



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-Jason Fink; 03-Janell Pagats
04-Beau Finley; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Adam Hoyt
07- Maureen Kinlan Boucher; 08-Jocelyn Dyer; 09-Nancy MacWood

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ANC3C Resolution 2022-CONSENT
Urging Action to Save Hearst Park Heritage Willow Oak Trees

Whereas, Hearst Park and Pool (Hearst Recreation Center and Hearst Pool) is approximately a four-acre park located at 37th Street, Idaho Avenue, and Quebec Street, NW, adjacent to Hearst Elementary School, Hearst Playground, and Hearst Recreation Center Cottage at the northern boundary, and is contiguous or proximate to multiple residences included within the boundaries of ANC 3C;

Whereas, the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project included design and construction including, but not limited to, new playground area, new tennis courts, renovation or replacement of existing soccer fields, new pool and pool house, ADA renovations to site, storm water management, remediation of site drainage, runoff, erosion issues, landscaping, fencing, site furnishings amenities, signage, and hardscaping;

Whereas, the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project started with the fencing of the park and the removal of approximately 80 trees in June 2019 and was delayed repeatedly until eventual completion in Spring 2022;

Whereas, in addition to delays, the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project was mired with a lack of transparency in construction decisions and implementation;

Whereas, ANC 3C passed two resolutions (2017-021, 2019-007) and submitted one letter to the executive branch dated November 19, 2018 regarding the Hearst Park and Pool improvement project;

Whereas, in its letter to Ms. Melinda Bolling Director, Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), Mr. Keith Anderson Acting Director, Department of General Services (DGS), Mr. Delano Hunter, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), Mr. Jeff Marootian, District, Department of Transportation (DDOT), and Mr. Tommy Wells, Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) dated November 19, 2018, ANC 3C requested that “DGS and DPR complete a comprehensive stormwater management plan and tree protection plan”;

Whereas, in its 2017-021 resolution, ANC 3C urged “that before any budgeted funds are spent on pool construction, DGS and DPR complete thorough geologic and hydrologic studies, a study of heritage trees and report on how to address potential impacts of construction and site selection of park amenities given tree locations, and a traffic and parking study” and “that DPR conduct a community meeting in which the city- and community hired arborists and Urban Forestry Division discuss the results of their respective studies and resulting assessment of the Hearst Park trees in relation to the site location of the pool and park amenities”;

Whereas, a report prepared by Ms. Munevver Ertem, DDOT-Urban Forestry Division (DDOT-UFD) dated July 25, 2022 identified the death of one tree due to water inundation, the significant decline of a second tree due to construction activity, and vulnerability to other trees and proposed a meeting with the general contractor and other District stakeholders in order to preserve the remaining trees and determine if District code was violated during construction;

Whereas, DGS held a meeting but did not inform the community or the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners of this meeting and did not invite the community or any of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners;

Whereas, in an email sent to a few community members by DGS, DDOT-UFD requested that a few test pits be installed around the trees to pinpoint the exact location of the water intrusion and the construction of a swale and that DGS offered that it intended to procure a contractor to complete this work; and

Whereas, DGS has not publicly released any details of this plan, has no schedule in place for when this will happen nor specified what measures will be taken to protect heritage trees by the contractor and to supervise contractor performance during this work.

Be It Resolved that ANC 3C urges DGS to publicly announce the death of one heritage tree and the risk to others and post the July 25, 2022 DDOT-UFD report on the Hearst Park & Pool Improvement project webpage.

Be it further Resolved that ANC 3C urges DPR, as the agency responsible for maintenance and work conducted in the park, to organize a community meeting that includes all relevant agencies and community stakeholders (neighbors, DPR, DGS, DOEE, DDOT-UFD, ANC) by October 15, 2022 to describe the reasons for the death of one heritage willow oak tree, the demise of another and the risks posed to the remaining trees in the park and a plan with an explicit timeline for saving the remaining trees.

Be it further Resolved that should DPR fail to organize the above-described community meeting, that knowledgeable representatives of DPR and DGS, appear at the October 17, 2022 ANC 3C meeting to describe the reasons for the death of one heritage willow oak tree, the demise of another and the risks posed to the remaining trees in the park, a plan with an explicit timeline for saving the remaining trees and a plan to keep the community informed on the progress of the city's plan.

Be it further Resolved that ANC 3C urges DPR to present its determination first, for violation of the District's Heritage Tree Law and second, accountability for failures in the project's oversight and execution of construction work.

Be It Resolved that the ANC authorizes the Chair and the Commissioner for 3C05 to represent the Commission on this matter.

Attested by



Beau Finley
Chair, on September 19, 2022

This resolution was approved on the consent agenda on September 19, 2022, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.