Single Member District Commissioners
01-Lee Brian Reba; 02-Jason Fink; 03- Jimmy Dubois
04- Beau Finley; 05- Vacant; 06-Vacant
07- Maureen Kinlan Boucher; 08- Vicki Gersten; 09-Nancy MacWood

P.O. Box 4966
Washington, DC 20008
Website http://www.anc3c.org
Email all@anc3c.org

ANC3C Resolution 2020-011
Regarding Historic Preservation Review Board application for Washington International School at 3100 Macomb Street NW

Whereas, the Washington International School (WIS) has filed for concept approval with the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for a new academic building, relocation of the Dacha, the installation of guardhouse and other changes to the historic landmark property; and

Whereas, ANC 3C has reviewed three times the application and revisions based on comments from the Cleveland Park Architectural Review Committee and the HPRB, as well as ANC 3C; and

Whereas, ANC 3C raised concerns about the appropriateness of a new guardhouse on the driveway proximate to Macomb Street and urged the HPRB to assess the compatibility of a guardhouse with the landmark and the historic district and, if compatible, to require a location not visible from the historic district and that would not impact the mansion; and

Whereas, HPRB decided to continue to consider all aspects of the proposed guardhouse; and

Whereas, WIS owns the Tregaron property at the top of the hill, but most of the surrounding property including stretches of the driveway are owned by the conservancy which opens its land to the public; and

Whereas, the driveway where the guardhouse is proposed to be located is one-way and any vehicle that would potentially be advised to leave the property would have to travel through the entire property on the one-way drive to Klingle Road to exit the property, thus, a guard could intercept a vehicle effectively at the top of the hill near the school and a structure could house the guard in this area where it could be positioned to not impact either the historic district or the landmark mansion; and

Whereas, many neighbors have expressed their profound objections to the idea of a guardhouse, which sends a message of unwelcome and exclusion and conflicts with the neighborhood's many years of effort to preserve the property and open it for public enjoyment; and

Whereas, the ARC has twice found that a guardhouse is incompatible with the historic district:

Be It Resolved, ANC 3C defers to WIS to decide if a guardhouse intended to shelter a guard, who monitors school pick-up and drop-off, is necessary, but notes that the school acknowledges that the property is open with many access points, including pedestrian entrances to the conservancy land and connections to the public Klingle Valley Trail, and that other uses on the property welcome public access; and

Be It Resolved, that ANC 3C finds that a guardhouse within view of the historic district is not compatible with the historic district and is also inconsistent with this country estate property, but would not object to a different location out of view of the historic district as long as it had minimal impact on the landmark, particularly the mansion;

Be It Resolved, that ANC 3C has no further comments on other aspects of the application and wishes to express our appreciation to the HPRB for its careful and persistent review of every aspect of the application, and to WIS for its willingness to make changes to improve the proposal;

Be It Resolved, that the Chair and the commissioner for 3C09 are authorized to represent the commission on this matter.

Attested by

Nancy J. MacWood
Chair, on November 16, 2020

This resolution was approved by a voice vote on November 16, 2020 at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 4 of 7 commissioners) was present.