

MEETING NOTES
GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)
Meeting #4 – Sept. 22, 2008 – 6:30 pm
Saint Mary's Court, Lower Level

Michael Akin, Director of Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting at 6:31 pm and welcomed attendees. Akin noted this fourth meeting was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of the *2007 GW Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and that notices of the meeting had been sent via letter to all members of the Foggy Bottom Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (ANC 2A) as well as leadership of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) and the West End Citizens Association (WECA). Additionally, an advertisement for the meeting was placed in *The Foggy Bottom Current*, an email invite was sent to FRIENDS listserv and notice was placed at several locations on GW's neighborhood website (<http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu>).

Next, representatives of GW who have been appointed by the University as members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves: Michael Akin, Director of Community Relations in GW's department of Government International and Community Relations; Alicia O'Neil, Managing Director of GW's Office of Real Estate; Susi Cora, Director of Planning and Project Management in GW Office of Real Estate; Peter Konwerski, Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services; and Brian Hamluk, Director of Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs. Members of the public present included: Rita Aid, Toni Boyer, Ceil Gallagher, Barbara Kahlow, James Morris, Alexa Millinger, Helen Rader, and Paul Winnick. Also in attendance were GW representatives John Ralls and Britany Waddell. At the completion of introductions, Akin noted the minutes from the previous GW Community Advisory Committee meeting (June 30, 2008) were posted on GW's neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu. After this, Akin moved to address the first agenda items, Campus Plan and campus development updates:

1) Proposed Campus Development Projects

- ***Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center:*** Cora said this project was still in the initial development stages and design development documents would be due in early October. Cora said the interior renovation and new exterior façade are a much needed upgrade and will not alter use or capacity of the building.
- ***Square 39A – School of Public Health building:*** O'Neil said the architecture firm Payette has begun initial programming and concept design work and there should be design concepts in early 2009 to share publicly. In response to questions from James Morris, O'Neil said: this was the site that had previously been discussed as a potential site for a cancer center; the small pocket park on the southern side of the site will be maintained; the cancer treatment programs currently operating in the site's existing structure would be relocated to accommodate the new structure and academic use.
- ***Square 55A – Current University Parking Garage:*** O'Neil began by reiterating GW's long-standing contemplation of this site for the development of a science and engineering building given its proximity to the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Columbia College of Arts and Sciences and GW's medical school. Current work is focused on identifying what uses should occur in the building and how to ensure the building creates efficiencies between the science programs of various GW schools. In response to public questions, O'Neil said

- Construction of this project is not anticipated to begin before completion of Square 54 in 2011;
- GW is already working to accommodate the parking spaces currently housed in the University Parking Garage, including 178 parking spaces in the new Square 80 project; 362 spaces in the Square 54 project, and a yet-to-be-determined amount of spaces on the project on Square 55 that will replace the University Parking Garage;
- The proposed science center could include both development sites A1 and A2 in Square 55 but does not include Fulbright, JBKO or Munson residence halls.

2) Ongoing Campus Development Projects

- ***1925 F Street (former Alumni House):*** Cora said GW President Knapp and his family moved into the building in late August and final renovation items are being completed. She said additional landscaping will occur in the Fall and project phase II/garage construction would begin soon. In response to questions from Paul Winnick, Akin said a public reception/open house is being planned for the neighborhood on October 24, 2008 and O’Neil said the house in DC’s Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood used as a residence by previous GW President Trachtenberg is still on the market.
- ***Square 80/GW School Without Walls Project:*** Cora said the 474 bed residence hall project is on schedule to open in Fall 2009. She said precast concrete panels have been applied as the “skin” of the building on the southeast side of the project and there has been preliminary work on the design of potential green-space improvements to the interior of the square. In response to a question on progress by DC Public School’s (DCPS) on the School Without Walls (SWW), Cora said abatement work on existing structure continues and exterior excavation work has commenced. Sara Maddux suggested lights or additional signage be installed to encourage pedestrians to use the temporary sidewalk adjacent to the project site and not walk in the street. In response to Maddux’s question as to whether GW would be allowed to make any changes to the surface of the recently renovated F Street, Cora said GW is required by DC DDoT to repair/restore F Street paving.
- ***Square 54:*** O’Neil said the project is well underway and the construction team (Clark Construction) has excavated about 60 percent of the dirt and rock on the site. She said excavation will continue through the end of the year and controlled blasting activities up to three times daily on weekdays will occur through November. Clark Construction expects to work on the below grade floors during winter and spring of 2009 and this will likely require closing some portion of the sidewalk on the northern side of the 2200 block of Eye Street.
- In response to a question from Kahlow regarding the project’s grocery store, O’Neil said she expects it will be on the larger side of the required 25-42k square foot. Akin encouraged the public to visit GW’s neighborhood website (neighborhood.gwu.edu) for internet links to both a video of a controlled blast on the site as well as a webcam showing continually updated web images of the project site. O’Neil said the project developer Boston Properties is expecting project completion in 2011 but the opening of the project’s residences might take a bit longer than the office and retail components.
- ***The Aston, 1129 New Hampshire Avenue, NW*** – Cora said this life safety building upgrade was completed in time for GW Law School students to occupy the building and noted the project accommodated a renovation of the existing tree box space in front of the building which tripled the amount of green space at this site.

