

MEETING NOTES
GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)
Meeting #2 – April 3, 2007 – 6:30 pm
Saint Mary’s Court, Lower Level

Michael Akin, Director of Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting at approximately 6:35 pm and welcomed attendees. Akin noted this second meeting of the GW/Community Advisory Committee was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of the *2007 GW Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and that 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 Citizens Association (WECA). Additionally, two advertisements for the meeting were placed in *The Foggy Bottom Current*, an email invite was sent to the FRIENDS listserv and notice was placed at several locations on GW’s neighborhood website (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, Director of Community Relations in GW’s department of Government International and Community Relations; Alicia O’Neil, Managing Director of GW’s Office of Real Estate; Susi Cora, Director of Planning and Project Management in GW’s Office of Real Estate; Peter Konwerski, Assistant Vice President for GW’s Student and Academic Support Services; and Brian Hamluk, Director of GW’s Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs. Members of the public present also introduced themselves and included: Rita Aid, Jack Batham, Toni Boyer, Elizabeth Elliott, Abe Freund, Sara Maddux and Steve Timlin. Also in attendance were GW representatives John Ralls and Britany Waddell, as well as GW students Corey Barrenbrugge, Jason Lifton and Nicholas Marrell. At the completion of introductions, Akin moved to address the first agenda items which focused on updates regarding the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and campus development updates:

Campus Plan & Development Updates

- ***The Aston, 1129 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.*** – Akin indicated the building’s ongoing life safety upgrade work will require the closure of one-lane of traffic in front of the building on a to-be-announced Saturday morning in April to accommodate a crane used for repairs to HVAC systems. More information regarding the date of this closure will be provided when it is known.
- ***Spring Fling:*** Akin noted the possibility of increased noise for several daytime hours during the Spring Fling, an annual student outdoor gathering to be held this year on April 7, 2008 (which will likely be moved indoors to the Smith Center due to rain prediction).
- ***Public Space Items & Annual spring events:*** Preparations are underway to ensure spring student move out (May 1-14) as well as GW’s May 16-18 commencement weekend have minimal impact on the neighborhood.
- ***Building signage and sculptural bust at 1957 E Street:*** Akin noted this project, which was discussed at ANC 2A in February, would include both a pin letter sign on the facade to identify the building and a bust of George Washington adjacent to the building at the

th and E Streets, N.W. The bust will not impede traffic or obstruct views of any neighboring residents.

- ***Proposed Display Case in front of the School of Media and Public Affairs:*** As previously shared with ANC 2A, a display case will be installed on an existing exterior building pillar near the northwest corner of 22nd and H Streets, N.W. to share information with the community about free public events at the Brady Art Gallery.

Development Projects

- ***Square 54:*** O'Neil said Square 54 developer Boston Properties has begun the permitting process for Square 54 and is in consultation with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority regarding construction coordination activities. Also, a ceremonial groundbreaking in late spring is being discussed but a date has not been selected. In response to a question as to how long construction of this project will take, O'Neil said work below-grade could take a couple of years and the above-grade residential and commercial towers would then follow. In response to the question of whether the construction plans are still consistent with what was approved by the DC Zoning Commission, O'Neil confirmed they were. In response to the question regarding efforts that will be taken to mitigate traffic impact, O'Neil said the developer is required to put together a traffic management plan for the site and will do so prior to construction commencement. Akin noted regular updates on the progress of the Square 54 project would soon be available on GW's neighborhood website (www.neighborhood.gwu.edu).
- ***Square 80 (SWW):*** O'Neil said GW's portion of this development (new residence hall in the 2100 block of F Street, N.W.) should be at ground level by the end of May and current work includes the pouring of slabs on the lower and parking levels. This 474-bed residence hall is still on schedule to open in Fall 2009. O'Neil also said DCPS representatives have indicated the SWW component of the project (modernization and addition to the existing School Without Walls program at the Grant School in the 2100 block of G Street, N.W.) will begin in late April. Initial work at the Grant School will include pre-construction efforts and abatement.
- ***Medical Center:*** O'Neil said GW is continuing to examine a potential medical center expansion and how this expansion could be accommodated on various sites approved in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, including site 39A (the Warwick building) and sites 41A and B (additions to existing Ross Hall). The community will be updated at future quarterly GW/Community Advisory Committee meetings as well as other public forums as this study continues and plans progress.
- ***Streetscape and Historic Preservation Plan:*** O'Neil said there will be community meetings on both of these items once revised drafts are completed and input has been received by the DC Government. She also said although implementation of these plans would be delayed until the resolution of the pending court appeals of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* filed by the FBA, the University continues to work with DC Government to finalize these plans and has already established an internal working group to draft maintenance guidelines even before the historic district is in place.

Other campus updates

- **1925 F Street (former Alumni House):** Cora said renovations are proceeding for President Knapp and his family to reside in the house later this year. Cora also reviewed a part of the project which was first discussed at last summer's community meetings - the addition of an enclosed off-street garage structure at the rear of the home which would undergo the required review processes by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and D.C.'s Historic Preservation Review Board.
- **Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center:** O'Neil summarized recent news articles on GW's receipt of a \$10 million pledge for the renovation of the Charles E. Smith Center. She said this upgrade will not change the use or capacity of building but will significantly upgrade the facilities in the building, including: the arena; the concessions area; most other interior areas; a new exterior façade; an upgrade of the entrance at 22nd and H Streets, N.W. to possibly incorporate glass and metal to reflect the interior's design. Concepts for these upgrades are under development and will be shared with the community as they are further developed and refined.
- **Life safety upgrades to The Aston, 1129 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.:** Work is on schedule for completion this summer and use this fall by GW law school students. This change of use fulfills GW's commitment to transition the building to a use other than undergraduate housing, as agreed upon in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*.
- **2145 G Street, N.W./former DJ's Fastbreak:** O'Neil said renovation of this space continues on schedule. EMeRG, a GW student-led group of certified Emergency Medical Technicians operating under the supervision of the University Police Department, will reside on the second floor. The lower level is to be used for student activity space, the specifics of which are still being determined.
- **Thurston Residence Hall facade:** Cora indicated work will take place this summer on the South and West elevations as well as the interior courtyard area.
- **Former Tower Records space:** Cora noted recent press reports that a CVS pharmacy will assume much of the space formerly used by Tower Records.
- **WOW Wingery:** O'Neil said this food venue on the fifth floor of the Marvin Center now has a license to sell beer and wine.

