therefore Resolved that ANC3C opposes the application to raze this property and asks that the raze permit be denied, and

Be It Further Resolved that ANC3C supports the Massachusetts Avenue Heights Citizens Association's application to have 3400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW designated as an Historic Landmark; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Chair, the Commissioner of ANC 3C08, or their designee, are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

Attested by

Carl Roller

Chair, on June 15, 2015

This resolution was approved by a voice vote, on June 15, 2015 at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.

## VIII. ANC Coordination Issues

- 1. Mayor's Meeting: Representatives from the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs introduced themselves and informed Commissioners of this office.
- 2. Council: CM Cheh's office is conducting and evaluation of intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert Street NW, after recent fatal pedestrian accident.
- 3. ANCs:

- 1. Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2015 meeting Commissioner Bole moved approval of the minutes. Motion was approved via voice vote.
  - Scanning Update Commissioner Bole noted that additional documents were to be sent to Balance Imaging for scanning. Funds are still available in the budget.
  - Commissioner Bole also noted that City Agencies send emails to government accounts. Commissioners should check these or will miss important announcements.
- 2. Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Siegel noted that ANC3C quarterly allotment deductions withheld by city auditor have been reinstated.
- 3. Administrative Issues: Commissioner Roller asked that a subject tag of Action Item be added to correspondence with the administrator.
- 4. SMD Reports:

3c01: Constituents have expressed concerns regarding clock tower at 3000 Connecticut Avenue NW, as well as wi regards to the Cleveland Park Library project.

Commissioner Reba is also following up regarding legislation pertaining to agencies such as AirBnB.

3c08: Savoy hotel granted permit by DCRA for Roof deck. Done without any ANC or community notice. DCRA did not respond to community request for information.

DCRA investigation regarding communications and would like to invite them to July meeting.

3c09: Community meeting on June 23, 2015 in lieu of their attending the June 15 Public ANC meeting.

Commissioner MacWood moved authorization of the chair and commissioner for 3C09 to draft a letter, if needed, expressing concerns regarding the process of community input, based on the June 23, 2015 meeting. Motion was approved via voice vote.

Commissioner MacWood will invite DDOT to the July public meeting to make a presentation regarding Klingle Trai Commissioner MacWood inquired about the vacancy sign on Cleveland Park Bar and Grill- is it tax and revenue issue, BZA issue, or what? Who generated the vacancy sign? Mike Matthews, Ward 3 Representative for Communi Outreach suggested that OP Planner for Cleveland Park, Ryan Hand, might be good to get in touch with.

Note: Commissioner Valdez left the meeting at 9:30pm

#### X. Adjournment:

Commissioner Reba moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm.

The next meeting of ANC3C is scheduled for Monday, July 20 at 7:30pm in the Community Room of MPD 2D, 3320 Idaho Avenue NW. Please check anc3c.org for any updates.

Minutes affirmed by:

Gwendolyn F Bole, ANC3C Secretary