

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

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

Meeting #27/Quarter 2 – June 9, 2014 – 7:00 pm in Duques Hall (2201 G Street) Room 553

### **1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Britany Waddell of The George Washington University opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions of individuals appointed by GW as members of this Advisory Committee, including herself and: Susi Cora, GW Director of Campus Planning; Peter Konwerski, GW Dean of Student Affairs, and; Andrew Goretsky who is a Director in GW's Center for Student Engagement and who oversees off-campus student affairs, the Graduate, Distance, and Professional Student Experience program, and the Outdoor Summit leadership program. Waddell noted that GW's other appointee to this committee, GW Senior Associate Vice President for Operations Alicia Knight, was on maternity leave. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: West End Citizen Association members Barbara Kahlow and Sara Maddux; Zaid Shoorbajee of the GW Hatchet; Matt Scott and Zach Ruckert of GW's Residence Hall Association; Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC) Patrick Kennedy, and Peter Sacco; Marina Streznewski of Foggy Bottom Association; Foggy Bottom neighbors - Patrick McManaman, Katrina Piano, and Dina Fox; GW staff members Kurt Hiatt, Richard Livingstone, and John Ralls.

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

#### **2a) Other 2007 FBCP initiatives:**

**Historic Preservation Plan:** Cora said the status of the Historic Preservation Plan was unchanged as the university has complied with historic preservation requirements as part of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP). Cora introduced Steve Calcott from DC's Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO) and noted that as part of the 2007 FBCP, the university had submitted background information to the DCHPO for creation of a new historic district and has supported its additional work on this effort. Using GW's information, DCHPO developed the Historic District Guidelines and subsequent application for the George Washington/West End Historic District. Cora said this proposal will have a hearing this summer before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB).

Steve Calcott of DCHPO provided a brief overview and noted his office has been working with GW since 2006 – first to identify historic resources on campus which would be included in the 2007 FBCP so there would be agreement prior to approval of the 2007 FBCP as to what resources are historic. And, since passage of the 2007 FBCP, DCHPO has worked with GW on creation of the boundaries of the historic district and guidelines to establish principles for how the historic district will be maintained. Calcott said this was developed in 2012 and has been put out three times for public comment. Calcott said that both GW and DCHPO have been reviewing projects as if the proposed historic district were in place and that GW has been submitting projects for historic review. Kahlow asked how contributing buildings will be protected and Calcott said both the facades and the structure (floor and roof assemblies) are protected. Calcott reiterated that a process with the Mayor's Agent exists for exceptions to this requirement and noted that the Historic District hearing had been moved to the July calendar. Maddux asked about proposed inclusion of two properties on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue (Lombardy Inn and the Arts Club) and Calcott responded that the reservations on the north side were included since they are considered to be important L'Enfant Plan open space elements and the Lombardy Inn and Arts Club were included since they have historic landmark status. Maddux asked about non-GW properties located in the south side of the 2200 block of F Street and Calcott responded that this row of structures were historically significant. Kahlow asked if all 23<sup>rd</sup> Street properties are subject to review by the Commission on Fine Arts and Calcott said he couldn't recall and would get back to Ms. Kahlow. Maddux asked as to anticipated timeline for review of the proposed historic district and Calcott said that after the HPRB's July hearing it can either take action or request that DCHPO follow up on issues discussed during the hearing.

**Streetscape Plan:** Cora said GW submitted a final draft plan to District Department of Transportation (DDoT) in early 2011. Cora said additional items are being incorporated into this plan and, upon completion of a revised draft, a revised plan will be shared with the ANC. Cora said that DC has also passed a green infrastructure requirement and impacts of this will also be considered as part of this revised draft. Cora added that GW will soon be renovating the streetscape on the west side of 23<sup>rd</sup> between the Circle and I Street and also on the east side of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Eye Street. She said final details are currently being confirmed and work is expected to commence in August since this project had been deferred until completion of the School of Public Health so as to lessen impact for neighbors by work in this area.

#### **2b) Updates on campus development projects:**

**2b i) Milken Institute School of Public Health/Square 39:** Cora said this will be the last update on this project as it is now substantially complete and Whiting Turner Construction is working on final punch list items. Kahlow asked what would be located in the pit at the southern end of the site and GW responded that it was part of the building ventilation system and would remain.

**2b ii) Science and Engineering Hall/Square 55:** Cora said the project site (bounded by 22nd, 23rd, H, and Eye Streets) will serve as an academic center for the incubation of new research and learning and is expected to be completed and open for classes in January 2015. Streetscape work has begun near Fulbright Hall and will continue throughout the site -- GW will work with DDoT to ensure appropriate accommodations are made for pedestrians. Fox asked that approximate completion dates be included on the agenda for the next meeting and GW agreed to do this. Kennedy asked if there was a status update on selection of the retail tenant and Cora said there had not been an announcement. Kahlow asked as to status of the John Wilson Memorial Park which is part of the Science and Engineering Hall project and Cora said she did not have a timeline for this. Kennedy asked if corresponding sidewalks would be opened as streetscape work was complete and Cora said she believed so unless intermittent closures were necessary for pedestrian safety.

**2b iii) Site 75A on Square 75:** Cora said this site is a commercial investment property located on Pennsylvania Avenue between 21st and 22nd Streets. The site was approved in the 2007 FBCP and identified as a site for either a future commercial/investment or academic/administrative/medical use. Cora said it was recently announced that Skanska would be the developer for this site. Kahlow asked if there was a status update on the process to locate a retail tenant for the site and Cora said it was too early in the process. Kahlow asked if Skanska would meet with the community as to its desires for retail on the space and Cora said she would inquire as to that.