With no additional questions or concerns noted, the meeting then moved to the second half of the agenda, a community discussion on GW's Noise and Student Behavior Initiatives.

GW's Noise and Student Behavior Initiatives

Hamluk started this discussion by noting the Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs (OCSA) provides and distributes an annual GW Guide to Living Off-Campus, which contains specific information about being a good neighbor, trash, parking, noise issues, and other topics. Hamluk said OCSA collaborates with many other programs and offices including the Office of Student Judicial Services which ensures students abide by GW's Code of Student Conduct whether living on or off campus. The discussion then covered GW's efforts to address three primary student behavior issues: noise, trash and alcohol/drug education.

- **Noise:** Akin gave an overview of GW's efforts to address this issue, including:
 - Continued promotion of the Community Concern Hotline (202-994-6110) which is available 24-hours a day and allows GW to investigate concerns;

- University Police Department coordination with DC Metropolitan Police Department, as UPD does not have jurisdiction off-campus;
- Hosting meetings each semester with local building managers to ensure they are aware of the Code of Student Conduct by which all GW students (including those residing in their off-campus buildings) are to comply;
- Working with the Residence Hall Association staff to ensure all students receive a guide to living off-campus and are aware of the annual Off-Campus Student Services Fair (more than 1,250 students attended this year's event);
- Establishment of a Neighborhood Action Team to identify peak corridors of high student activity and how to minimize impact of these areas on surrounding residents;
- Annual compilations are available by the Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs of a comprehensive report of community concerns and is available online at <http://neighborhood.gwu.edu/discovergw/studentaffairs.cfm>
- "Quiet Zone" posters placed in residence hall lobbies each Fall as well as emails to on and off-campus students asking for their cooperation with maintaining an acceptable volume of noise;
- Work underway to create new ways of notifying students about the Good Neighbor and Quiet Zone messaging prior to their arrival at GW;
- Work with ANC 2A and FBA to ensure increased awareness of above efforts.
- Akin said that, at the request of local neighbors, his office is looking into the possibility of developing a program that would allow GW to focus on specific addresses continually of concern. The program will allow GW to do proactive outreach as new students move into these locations and let them know their neighbors are sensitive to activities at these locations and to please be considerate. Akin said his office will also send letters to the property owners, as they have ultimate responsibility for the property

Community comments regarding noise included:

- Maddux voiced concerns that skateboarders in the vicinity of 20th & F Streets, N.W. are not wearing helmets or reflective gear;
- Timlin inquired about reporting a transient noise concern at a particular off-campus property. Hamluk encouraged Timlin to report this issue, even if the next day, so the neighborhood action teams can be deployed to those locations in the future.
- Elliot said she hears the sounds of students as they travel north on 20th Street, N.W. from the stop for the Mount Vernon Express Shuttle in front of the Red Cross Building to 1900 and 2000 blocks of F Street, N.W. She asked if this could be monitored via increased foot patrols of GW's UPD in this area as well as the 1900 and 2000 blocks of F Street, N.W.;
- Elliot discussed noise problems within her building and said her building management has hired an off-duty police officer as a courtesy policy. She said they help to enforce building policy that there are no more than two unrelated people residing in an apartment. Hamluk reiterated that even students living off-campus must abide by GW's Code of Student Conduct;
- Elliott also raised the issue of late-night noise made on the weekends by students seeking to secure a taxicab in the 1900 and 2000 blocks of F Street, N.W. Timlin suggested exploring the idea of a permanent cab stand located away from the

residential buildings on the southern end of GW's campus and also possibly at the Foggy Bottom/GWU Metrorail station at 23rd and Eye Streets, N.W.

- **Trash:** Akin encouraged community members to inform his office of any properties inhabited by students that have a messy yard or public space. He also made note of the "Winning Neighbor Program" initiated by his office to reward those students who provide exemplary service to neighborhood residents. Hamluk said he emphasizes proper trash procedures in off-campus educational materials, including use of the city's bulk pick-up services.
- **Center for Alcohol and Drug Education:** Hamluk noted the DC Metropolitan Police Department has recently begun to conduct more undercover stings to combat the problem of alcohol being sold to under-age individuals. Akin noted the success which two dining establishments on GW's campus (WOW Wingery in the Marvin Center and Tonic at 21st & G Streets, N.W.) have had with ID scanners which verify if an ID is valid or not.

Upon completion of the community discussion, Akin asked for additional public questions/comments. Freund inquired about the timing on the crosswalk light near the Watergate and Akin informed him this was a DC Government issue, but that it had been raised in another meeting recently and he would inquire with DDOT on the matter.

Akin ended the meeting by noting the next quarterly meeting will likely be scheduled for June. He said GW will inform the Advisory Committee of any notices required under the new Campus Plan and also share this information via letter with ANC 2A Chair since the ANC has not yet appointed any members to the Committee. He said relevant materials from this meeting (including these meeting minutes) will be posted on GW's neighborhood website, www.gwu.neighborhood.edu.

With no other public questions/comments the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

(Meeting notes by Britany Waddell and John Ralls, GW)