

**MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
(as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)  
Meeting #7 – June 10, 2009 – 6:30 pm -- Saint Mary's Court, Lower Level

**1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Michael Akin, Executive Director of Government & Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm and welcomed attendees. Akin said this seventh quarterly meeting was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of the *2007 GW Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and 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 Citizen's Association (WECA). Additionally, an advertisement for the meeting was placed in the June 3, 2009 edition of *The Foggy Bottom Current*, an email invite was sent to the approximately 400 members on the FRIENDS listserv and notice was placed at several locations on GW's neighborhood website (<http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu>). Barbara Kahlow asked if this item could also be shared with the Foggy Bottom listserv and it was agreed this would occur for future meetings.

Next, representatives of GW who have been appointed by the University as members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves: Michael Akin, GW Executive Director of Government & Community Relations; Alicia O'Neil, GW, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations; Susi Cora, GW Director of Planning and Project Management/Office of Real Estate; Peter Konwerski, GW Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services (SASS); and Brian Hamluk, GW Director SASS & University Guide to Personal Success Program. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: Adam Aaronson, Barbara Kahlow, Colin McDonald, John Ralls, Bill Schechter, Claudia Schechter and Dave Clinton. At the completion of introductions, Akin noted minutes from all previous meetings of the GW Community Advisory Committee (including the most recent meeting on 03/16/09) are posted on GW's neighborhood website, [www.neighborhood.gwu.edu](http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu)

**2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

***2A) Campus Development Updates***

***2Ai) Square 80 residence hall/2100 block of F Street:*** Cora said work on this project is nearing completion. Brick pavers have been installed on F Street sidewalk and final punch-out of building is underway.

***2Aii) Square 80 Open Space:*** Existing surface parking/delivery&loading area between F & G, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets is being converted into a green space this summer/fall. The new design will create campus space and employ progressive storm water management practices. Cora said this is an excellent opportunity for GW to convert hard surface areas into permeable surfaces.

***2Aiii) Square 54/2200 Pennsylvania Avenue:*** O'Neil said work on this project continues with Level P-4 having been completed and work started on Level P-3. Electrical contractors are now on site. It is anticipated the covered sidewalk for the Pennsylvania Avenue/Washington Circle side of the site will be installed within the next month. Kahlow asked how long this covered sidewalk will be in place and O'Neil said she expected it to be present for the duration of the construction (anticipated to finish mid 2011).

**2Aiv) Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center:** Cora said the structural steel work and minor interior slab infill of Phase I of the three-phase project was completed in April and Phase II (major interior renovations) was in progress., including demolition of the lower level and blocking up of walls, piping and sub slab work. Phase II is anticipated for substantial completion in late August and Phase III (mainly exterior work) will begin shortly thereafter.

**2Av) F Street House Garage:** Cora said interior work and landscaping occurred throughout 2007-2008 and, as previously discussed with the community, work will now begin to complete the exterior garage addition. Permits have been submitted for and its hoping construction will begin this summer which will allow for coverage of existing parking area, ADA accessibility elevator and outdoor mud room.

**2B) Campus development projects in the planning stages:**

**2Bi) School of Public Health and Health Services/Square 39A:** Cora said at the May meeting of GW's Board of Trustees approval was given for initial design and feasibility work for a new School of Public Health building on Square 39 (current home to the Warwick Building). Cora said that per the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* this structure would be for academic offices and classroom and the park/green space on the site's southern side/Square 39 would be retained. Oneil said that, once Board approves the project's construction, *conceptual designs would be shared with the community at future community meeting.*

**2Bii) Science and engineering complex:** Cora said the GW Board of Trustees at its February meeting approved up to \$10 million in funding for initial feasibility, design, programming and benchmarking work on this project which is expected to be located on Square 55 (current site of GW's University Parking Garage). Cora said she anticipates programming and benchmarking work will take place later this summer or in the fall.

**2C) Other 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan initiatives:**

**2Ci&ii) Streetscape and Historic Preservation Plans:** Cora said work continues on both the Streetscape and the Historic Preservation plans called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*. O'Neil confirmed the historic district application, per Condition P-9 of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, would be submitted by the DC Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office and the applications for landmark status of specific buildings will be submitted by GW. O'Neil said work continues on each of these efforts even though they can not be officially initiated until resolution of the legal challenges to the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*.

**2Ciii) Additional:** O'Neil said GW's Board of Trustees approves a capital budget annually at its May meeting and shared hard copies of this year's approved budget which can also be found online at <http://www.gwu.edu/~univbud/>

**3) FEATURED DISCUSSION: PROPOSED STREETSCAPE DESIGN ELEMENTS IN the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Streetscape Plan by Adam Aaronson, GW Office of Real Estate**

*Below is a summary of Aaronson's presentation. To view entire presentation, visit:*

<http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu/campusdev/docs/streetscape/2009%20June%2015%20presentation.pdf>

Aaronson said GW's Streetscape Plan is a component of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP)* and will be implemented over the 20-year life of the plan. GW has reengaged with EE&K Architects and has been working to further develop streetscape components outlined

and approved in concept in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*. He said a meeting was held May 6, 2009 at which the current proposal was shared and community input was solicited and an additional community meeting will be held June 15, 2009.