- **Thurston Residence Hall facade:** Cora said window replacement on the South and West elevations as well as the interior courtyard area was successfully completed.

3) Other 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan Initiatives

- **Streetscape and Historic Preservation Plan:** O'Neil reiterated the update she provided at the June 22 GW/Community Advisory Committee meeting: although implementation of these plans are delayed until the resolution of the pending court appeals of the 2007 *Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* filed by the Foggy Bottom Association, GW continues to work with the DC Government to finalize both of these plans and has established an internal working group to draft maintenance guidelines even before the historic district is in place. O'Neil said, regardless of the timeline for the court appeals, she expects further details will be available to share with the community in 2009. In response to various questions from Kahlow regarding proposed re-development of 2013 H Street NW (not owned by GW), O'Neil said GW is monitoring the progress of this site and its potential impact of GW's historic properties.
- **November Compliance Report for the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan:** O'Neil said the next compliance report was due November 20 and it would be publicly posted at www.neighborhood.gwu.edu. She said it is anticipated GW will, as with previous reports, be in full compliance with the conditions required by the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan.

4) Public Space Items

- **GW's Fall-Move In:** Akin said the team coordinating GW's Fall Move-In for incoming students had over-purchased street parking spaces and GW will work to ensure it better gauges this need for the 2009 student move-in program.
- **Square 54:** O'Neil said construction cranes would be erected on the site in early 2009 and this will require an updating of the project's public space permits including possible usage of the Eye Street and 23rd Street sidewalks for loading and storage of materials.

5) Review of 2008 Community Concern Report

- Akin began by noting this annual report had been prepared by the Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs and was also available online at GW's neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu and then summarized the report, including:
- There was a decline in the number of complaints received during the tracking period of July 1-June 30 when comparing the 143 complaints received between 07-01-07 to 06-30-08 to the 187 received between 07-01-06 to 06-30-07 with the months of January to March and August to October showing the greatest decrease in complaints received from the previous year;
- More than 90 of the 143 complaints were received during the Friday to Sunday weekend timespan;
- Nearly half of the incidents reported were occurrences of noise on the street;
- More than 70 percent of the complaints were related to noise;
- 43 percent of the complaints were immediately resolved including when UPD responded and was able to halt the offending activities on the scene;
- 43 percent of the complaint resolutions included situations in which UPD responded, but found no activity or evidence of complaint;

- The Office of Community Relations follows up with all community members regarding their complaints when contact information is provided.

There were several questions about whether parking complaints (constituting 4% of the 143 total) included calls regarding students parking on area streets in violation of the prohibition on freshmen and sophomores locating vehicles on the Foggy Bottom Campus. Hamluk said he could not recall this occurring and stressed that parking complaints could also include complaints about non-GW residents parking. Maddux said she felt there was an increase in the number of non-DC license plates each fall and said Foggy Bottom neighborhood organizations were considering informal community patrolling to ascertain if the owners of these vehicles are students.

With no additional questions or concerns noted, the meeting then moved to the final portion of the agenda, public questions and comments.

6) Public questions and comments

- Maddux said the Monroe House Condo would be installing new elevators on Oct 4, 2008 and the crane to do this would necessitate a street closing between 9am-3pm on 21st Streets, NW between E and F Streets, N.W.
- There was a discussion regarding the need for pedestrians in the early morning hours to be aware of fast moving vehicles and possible ways to increase awareness of DC's anti-jaywalking laws and regulations. There was a brief discussion regarding bicycles on GW's Foggy Bottom Campus – possibilities to increase parking racks, and the need for riders to wear reflective clothing.
- Hamluk gave a brief review of the Guide to Personal Success program he oversees which helps incoming freshman transitioning to GW by pairing them with a faculty, staff or administrator who keeps in touch with them, answers questions, serves as a mentor, etc.
- With no further comments or questions, the meeting adjourned.