

## **MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Meeting #8/Quarter 3 – September 22, 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 6:30 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Akin said this eighth 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 the Chair of 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 September 16, 2009 edition of *The Foggy Bottom Current*, an email invite was sent to the approximately 400 members on the FRIENDS listserv, the Foggy Bottom Alert Neighborhood 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, 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: Susi Baranano, Jack Batham, Don Hunter, Sara Maddux and Steve Timlin. Also in attendance were GW representatives Mark Levine, Amber Lewis, John Ralls and Britany Waddell as well as GW Student Colin MacDonald. At the completion of introductions, Akin noted minutes from all previous meetings of the GW Community Advisory Committee (including the Quarter 2 meeting held 06/10/09) 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 Open Space:*** O'Neil said the existing surface parking/delivery and loading area between F, G, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets is being converted into a green space this fall. The new design will create campus open space that employs progressive storm water management practices. Cora said work will begin once final permits have been received, hopefully within the next few weeks.

***2Aii) Square 54/2200 Pennsylvania Avenue:*** O'Neil said work on this project continues and concrete work has reached grade. A permit has been received for the office component on the north side of the project and the permit for the residential component on the southern side of the project is expected to be received soon. Utility work along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street between Eye Street and Pennsylvania Avenue is expected to continue into the future which will require an additional lane closure for this one-block section of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street between 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on workdays. Work is on track for opening in 2011.

***2Aiii) Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center/Square 57:*** Cora said phase two of this three phase project, including the majority of interior work, was substantially completed August 24 with final punchlist items now being addressed. Also underway is design work for phase three of the project which will be under construction starting in 2010 and will

focus on the exterior work. O'Neil said the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters has been engaging in picketing activities regarding drywall subcontractors on the Smith Center project and other projects on GW's campus. O'Neil said the University respects the right of these individuals to protest, but has taken steps to limit the impact these activities have on students and neighbors, including relocation of the construction entrance so as to alleviate noise impact on adjacent residents. O'Neil said she expects these protests will continue to intermittently occur on GW's Foggy Bottom Campus in the near future and GW will continue to do its best to mitigate this impact on surrounding neighbors.

**2Aiv) F Street House Garage/Square 121:** O'Neil said work began in late August/early September on this project and it is nearly complete. The project includes an enclosure over the previously open air parking area. Batham asked if a roof will be placed on the structure and O'Neil said the building has a raised parapet and open roof so as to accommodate HVAC units in that area.

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

**2Bi) School of Public Health and Health Services/Square 39A:** O'Neil said GW has gone through initial design and feasibility work. The next step will be to complete a funding plan for the project to propose to GW's Board of Trustees for approval. Consistent with *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, this building will house academic offices and classrooms.

**2Bii) Science and engineering complex/Square 55:** O'Neil said GW has engaged Boston Properties (BP) to work as a consultant/advisor and offer project management services for this project to be located on current site of GW's University Parking Garage. This is in contrast to BP's role on Square 54 where it is the owner and developer. BP will work with GW to issue an RFP for benchmarking and programming which will be the start of the pre-design process. Maddux requested additional outreach be made to St. Mary's Church regarding mitigation of potential impacts during construction and it was agreed this would occur.

**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 as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP)*. Cora said that, per Condition P-9 of the *2007 FBCP*, GW's Historic Preservation Plan (including both Historic District information and the individual landmark applications GW will file) would soon be submitted by the DC Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office. Cora said a final draft of the streetscape project was also being drafted. O'Neil said the filing of both plans had been on hold until resolution of the Foggy Bottom Association's appeal of the *2007 FBCP* but the DC Court of Appeals September 3, 2009 decision affirming the Zoning Commission's *2007 FBCP* order of approval had reactivated the timeline for filing of these plans.

**2Ciii) Fall Compliance report due 11-20-09:** Cora said the next report is due November 20 and will be posted on the website and paper copies can be provided to individuals who make this request.

**3) FEATURED DISCUSSION: DISCUSSION OF GW'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THE RECENTLY OPENED SOUTH HALL by Mark Levine, GW Associate Dean of Students**

Levine began his presentation by highlighting the success with this fall's move-in which featured more than 1,000 volunteers helping students and families. He said the opening of South Hall (2135 F Street, NW/Square 80) was the highlight of the fall move-in, including the grant GW received from Brita water filters which allowed for all students to receive a nalgene water bottle and Brita water filters for each unit. Levine said the popularity of the building has allowed GW to retain 300+ fourth year students on campus.

Next, Levine gave a general overview of GW's undergraduate student housing. He said not all GW residents are students with 30+ professional GW staff living on campus, including GW President Knapp, UPD Chief Stafford and housing staff (including him). Levine said many residence halls have themes which are enhanced with events, discussions and other special events. Themes for first year students include media & public affairs, business & entrepreneurship, and public policy. Themes for older students include exploring gender, living with religion, "passport dc," and sustainability. Levine said the F Street Commission is also a monthly gathering for faculty, staff and student representatives of residence halls along F Street. O'Neil said she was particularly proud of the fact GW had, in the past ten years delivered more than 2,500 beds on GW's Foggy Bottom Campus. MacDonald said the Residence Hall Association interacts with other campuses to examine trends and issues and said GW's residence halls rank very favorably in comparison to other schools.

The meeting then opened to related discussion and additional questions:

- Maddux said students living in residence halls on F Street, particularly South Hall, should be more aware that their rooms are visible from adjacent residence halls and close their blinds when dressing/undressing; she also said parties at F Street townhouses (particularly 2152 F Street) produce excessive debris; football, stickball and other recreational activities should not occur on F Street.
- Timlin said GW's transitioning of undergraduate students back to housing on-campus has made a "remarkable difference" in the peace and quiet of his neighborhood. He also requested the amount students pay to live in South Hall.
- Barranano said she is concerned about H1N1 and what steps would be taken to limit its impact on surrounding neighbors (e.g., students living in local commercial apartment buildings). Akin said he would share updates of GW's recent efforts on this issue with area building managers. Levine said work began last spring to address H1N1 and much information has been shared via GW's "Fight the Flu" campaign.
- Timlin asked whether GW has issued communications to managers of off-campus apartment buildings and, specifically, if GW has had discussion with the manager of the Elise to address late night loitering that occurs when students arrive home and are smoking cigarettes before returning to their rooms. Akin said he would add this item to the agenda for the next quarterly meeting GW has with area building managers and would extend extra effort to encourage the manager of the Elise to attend the next building managers meeting.

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

**4A) H Street Community Garden/Square 41:** O'Neil said GW has worked with GW's student group, Food Justice Alliance, to facilitate the September 12, 2009 kick-off of this garden located on the north side of H Street between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Streets. She said this project 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). The goal is that eventually produce will be donated to Miriam's Kitchen and other local outlets. Signage and education materials will be posted at the site in the near future. Timlin asked if installation of a mulching machine could be considered for this garden which could also be used by community members.

**4B) Mount Vernon Campuses:**

**4Bi) Pelham Hall Redevelopment:** Cora said work is well underway and continues on schedule on this building that will have 278 beds and additional student support facilities. The building is on schedule for opening in fall 2010.

**4Bii) 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan Process:** Cora said six community meetings have been 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 November with the DC Zoning Commission. Cora said there would be preliminary meetings with the ANC in October and November and did not expect a Zoning Commission hearing until early 2010. MacDonald said the Residence Hall Association would like to help promote this event.

**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.