

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)
Meeting #19/Quarter 2 – June 18, 2012 – 6:30 pm -- Saint Mary’s Court, Lower Level

1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Britany Waddell of The George Washington University opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. by noting this 19th quarterly meeting was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of GW’s *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP)*. Waddell reported that notices of the meeting had been sent via letter and/or email to the six Commissioners on 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). Additional outreach to publicize this meeting included:

- Advertisement placed in the June 6 2012 edition of *The Foggy Bottom Current*;
- Email invite sent to approximately 400 members on the FRIENDS listserv, as well as distributed via the Foggy Bottom Alert Neighborhood listserv;
- Notice placed on five pages of GW’s neighborhood website www.neighborhood.gwu.edu
- Email reminders sent to attendees of previous GW Community Advisory Committee meetings.

Next, representatives of GW who have been appointed by the University as members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves, including: Alicia Knight, GW Senior Associate Vice President for Operations; Susi Cora, GW Director of Campus Planning; Peter Konwerski, GW Dean of Students; Tara Pereira, GW Assistant Dean of Students, and; Britany Waddell, GW’s Director of Community Relations. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: community members Barbara Kahlow, Sara Maddux, and Paul Winick; Frankie Kane of the GW Hatchet; and (from the Division of Operations) John Ralls and Eric Selbst. Waddell concluded introductions by noting the minutes from the previous meeting (2012 Quarter 1 meeting held on 03/05/12) had been posted on several locations of GW’s neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu

Opening portion of meeting concluded with the introduction of two new GW employees whose work relates to many of the agenda items/topics on the agenda of this Advisory Committee: 1) David Dent, Executive Director of Planning, Development, and Construction in GW’s Division of Operations which has oversight of all campus planning, development, and construction on all three GW campuses; 2) Richard Livingstone, Community Relations Coordinator in the Office of Government and Community Relations in the Division of External Relations. Richard will work directly with Britany Waddell to coordinate the monthly FRIENDS meetings, as well as attend WECA and FBA meetings.

2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2a) Other 2007 FBCP initiatives

2a i) Historic Preservation Plan: Cora noted that this update is given at each quarterly meeting of this group and noted there was no change in status since the previous meeting, GW has complied with both historic preservation requirements included in Condition P-9 of the *2007 FBCP*: 1) GW filed six individual landmark nominations which were approved and designated as landmarks by DC’s Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) at its January 28, 2010 hearing; 2) GW submitted background information last year to the DC Office of Planning’s Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO) for a new historic district.

2a ii) Streetscape Plan: Cora said a final draft of GW’s proposed plan was submitted in early 2011 to District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Public Space for its review and this plan was similar to previous versions shared with the community at previous meetings of this group as well as at various community meetings dating back to 2006. Barbara Kahlow reiterated her desire to have the university replace its standard wooden benches with benches that are “segmented” with arm rests. Knight reiterated the university’s commitment to continue use of the wooden benches it has used in recent decades and which were included in the Streetscape Plan which was reviewed during the Zoning Commission hearings and votes on the *2007 FBCP*.

2b) Updates on campus development projects:

2b i) School of Public Health and Health Services/Square 39A: Knight began with an overview of the project which is located between New Hampshire Avenue to the east, 24th Street to the west, Washington Circle and K Street to the north and Eye Street to the south. Knight said the previous building on the site, The Warwick Building, has been demolished and excavation is underway. The project will be completed in late 2013, in time for classes to begin in the spring 2014 semester. Kahlow said that the District Department of Transportation recently proposed installation of a new Capital Bikeshare docking station near the site and Knight clarified it was her understanding they were looking for a location further east, on 22nd Street between Eye and Pennsylvania. Kahlow also asked the university to ensure the construction trailers and perimeter fencing for this project along 24th Street allow for adequate vehicle passage. Knight said she would share this concern and seek action from the construction team to alleviate the matter.

2b ii) Science and Engineering Hall/Square 55: Knight summarized project highlights, including: Construction continues on schedule with completion expected in time to open for classes in January 2015; controlled blasting activities began at the site in April; there has not been as much controlled blasting as anticipated due to less rock on site than anticipated. Knight said she has not heard any further updates from the DC Government as to installation of the traffic light at 22nd and Eye – she confirmed this has been requested, approved, and (as part of the Square 54 PUD) paid for and, now, the project is waiting for DDOT to complete installation.

2b iii) Site 75A and Square 75: Cora began with a general overview of the project and said the university is initiating the zoning process to redevelop several university-owned investment properties on Pennsylvania Avenue to maximize the value of its existing investment real estate portfolio in support of the university's academic and research mission. Kahlow asked if the Zoning Commission had established a meeting date for its setdown of this application/scheduling a public hearing. Cora said the DC Office of Planning indicated this could occur in July. Kahlow reiterated her concern for ground floor retail in this project. Cora said the university was aware of this concern and was considering it as well as a number of other suggestions for amenities. Maddux asked what DCOP is asking for with regard to an affordable housing amenity and Cora said this has not been confirmed although a number of proposals have been considered, with the university continuing to stress the need for affordable housing options to remain in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. Maddux asked if the university had acquired the property on the south side of the 2100 block of F Street that is currently not university owned and Knight said this had not occurred and that to her knowledge, the university had not been approached with any offers.