Aaronson said there are two types of campus streets: east/west which are more pedestrian oriented and north/south which are more vehicular oriented. Aaronson said GW's streetscape proposal is a three layer plan designed to match varying intensity of uses: yellow, orange, and red locations on the map signify the increasing intensity of streetscape elements corresponding to base, enhanced and premium zones which mirror the increasing intensity of campus activity. He shared examples of GW's existing streetscape elements and proposed new elements including building identifiers, paving elements, planting areas, street banners, way-finding signs, premium elements (sculptures, clocks, plaques). The following questions/comments arose during and after Aaronson's presentation:

- Kahlow suggested GW adopt tree fencing similar to that being used at 2440 M Street
- Kahlow suggested GW consider the benches which are being planned for the areas adjacent to the IMF as well as those in Washington Circle Park and asked if GW would consider using benches with individual dividers so as to provide better mobility to the elderly.
- Kahlow suggested GW look at the new signs the National Park Service is planning to install, to compare formats.
- O'Neil said the recent brick sidewalk installation on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street between F and H Streets, NW was not coordinated with GW and occurred without any previous consultations. She said this is concerning since it raises the question as to how DDOT will work GW in the future to coordinate streetscape improvements.
- Kahlow said she has been working to use the amenity funds from the IMF Planned Unit Development to provide additional streetscape elements to the Foggy Bottom West-End neighborhood. She said it would be good to see if there areas where GW could coordinate with this effort. O'Neil requested Kahlow provide GW with information and drawings related to this plan.
- Bill Schechter asked how long it will take for the plan to get finalized and approved by the DC Government. O'Neil said the goal is to have the proposed streetscape plan completed and ready to file later this year but noted this plan can not be officially submitted for approval until resolution of the legal challenges to the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*.
- Claudia Schechter asked if it would be possible for a meeting to be held which would allow both GW to present the plan DC Government approves and suggested a statement of intent be included as to GW's commitment to rainwater retention.
- Bill Schechter asked if DC Government has a master plan for streetscape elements and Akin noted the complexities of streetscape implementation given the diversity of preferences between different DC neighborhoods.

#### **4) OTHER COMMUNITY UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**4A) 2009-10 Academic Calendar:** Hamluk said this was on the back side of the agenda (copy included at conclusion of minute's text) and noted classes begin this fall on August 30 which is before the September 7 Labor Day holiday.

**4B) Green Move Out and Fall Move In:** Hamluk said this year's move out took place over several weeks which helped minimize its impact on the surrounding community. He said GW's

“Green Move Out” strategy resulted in more than 160 volunteers helping to collect more than 2,000 bags of unneeded clothing and food which were donated to local charities.

**4C) H Street Community Garden:** Akin said this is being planned for H Street between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Streets and was initiated by students who have been reaching out to numerous University and neighborhood stakeholders (including the Foggy Bottom Association, Foggy Bottom Garden Club and various members of Foggy Bottom Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A). Claudia Schechter asked how the garden would be composed and Akin said it is anticipated to be on raised planting beds. Schechter said it would be helpful to look at the work of the area’s neighborhood garden in the vicinity of Francis Junior High School. She added that this garden should demonstrate best-practices in community gardening, and not utilize pesticides.

**4 D) Mount Vernon Campuses:**

**4Di) Pelham Hall Redevelopment:** Cora said work continues on schedule and the topping out of the building’s initial structure is anticipated later in June.

**4Dii) 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan Process:** Cora said monthly meetings have been/are being held with residents near this Campus (including the neighborhoods of Foxhall and Palisades) for discussion on a proposed 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan, which is anticipated to be filed in October with the DC Zoning Commission.

**4E) Update on HOVA balcony usage:** Akin said this was an issue previously raised and he gave an update on GW’s work to address the concern that residents of GW’s Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) were storing bicycles and other items on the balcony adjoining their room. Akin said work is underway to affix signage to remind students these balconies are not to be used for storage or other uses. Barbara Kahlow asked GW to consider how to prevent future reoccurrences of this practice when new students move into HOVA. Akin said that in addition to replacing stickers, we would ask building staff to remind residents that this is not allowed. Also, GW will be checking doors as part of routine Health and Safety inspections. Claudia Schechter said the plantings surrounding GW’s HOVA Residence Hall are not in ideal condition. O’Neil pledged to follow up with the grounds team.

**5) ADJOURNMENT**

With no further comments or questions, Akin adjourned the meeting and encouraged residents to review the minutes for tonight’s and previous meetings on the neighborhood website.

**2009-2010  
ACADEMIC YEAR CALENDAR**

FALL SEMESTER 2009		
<b>CLASSES BEGIN</b>	<b>(M) August 31</b>	M=14
Labor Day	(M) September 7	T=14
Thanksgiving Break	(R-F) November 26-27	W=14
Last Day of Fall Semester Classes	(M) December 7	R=13
Make-up Classes	(T) December 8	F=13

Reading Days	(W-R) December 9-10	
<b>FINAL EXAMINATIONS</b>	<b>(F-S) December 11-19</b>	

*M = Mondays    T = Tuesdays    W = Wednesdays    R = Thursdays    F = Fridays*

<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2010</b>		
<b>CLASSES BEGIN</b>	<b>(M) January 11</b>	M=14
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	(M) January 18	
Presidents' Day	(M) February 15	T=14
Spring Break	(M-S) March 15-20	W=14
Make-up Classes	(T) April 27	R=14
<b>Designated Monday Last Day of Spring semester classes</b>	<b>(W) April 28</b>	F=14
Reading Days	(R-F) April 29-30	
<b>FINAL EXAMINATIONS</b>	<b>(M-T) May 3-11</b>	
Commencement	(Sun) May 16	

*M = Mondays    T = Tuesdays    W = Wednesdays    R = Thursdays    F = Fridays*