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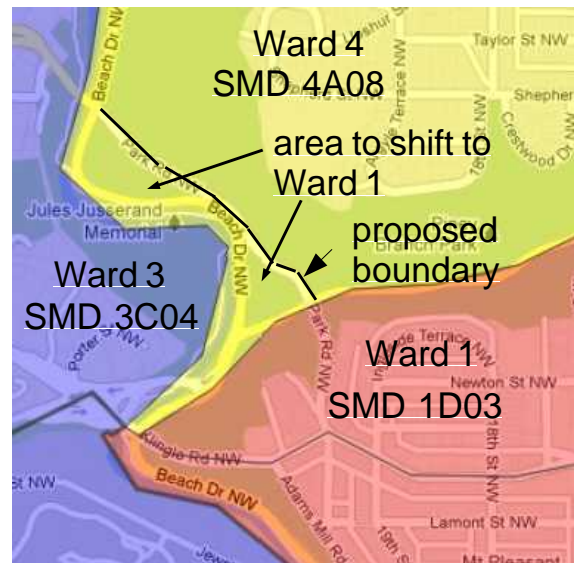
## Make Park Road the Ward One – Ward Four boundary through Rock Creek Park

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Council of the District to modify the northwest boundary of Ward One to make Park Road, through Rock Creek Park, the boundary between Wards One and Four.

### Why:

#### (1) Park Road is a Ward One arterial, but lies in Ward Four

Currently Piney Branch Parkway is the boundary between Wards One and Four, extending from 16th Street to Beach Drive. This places Park Road, from the point where it crosses Piney Branch to Beach Drive, in Ward Four. But Park Road is a key Mount Pleasant and Ward One arterial, beginning at the Washington Hospital Center and ending where Park Road, upon crossing Beach Drive, becomes Tilden Street in Ward Three. The road has no direct road connections to any Ward Four residential areas, and it is an anomaly to have one short segment of it, three-quarters of a mile from the edge of Mount Pleasant to Beach Drive, under the jurisdiction of Ward Four.



#### (2) District agencies ignore Ward One representatives in making Park Road decisions

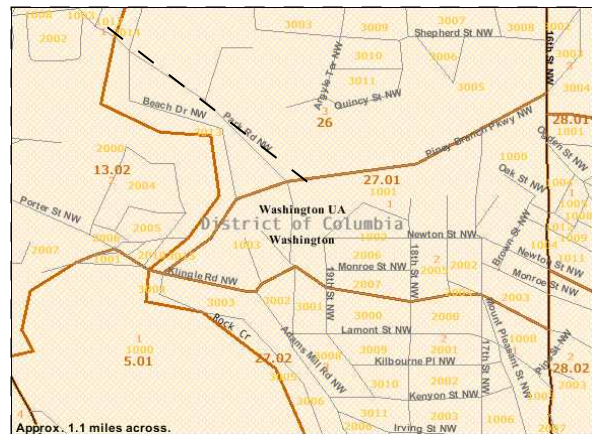
The jurisdictional switch has complicated matters in the past, as the District Department of Transportation, and other District agencies, feel that they need consult only with the Ward Four Councilmember and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions concerning work on or revisions to that portion of Park Road, even though any such work has far greater consequences for Ward One residents than for anyone in Ward Four. On Park Road itself, within Mount Pleasant, there are over a thousand residents, whereas there is exactly one Ward Four residence on the entire length of Park Road. It is not reasonable for those thousand Ward One residents to have no say in dealings concerning the portion of Park Road in Rock Creek Park, while residents of Ward Four, practically none resident on Park Road, are alone given jurisdiction. If our ANC wishes to offer advice concerning Park Road beyond the Piney Branch crossover (there is no intersection), District

agencies decline our advice and insist on consulting only with Ward Four commissions, despite the absence of any connection between Ward Four residential areas and Park Road.

### **(3) Census Tract 26 violates the “compact and contiguous” requirement**

This anomalous situation comes about because of the peculiar structure of Census Tract 26, and the meandering course of Rock Creek. As the chart of census tracts shows, Tract 26 includes a bizarre “finger” separating Tract 27.01 (Mount Pleasant, north) from Tract 13.02 (Cleveland Park, Ward Three). This land consists of uninhabited woodland, Beach Drive, and the east bank of Rock Creek. There are no residences in Tract 26 south of Park Road, and one could just as readily have made Park Road the southern boundary of Tract 26, as have created this odd projection to the south.

The DC Code calls for the wards to “conform to the greatest extent possible with the boundaries of the census tracts”. But a consequence of the peculiar shape of Tract 26 is to violate the requirement that the wards be “compact and contiguous”, the “finger” of Tract 26 causing a wholly unnecessary gap between Wards One and Three, as well as intrinsically violating the “compact” criterion for Ward Four. This is an unnecessary extension of Ward Four, and can be eliminated without contradicting the sense of the census tract boundary requirement, because there are, and can never be, residences in this area, which is entirely within Rock Creek National Park.



### **(4) Homeless persons resident in this part of Rock Creek Park are de facto Mount Pleasant/Ward One residents**

Until recently there was one resident of this parkland south of Park Road, a homeless man, one Bruce Fields, well known in Mount Pleasant, as he walked through the neighborhood regularly on his way to a church providing meals for the homeless. That argues also that this area should be considered part of Mount Pleasant, and part of Ward One, not of Ward Four. (Mr Fields died suddenly in March, 2010. A remarkable number of Mount Pleasant residents, caring about this homeless resident of our neighborhood, were saddened to hear of his untimely death.)

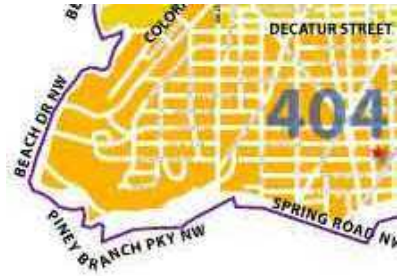
### **(5) The odd shape that results is due to the course of Rock Creek**

Councilmember Evans noted that this revision to the Ward One boundary itself creates an odd shape projecting to the northwest, apparently violating the “compact and contiguous” criterion. But this odd shape is brought about by the meandering route of Rock Creek, which causes Ward Three to project to the east. That’s a consequence of natural geography, and so is not really a violation of the “compact and contiguous” clause. If Rock Creek flowed in a straight line, there wouldn’t be this narrow point in the extension, where Beach Drive (following the course of Rock Creek) happens to converge with Park Road.

### **(6) Policing is also confused by the current boundaries**

Metropolitan Police District Three currently ends at the Ward One boundary, at the Park Road overpass over Piney Branch Parkway. District Two begins at Beach Drive, where Park Road

becomes Tilden Street. The portion of Park Road between the Piney Branch overpass and Beach Drive is anomalous, apparently lying in 4D, but with no road connections to any Fourth District roads. Who patrols this road? Who responds to calls on it? This ambiguity will be cleared up if the road is made the Ward One-Ward Four boundary, and 3D follows it to Beach Drive and the beginning of 2D.



*Passed by 5 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on May 17, 2011, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Romero-Castillo, Edwards, McKay, Wilson Phelan, Scott. Absent: Commissioner Terrell.*