

	<p align="center">ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA <i>CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS @ CLEVELAND PARK</i> <i>MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS</i> <i>MCLEAN GARDENS @ WOODLEY PARK</i></p>
<p>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 Boucher; 08-Vicki Gersten; 09-Nancy MacWood</p>	<p align="right">P.O. Box 4966 Washington, DC 20008 Website http://www.anc3c.org Email all@anc3c.org</p>

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Dear Directors Anderson and Hunter and Councilmembers Cheh and White,

I write to you as Commissioner for SMD 3C05 and representing my constituents. As you all are aware, the Hearst Park and Pool Improvement Project has been mismanaged and there continues to be a lack of transparency and planning pertaining to the project. The most recent update from Director Anderson on September 21, 2021 has raised more questions than provided answers and we would like a response from each of you about the following:

Transparency of Current Status of the Project

The above mentioned update states that:

“To date, the pool is 100% complete, and the final additions to the pool house are near completion at 97%. The outstanding work includes the final inspection, final equipment start-up, security, IT equipment, exterior lighting, upper-level exterior siding, punch list and staff training.”

However, the exterior of the pool house doesn’t have any brick or siding yet, so to claim that it is 97% complete is inaccurate. We would like an immediate explanation of where the 97% number came from and what is the current status with timeline of completion.

In addition, the update states that:

“The Hearst field will remain offline for this season and will open next field season in Spring 2022.”

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We are now going on three years without use of the field and a vague completion date of Spring 2022 indicates that mismanagement of the project persists. We would like a more firm date for completion, and a full accounting and schedule of the project's pathway to this. The pool being complete provides no respite, since this season's outdoor pool use is almost over. We want to know when the tennis courts and field will be available for use.

Immediate Issues that need to be resolved

Critically, the Hearst Park construction fences are impeding the path to Hearst Elementary. Councilmember Cheh asked Directors Anderson and Hunter on August 30th to “direct the contractors to move the construction fence along the path that allows children to access Hearst Elementary school.” This has not happened and we would urge you to do this immediately.

There is still running water on the site primarily coming from an underground spring on the southwest end as well as standing water on the northwest end of the field. This is not only an issue for long-term sustainability, but also raises questions of maintenance and the survival of the heritage trees on site. The active stream at the southwest corner of the field has the potential to affect the root system of the heritage trees. Munevver Ertem, Supervisory Urban Forester for the Urban Forestry Division at the District Department of Transportation, emailed constituents and told them “...one heritage tree next to the construction entrance is in decline. We inspected the tree multiple times. There is standing water next to the tree. We talked with construction managers and were told there is underground water issue they are trying to resolve.” This is clear evidence that this issue needs to be resolved immediately.

Concurrently, constituents have sent me photos showing the newly planted trees and vegetation have not been watered and are dying.

Future Maintenance after Project Completion

The community needs more than simple assurances, and would like a detailed plan of maintaining a safe, environmentally and structurally sound park. There is no money in the Hearst pool budget for ongoing maintenance. This is especially important for a mismanaged, potentially rushed, and disruptive project. We have heard from Councilmember White's staff that management will be transferred to DPR, but the project's history indicates that we need much more detailed information than this.

In particular, we want to know about all cost overruns, what is happening in the right-of-way, reasons for material delays, a realistic timeline moving forward, an accounting of ongoing and

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future maintenance budgets, confirmation that the landscaping plan has not changed as a result of any budgetary shortfalls, the additional financial costs of perpetual pumping of groundwater and mixing it with storm runoff, as well as a full maintenance budget. For example, (1) it took 10 months of extra work and the deployment of elaborate pumping equipment to resolve the groundwater problem created when, as predicted, groundwater (220,000 gallons per month) was encountered in the southwest corner of the pool site; and (2) the contractor had to dig up and remove all of the sod on the filed and then replace it due to improper grading.

Accountability

Finally, Councilmembers Cheh and White, we hope to see a plan from you on how you will hold DGS and DPR accountable, including the contractor. In addition, the neighborhood has been frustrated with the lack of response from the Council in handling this issue. We hope you both will provide us with immediate updates to the above issues and assist us in the future as issues come up. I also request this letter be put on the website for Hearst Park and Pool Construction Project so there is a public record of this mismanagement and request from the community for clarity.



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