2b iv) George Washington University Museum on site 102B: Cora began with a summary of the presentation provided at the previous meeting: The site is located on the east side of 21st Street between G and H Streets and the project will incorporate the Woodhull House at 2033 G Street and the adjacent open space bounded by the rear of the Woodhull House, Corcoran Hall, University Yard, and 21st Streets; The new structure will house the Textile Museum (currently located on S Street NW in DC's Sheridan Kalorama neighborhood) and the Albert H Small Washingtoniana Collection, as well as other GW collections and has a tentative opening in mid 2014; The project currently includes two below grade levels and approximately 26,000 square feet of new above grade space for a total of approximately 40,000 square feet of new space (excluding Woodhull). The project will maintain open pedestrian access between 21st Street and University Yard. The university relocated the site's existing rose garden to the south side of Lisner Auditorium this spring; Final Zoning Commission approval for this project is expected later this month.

2b v) Law Learning Center Garage on Square 103: Cora said these items would be further discussed further in the agenda when this item was slated as a topic for general discussion.

3) GENERAL CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

3a) Gelman Library entry renovation: Cora said initial interior demolition and site preparation continues and noted exterior work on this project would begin later in the summer and she

also noted the recent announcement of a donation by the estate of Winston Churchill which will create a center for his papers with an interim location on the entry level of the library. When Gelman renovations are completed the Churchill Room will be located on the 2nd Floor.

3b) Ross Hall new stair tower and utility upgrades: Knight gave an overview of the two projects which will be underway soon at GW's main medical academic facility: work began in May 2012 on two major renovations at Ross Hall -- creation of a new Research Center for Neglected Diseases of Poverty on floors 5 and 6 of Ross Hall and upgrades to the central utility plant in the basement levels, to support the new research center, strengthen the infrastructure within Ross Hall and to serve the future Science and Engineering Hall. She said work would begin later this year on an egress stairwell from the new research center on floors 5 and 6, which will be encased in a new glass structure adjacent the Eye Street Mall. Knight said the project team has been working at length to mitigate, to the extent possible, traffic and pedestrian impacts created by this project as well as adjacent construction.

4) FEATURED DISCUSSIONS:

4a) Review of spring 2012 Compliance Report: Cora said the spring interim compliance filed 04-15-12 (with the main report filed annually on November 15) showed GW was in compliance with all aspects of the Zoning Commission's order for the 2007 FBCP. Cora gave a general overview of the report, including: student population headcount (17,138 of the 20,000 cap) and FTE (15,448 of the 16,553 cap); faculty and staff headcount and FTE (6,867 of 12,529 cap and 5,237 of 10,550 cap); campus undergraduate bed totals (6,713 available and 5,761 occupied, both above the 5,465 spring 2012 requirement), and; details of the independent accountant's report on the fall 2011 census data for Foggy Bottom Student Head Count and FTE.

Kahlow asked an unrelated question about the temporary trailers at the corner of 23rd & H Streets. Cora confirmed these were not permanent structures but were being used to house the oncology radiation services previously housed in The Warwick Building which was demolished earlier this year to prepare the site for construction of School of Public Health and Health Services (discussed previously in this meeting). Knight confirmed that the trailers were chosen after efforts to relocate these services to a building near 23rd and M Streets were discontinued in light of concerns from residents also living in the same building. Knight said she anticipated the trailers would remain at their location, at least until late 2012 before moving to a permanent home.

4b) Law Learning Center Garage on Square 103: Cora reviewed project highlights, including: GW filed a request for a minor modification of this project to change the height and size of pavilion to gain energy efficiencies and also to change the use of patterned glass and stone paving in the project to, respectively, metal panels and brick pavers.

5) OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES

Konwerski said there has been increased pedestrian/vehicular/metro traffic in recent weeks since the university was undergoing its annual freshmen orientation sessions known as Colonial Inauguration and these would be completed by July 2. He added most residence halls this summer were housing interns and conference groups (as traditionally occurs). He said GW students will begin to arrive back on campus in early August with the majority coming on the designated move-in day on August 25 in advance of classes starting August 28.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

Maddux reiterated her ongoing request for less brick sidewalks on GW's campus and in the downtown area. Cora stressed to Maddux that GW's Streetscape Plan proposes brick sidewalks that are different from a standard brick installation, as they are installed over a concrete base which reduces the buckling in pavement which should address the concerns raised by Maddux.

Kahlow said there had been followup on her previous requests regarding the hours of operation for the public courtyard space in The Avenue on Square 54 and she had met with Boston Properties and GW regarding this issue.

Kahlow asked for an update as to the university's ongoing efforts to try and have the remaining five members of this entity be appointed by ANC 2A. Knight said the university had documented to ANC 2A its ongoing commitment that this advisory committee serve as a forum for ongoing community dialogue and to not be a body focused on approving/disapproving projects and proposals. Knight said GW was waiting to hear ANC 2A response to this confirmation. Maddux said she found the "informal" and "more intimate" atmosphere of the advisory committee meetings "helpful" since they allowed for more discussion on town/gown issues. Waddell said she appreciated these comments and the university agrees with this sentiment and feel the meetings have been productive and is hopeful the ANC will appoint its members to attend future meetings.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.