

MEETING NOTES
GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(as called for in the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, Condition P-7)

Meeting #1 – December, 14, 2007 – 6:00 pm

Saint Mary's Court, Lower Level

Michael Akin, Director of Community Affairs for The George Washington University opened the meeting at approximately 6:05 pm and welcomed attendees.

He noted this meeting was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of the recently approved 2007 GW Foggy Bottom Campus Plan. Next, representatives of GW who have been appointed by the University as members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves: Michael Akin, the Director of Community Relations in GW's department of Government International and Community Relations; Alicia O'Neil, the Director of the Office of Real Estate; Susi Cora, a project manager for the University who will be working in the Office of Real Estate on campus plan matters after the new year; Peter Konwerski, the Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services; and Brian Hamluk the Director of Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs (via speakerphone). Members of the public present included: Ronnie Hadorn, St. Mary's Court resident; Barbara Kahlow of West End Citizens Association; Paul Winick, Foggy Bottom resident; Ed Abramic, Foggy Bottom resident; Toni Boyer, St. Mary's Court resident; Jack Batham, president of the West End Citizen's Association; Britany Waddell, GW employee and Foggy Bottom resident; Eric Selbst and John Ralls of GW's Office of Real Estate; and Gina Fernandes, GW Student.

At the completion of introductions, Ms. Kahlow asked which department would be responsible for student parking compliance. Ms. O'Neil stated that the Office of Real Estate will be responsible overall for compliance with conditions of the Campus Plan and should be notified of any concerns. Ms. Kahlow continued her comments by stating that those present should be aware of the fact that the ANC voted to not be involved in this process and to protest the need for such an advisory committee.

Mr. Akin reviewed GW's thoughts on the guidelines for the administration of future Advisory Committee meetings, including that meetings will be held quarterly during the evening at an off-campus location; a listserv will be established to facilitate communication between members of the Advisory Committee; relevant materials will be posted on GW's neighborhood website, www.gwu.neighborhood.edu; GW will inform the Advisory Committee of any notices required for under the new Campus Plan and also share this information via letter with the Chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A as the ANC has not yet appointed any members to the Committee. In addition, Mr. Akin stated that future meetings of the Advisory Committee will be publicly advertised via letters to the presidents of the Foggy Bottom Association and West End Citizens Association as well as via an advertisement in the Foggy Bottom Current and use of community listservs.

Ms. Kahlow requested that the University investigate “best practices” related to community advisory committee meetings and procedures. Ms. Kahlow continued by suggesting that meetings of this type often work best if a specific topic is addressed at each meeting and suggested student behavior, crime, and parking issues as possible topics for future meetings.

Ms. O’Neil gave an update on Campus Plan and Campus Plan compliance activities. She noted that the Zoning Commission’s final order for the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan was published in the DC Register on October 26, 2007, and that the document was posted on the neighborhood website (<http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu>), but that printed copies were also available here for interested individuals.

Ms. O’Neil then informed those present that the University had filed its first compliance report on November 20, 2007, that the report was also available on the neighborhood website and that printed copies were available here for those interested. Ms. O’Neil then shared highlights of this report:

- GW is in compliance with its student housing requirement;
- GW is in compliance with its ban on freshman and sophomores bringing cars to campus except in extreme circumstances and effective fall 2007, freshman and sophomores were only provided parking privileges for documented extreme circumstances.
- In response to an inquiry from Ms. Kahlow, Ms. O’Neil indicated that students signatures will be collected during the regular admissions cycle, which will occur this spring for the fall semester. Ms. O’Neil also indicated that mailings to parents of incoming freshman and sophomores would take place during this same time period. Ms. Kahlow requested additional information from the University on this matter.
- GW is in compliance with the enrollment audit of Foggy Bottom enrollment population – GW has already provided Walker & Co. with information needed to do an audit due Jan 10, 2008 to the Zoning Administrator. O’Neil indicated that a copy of this audit report will be included in GW’s spring compliance report and that if a document is received by the University prior to that date, it would be posted on the neighborhood website.
- The Historic Preservation Plans and Streetscape Plans are in process. GW is working on a second draft of the Streetscape Plan and will share it with the community at a meeting once the second draft has been completed. With regard to the Historic Preservation Plan, O’Neil noted that the application process for landmarks and the historic district will move forward once the campus plan appeal has been resolved (per the Order). However, GW has already established an internal working group to draft maintenance guidelines and will work with the Historic Preservation Office to establish guidelines even before the historic district is in place.
- Certain schools/departments within the University have begun programming studies and internal conversations regarding individual department/division space needs and how these needs might be accommodated within development sites set forth in the campus plan. O’Neil noted that the medical center has begun such a study and that a study regarding a science and engineering complex is forthcoming.

- Ms. Kahlow inquired as to the current and future use of certain off-campus buildings that are to be transitioned from undergraduate student housing. O'Neil responded that Hall on Virginia Avenue which is currently graduate student housing will continue to serve that purpose for the short term – some feasibility studies have been undertaken to convert this structure to workforce housing, though no decisions have been made as to whether or not to go forward; the Aston, 1129 New Hampshire is under renovation and will re-open next fall as housing for first year GW law students; Columbia Plaza which GW does not control (but has been part of the housing system via referral) will no longer be an option for GW undergraduate students with an exception for the current undergraduate students who currently live there who will be permitted to remain; City Hall, the former St. James Hotel, lease will be up for renewal in 2016 and GW undergraduate students will not live in this building after that time.

Ms. O'Neil then provided general updates and indicated that GW has broken ground and is making progress on its new 474 bed residence hall on Square 80 and it is anticipated to open on schedule in Fall 2009.

Ms. Kahlow inquired about the status of the Environmental Screening Forms for Square 54 and requested copies of this documentation. Ms. O'Neil noted the request and indicated that Boston Properties/Kettler are responsible for the permitting process and will need to be consulted.

Ms. O'Neil continued her updates by stating that Boston Properties/Kettler continue to work toward commencement of work on Square 54; demolition and construction at 1925 F Street will be underway to convert this to the new home for the GW President; and since filing the Campus Plan, GW has acquired two townhouses within its campus boundaries (2121 and 2123 F Streets, NW) and is under contract to purchase a third townhouse within the Campus Plan boundaries at 2004 G Street, N.W.

Akin opened the floor to public questions/comments and asked for possible subjects for future meetings – suggestions included student parking, GW's commitment to the environment and ADA compliance, noise.

With no other public questions/comments the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

(meeting notes by Britany Waddell and John Ralls, GW)