Hamala, Mark (DCOZ)

From: Mary Sameera Harper <mary.s.vanhouten@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 10:25 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ); ANC 3C Office (ANC 3C)
Cc: Ryan Harper
Subject: BZA Case 21510 - Rock Creek Club - Letter of Support

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Dear BZA and ANC C3,

My husband and I (and three children) have been Mt. Pleasant residents for the past 6-7 years and are writing to express our unequivocal support and excitement for the Rock Creek Club.

Since our first (very active) kid learned to walk, our most significant problem living in this neighborhood, which we adore, has been that there is so little green space for our children to run and play and for adults to socialize. We have considered moving of the neighborhood many times for exactly that reason. We only have a small back patio and the alley is full of rats, so there is truly no other alternative. Bancroft field is almost always occupied by soccer teams, and the park at Lamont and 19 is just not big enough (though lovely). The row houses in Mt. Pleasant also do not lend themselves toward social gatherings -- we can barely fit two other couples in our house for dinner.

We have not left because we have strong ties in this community and love Bancroft, but the lack of green space has been a real challenge. We led the charge to bring many of our friends to Beavoir pool, but it requires getting in the car with the three children -- an absolute headache and significantly limits how often we can go. There are also no other amenities there that are desperately needed when out of the house with children (food, space to play, space to rest indoors, etc.) or for adults.

When we heard about Rock Creek Club, we were overjoyed. It is a spacious, serene place in the woods, where our children could be kids and we could be adults -- and, most importantly, it is walkable / stroller-able from our home, so we can avoid getting in the car. Access to the club would ameliorate many of the limitations of living in Mt. Pleasant and facilitate a space for connection with many others in this neighborhood and nearby neighborhoods, where virtually nothing similar exists. It would allow the families in this city to enjoy more outdoor time, time being active, and time together -- things that are crucial for wellbeing. We are extremely eager for the development of the Club and hope to steward its use for good in this city.

Thank you so much for considering our letter and for supporting a space that would mean so much to local families.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 21510
EXHIBIT NO. 106A

Fingers crossed,
Mary and Ryan Harper

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Mary Sameera (Van Houten) Harper
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