



**Meeting Minutes for Mount Vernon Campus Plan Working Group
GW Facilities Planning & Transportation and Parking**

Wednesday June 9th, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendees:

Brian Snyder, GW, Facilities Planning, Construction and Management
Kevin Days, GW, Community Relations
Matthew Bell, Perkins Eastman
Christian Calleri, Perkins Eastman
Stephen Penhoet, Perkins Eastman
Anna Nicolich, Perkins Eastman
Maureen Moran, MCLA
Jami Milanovich, Wells & Associates
Sean Fish, Steven Winter Associates
Will Lattanzio, Wiles Mensch
Marcelo Lopez, Wiles Mensch
Andrew Lundt, GW Athletics
Destiny Jackson, GW, Transportation & Logistics
Natalie Addison, GW, Facilities Planning, Construction and Management
Maxine Weinstein, community member Berkeley Terrace
Pierre Oury, community member, Berkeley Terrace

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Schedule
- Campus Plan Objectives
- Campus Design
- Lighting
- Sustainability
- Storm Water
- Circulation & Mobility
- Q&A

MEETING ITEMS:

Welcome and Introduction

- Perkins Eastman and consultant team introductions

Schedule

- Matt Bell reviewed the Working Group schedule and highlighted the overall goal to submit the application for the campus plan in the fall

Campus Plan Objectives

- Matt reviewed the campus plan objectives – Community Engagement, Campus Design, Lighting, Sustainability, Storm Water, Circulation & Mobility

Campus Design

- Christian reviewed existing campus uses, neighborhood context and zoning
- Brian identified sites A2 and R1 as the location options for a new, 100 bed, 4 story residence hall and confirmed that it was not part of the 2020 Strategic Campus Facilities Master Plan, but is a part of the 2021 Mount Vernon Campus Plan.
- Maxine Weinstein stated that she was confused thinking that the university president's plan was to reduce enrollment
- Kevin stated that the enrollment reduction plan was determined pre-Covid and that the president is also retiring at the end of the upcoming academic year so priorities may change
- Maxine asked if there are additional changes
- Kevin responded that there are none at the moment and stated that the university is looking for feedback on the site options
- Site options R1 and A2 for 100 bed new residence hall were reviewed
- Maxine voiced her concern with the possibility of adding 100 beds to site R1 but stated that Steve Gardner would not be happy with the site A2 location
- Maxine voiced concern with the impact of new speakers and students creating noise
- Brian suggested moving the proposed residence hall location further north in the R1 location to avoid the building becoming a sound wall
- Pierre questioned how the new residence hall would affect FTE student cap at 1725
- Kevin Days responded that the plan is not to increase the cap, that the university knows that noise mitigation will play a prominent part of plan and will manage and mitigate as best as possible
- Pierre asked where the athletics speakers will be located and it was confirmed that they will be facing east towards the campus along the soccer field
- Matt Bell stated that further in the process, near the end, the university will present a more specific plan
- Christian identified fields and respective locations where new bleachers are proposed – softball (around home plate, 1st and 3rd base lines) and soccer (mid field areas)

Lighting

- Christian reviewed proposed new athletic lighting locations – track, soccer field and softball field
- Maxine stated that the locations imply the desire to have night games
- Andrew Lundt confirmed there is a desire to have some night games and open up use of the fields to all user groups including the community and local schools such as St. Pat's, OLV and Lab School

- Andrew stated that there is a desire for a mix of uses including varsity athletics, recreational and community use, hosting A10 championship games and to have televised games that require increased light levels
- Maxine asked if adding night games would undermine previous decisions to reduce the number of games on campus
- Maxine stated that the increased use of fields by the community by expanding the amount of time that the fields are available would be a trade-off
- Andrew stated that there would not be an increase or decrease in usage
- Kevin stated that GW would shift the times they use the field to open up the field to community and local schools/youth leagues
- Andrew stated that some GW games would be held at night; not all and that certain sports would need lighting such as lacrosse, soccer and softball during late fall/early spring
- Pierre Oury questioned the cut-off times of seasonal activities
- Maxine questioned how the seasonal and daily schedules would work to adapt to future programming
- Andrew stated he is working through proposed cut-off times
- Andrew and Tanya Vogel to work on proposals for the next meeting
- MCLA, Maureen Moran, showed four local examples of athletic lighting, three of which are in nearby residential neighborhoods – Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, Woodrow Wilson High School, Guy Mason Park and Jellef Boys and Girls Club
- Maureen explained that taller light poles are better to focus the angle of light down onto fields, prevent light spill/light pollution and prevent glare
- Christian reviewed scale overlay maps of the three DC sports field sites to provide a sense of size, scale and placement of similar programs
- Maureen emphasized measures to manage lighting such as using large shields on light fixtures to avoid site of them from adjacent properties, using controls on timers to provide automatic shutoff after games, and using manually controlled fixtures to limit night time use

