

**ANC 3F Parks and Watershed Committee  
September 28, 2022, 7:30 pm (Zoom)**

**Attendees:**

Erica Rosenberg; Judy Buelow; Cory Levine; David Bardin (joined late)

**Erica Rosenberg, Chair**

**Agenda:**

A. Reservation 630 (former Melvin Hazen) Meeting

We met with Bill Matzelevich, Erica Rosenberg, Cory Levine, Jeanne Braha at the park to discuss the state of affairs and the outcome is that Bill is going to work on a briefing paper outlining the issues.

There are so many issues, and part of the problem is figuring out who has jurisdiction over all these issues.

We'll review it and make it a coherent piece with potential next steps.

NPS, DC Water, DOEE, involves Hearst Park and everything that goes on there.

- Need to check all the storm drains surrounding the park

Need to discuss with David Cristeal the new districting of ANC 3C and 3F since

B. Soapstone update (Marjorie and Judy)

Marjorie sent Erica and Judy an update by email.

Judy – her Van Ness building board meeting was last week and she alerted everyone to the DOEE meeting. Judy is writing a note for their newsletter. Soliciting feedback from her neighbors who are directly affected by this project. People generally want the erosion to be remedied, and the project is in a later phase with less noise in their backyard.

The ANC is taking on the issues involving DC Water and DOEE in Soapstone and CIPP projects.

C. Hearst Park: Cory Levine

- The Heritage Trees have been under extreme stress from the construction of the field, pool and tennis courts at Hearst and despite the efforts taken, the City arborist found that an Oak tree closest to the Pool would not be salvageable.
- Several neighbors would like some accountability from those responsible for not preserving the trees which was a major flashpoint in the original park renovation and pool construction plan. Many neighbors warned that the groundwater spring would hurt the trees and Urban forestry now acknowledges that the groundwater killed the tree.
- The contractors hired by the city went on September 9<sup>th</sup> to cut down the deceased heritage oak tree.
- Previously, neighborhood artist Henry Docter had requested the city slow down the process and leave a 20- or 25-foot-tall piece that could become a sculpture if the

neighborhood agrees they'd prefer a sculpture to a stump. Mr. Docter contacted the city arborist and she responded that she did not think that a sculpture made from the base of the tree posed a danger. The DPR contact person, Peter Norhdren, was typically evasive and unresponsive.

- Cory would like to prepare/provide a letter of support for the proposed tree sculpture. An ANC approved/supported letter would hopefully help Mr. Docter's cause.
- **Update 9/23 Email from Henry to DDOT/Urban Forestry:** According to Henry Docter "Mary Cheh's staff thought the tree sculpture sounded like a "wonderful idea," but wanted to know what Urban Forestry thought about it."
- **Update 9/26 Email from Ertem (Vera) Munevver, the DDOT/Urban Forestry arborist for Hearst Park:** "DPR and DGS will make the decision if they can keep the trunk for the sculpture. Ground water is big issue threatening the other remaining heritage trees. We met with DGS, DPR, and DOEE staff last week about the water issue. They are working with their engineers to come up with plans to move the water away. They will provide a report and their decision regarding the trunk for the sculpture soon."

**D. Park near WAMU-Erica (for Lois Forster)**

- a. She has continued watchdogging the park and wrote a letter with an update.