**2b iv) District House on Site 77A on Square 77:** Cora said this residence hall, located in the center of campus and expected to open in fall 2016, will retain the historic facades of West End, Schenley and Crawford Halls on the 2100 block of H and I Streets while incorporating a new infill structure between the three historic buildings (in what is now an alley). Cora said demolition and excavation work is ongoing. In reference to the Hillel project, Kahlow asked about the location of site 77D on Square 77 and Cora confirmed that it was located between Marvin Center and Lafayette Hall and that GW had previously decided to not use this site when it undertook a complete renovation of Lafayette Hall in recent years.

**2b v) The George Washington University and The Textile Museum on site 102B:** Cora said this partnership with The Textile Museum and philanthropist Albert H. Small will incorporate the historic Woodhull House and a new structure on 21<sup>st</sup> Street now under construction is nearing completion. She said the date of the public opening has not yet been determined while details of the move and commissioning are finalized. There was discussion about a recent open house tour of the site and Kahlow asked to be included in a future preview tour.

#### **2c General Campus Development Updates**

**2c i) Ross Hall new stair tower and utility upgrades:** The new Research Center for Neglected Diseases of Poverty on floors 5 and 6 are complete. Work on the Central Utility Plant (CUP) in the basement levels is ongoing but the boring/excavation work under 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to connect the CUP in Ross Hall to the SEH project is complete. Washington Gas is working on 24<sup>th</sup> Street and there will be occasional temporary lane closures related to this work for approximately another two weeks. Kahlow asked as to phasing of sidewalk and street closures in this area and Cora referred her to the neighborhood website where maps have been posted. Maddux asked about the status of completing the repair work (lane markings, etc) on 24<sup>th</sup> Street next to the School of Public Health and Cora asked Kennedy if DDoT could give an update on this at the next ANC meeting.

**2c ii) GW Hillel building including associated zoning and regulatory approvals associated with GW's proposed long-term tenancy in newly proposed redeveloped GW Hillel building:** Cora said GW Hillel intends to develop its property located on 23rd and H Streets to better serve its mission and approached GW to lease space in the new building to support development costs for the project. The university's minor modification to its first stage PUD (part of the 2007 FBCP) to assign a campus life use designation to the Hillel site and the Hillel project will be heard by the Zoning Commission on June 23rd. This use designation is similar to the minor modification to the 2007 FBCP to allow correctly note type of usage for townhouses in the 2100 block of F Street when properties were acquired after approval of the 2007 FBCP. Sacco asked about the anticipated student life use of Hillel and if it would be student activity space or administrative space. Cora said the only offices that will be in this space will be offices directly related to the administration of the activities underway.

**2c iii) Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) rehabilitation plan:** Cora said GW intends to rehabilitate the existing Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) residence hall to provide a new faculty housing program to help recruit and retain highly talented faculty. In addition, upgraded graduate market level housing will be provided. Cora said work continues on design and finances of this project. She said she expects construction to begin in 2015 with approximately two years to complete with current work focused on preliminary preparation work and finalizing design. Kahlow asked for confirmation as to project's design – specifically related to the balconies. Cora reiterated that the design is not yet complete and that GW would follow up with the ANC at that time. Kennedy asked if there would be tenants in the building this year and Cora confirmed that the building was currently empty of occupants.

**2c iiiii) Lerner Health and Wellness Center (LHWC) Modification to Make Permanent Additional Users:** Cora said the Zoning Commission will hear a modification to permitted users on July 21, 2014. This will make permanent the current users under the 1 year modification and proposes limited new use groups for a temporary period of time. Cora said she would get back to Kennedy on outstanding membership administration questions.

**2c v) The Corcoran Museum of Art:** GW has entered into an agreement with the Corcoran Museum of Art and GW is currently looking at various components of this project and it will continue to update the community. Sacco noted that ANC 2A has retained counsel on this topic as well as Hillel's proposal to develop its property. Kahlow asked for updates on some of these items between now and the next meeting.

#### **4) OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES**

Maddux asked about the cherry trees which used to be located around Washington Circle and Cora confirmed the streetscape plan had already been approved and cherry trees were not included on their list. Sacco asked as to status of the recent installation of palm trees near University Yard. Cora said the GW grounds crew has been experimenting with different types of plantings including palm trees. Fox asked that more information about the landscaping at GW projects be included at future meetings. Konwerski said the first of four orientation sessions will begin this week and will continue through June. Kahlow shared her concern about the need for tour groups and visitors to ensure there is space on the sidewalk for local pedestrians to travel. He said that August 23, 2014 is the official move-in date but selected individuals/groups of students will begin to move in earlier in August.

#### **5) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maddux said the Dakota is being renovated and the construction company has placed materials and fencing on and near the building she lives in, the Monroe House. Livingstone stressed to Maddux to please contact him when situations such as this arise so that he can be of assistance. Maddux shared with the group that the Foggy Bottom Feeding Program officially closed May 31, 2014 since the \$500,000 was fully expended on meals to residents (except for some minor bank charges). The program was funded as an amenity of GW's 1957 and 1959 E Street project from about 10 years ago. Maddux said while they were sorry these funds had been spent, they had been appropriately spent as shown in regulatory filings. Cora thanked Maddux for her service in this program.

#### **6) SELECTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Waddell asked attendees for potential dates to have the next meeting of this group and it was agreed that the third quarter meeting of this group will be Monday September 15, 2014. With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Fox stressed asked if there could be signage in the building lobby to direct new attendees to the meeting location and the university agreed to do this.