Sustainability

- Steven Winter Associates, Sean Fish, stated their goal to work with both the university and the community and emphasized that sustainability is a common thread throughout the master plan
- Sean identified numerous sustainability reports published by the university since 2010 master plan and that his team’s work will look at ways to integrate the additional commitments into the 2021 plan

Storm Water

- Wiles Mensch, Marcelo Lopez, reviewed old DOEE stormwater regulations compared to current regulations
- He identified an existing 3-chamber sand filter on campus that was based on the 2003 DOEE regulations
- Marcelo stated that the new regulations are more focused on stormwater retention
- Marcelo reviewed two scenarios where DOEE stormwater management (SWM) rules and regulations apply – Major Land Disturbing Activity (MLD) and Major Substantial Improvement Activity (MSI)

- Marcelo reviewed best management practices ‘BMPs’ to comply with current SWM regulations - rainwater harvesting, permeable paving, bioretention and green roofs
- Maxine asked if changes in SWM regulations entail new buildings or structures on campus
- Christian explained that BMPs such as cisterns, green roof, permeable pavers would be required not new buildings
- Marcelo stated that the existing cistern will function as a detention system
- Maxine questioned the implications for the waste weir already on W Street
- Marcelo stated there will be no change and that if new construction occurs, new BMPs would control the stormwater
- Brian added that the BMPs will hold/retain stormwater and that there will be no impact on existing systems
- Maxine stated there is a stream with possible stormwater runoff issues
- Marcelo stated that his team’s work will look at that condition
- Matt Bell acknowledged the community concern that there is stormwater runoff from the campus into neighborhood yards along W Street

Circulation & Mobility

- Wells and Associates, Jami Milanovich, provided an overview of past work with GW and other university work in the District
- Wells & Associates reviewed the timeline of their scope of work starting in the summer, extending into the late fall/early winter and highlighted key deliverables:
 - Traffic Study with DDOT
 - Transportation Demand Management Plan (TDM) with the goal to reduce volume of traffic
- Matt stated that Wells & Associates’ work on the university’s program will intensify in the fall when campus operations are in full service
- Pierre Oury voiced his concern with the increased use of athletic fields and how that will affect traffic flow especially the use of the service road around West Hall
- Brian Snyder stated that the road will continue to be dedicated to GW service use and that access control measures are being implemented
- Brian reminded the group that no vehicular traffic will be going through the campus; there will be a drop off/turnaround concentrated near the entry to the campus
- Pierre Oury questioned how school students will be transported to the fields
- Jami stated that her firm’s will analyze data from GW keeping in mind DDOT’s goal for minimal transportation as a part of the TDM; for example outside users may be brought to campus by bus; solutions are still to be determined

Q&A

- Pierre mentioned the Board of Zoning Adjustment’s ruling (2000, 2010) that there should not be lighting on the athletic fields only the tennis court and that no further construction should occur on the west side of the campus
- Pierre questioned how much square footage from the GFA is remaining
 - Brian stated that the university is not getting close to the limit; only one building site of four possible sites will be developed
- Pierre questioned the impact of lighting on development on the west side of campus
 - Brian responded that there is no proposed development site near West Hall

- Pierre expressed that the plan presented is a major change to the 2010 Campus Plan which called for no new lighting and no noise after 7:00pm
 - Kevin stated that the university recognizes the changes and wants to mitigate the impact of these requests
 - Maxine agreed with Pierre and stated that she is strongly opposed to increasing the number of games played on the fields
- Kevin reiterated the university's commitment to mitigating noise issues
 - Maxine stated she would feel more comfortable if there was a history of compliance
- Pierre asked for clarification of the location of the light poles shown on west side of soccer field and asked if the light poles would abut Berkeley Terrace area behind West Hall
 - Brian stated that the university has no needs to develop the west side protrusion area
- Maxine encourages more coordination between GW committees in the two working groups since there are overlapping issues

Working Group Schedule

- Matt reviewed upcoming meetings in the Working Group Schedule

Conclusion

- Brian thanked everyone for their attendance