

MEETING NOTES
GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)
Meeting #5 – December 8, 2008 – 6:30 pm
Saint Mary’s Court, Lower Level

INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Akin, Executive Director of Government & Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed attendees. Akin noted this fifth quarterly meeting 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, an advertisement for the meeting was placed in *The Foggy Bottom Current*, an email invite was sent to FRIENDS 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, Executive Director of Government & Community Relations in GW’s department of Government International and Community Relations; Alicia O’Neil, Associate Vice President for Real Estate; Susi Cora, Director of Planning and Project Management in GW Office of Real Estate; Peter Konwerski, Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services (SASS); and Brian Hamluk, Director SASS & University Guide to Personal Success Program. Following this, community members introduced themselves, including: Rita Aid, Jack Batham, Cathy Long and Sara Maddux. Also in attendance were GW representatives John Ralls and Britany Waddell, GW Hatchet reporters Tim Gowa and Amy D’Onofrio and GW students Kyle Boyer and Jason Lifton. At the completion of introductions, Akin noted the minutes from the previous GW Community Advisory Committee meeting (Sept. 22, 2008) were posted on GW’s neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu.

CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Akin moved to the first agenda item, the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and proposed campus development updates beginning with the University’s November 20, 2008 filing of its bi-annual compliance report (full report filed each fall includes student enrollment numbers and an interim report is filed each spring). Akin said all compliance reports are available on GW’s neighborhood website and provided hard copies of the most recent report with attendees. O’Neil said she was pleased to report that GW is in full compliance with the conditions of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*.

O’Neil and Cora then shared highlights of the 87-page report, including:

- GW’s fall 2008 Foggy Bottom Campus student headcount of 18,375 is in compliance with the cap of 20,000 students per Condition C-4. Also, GW’s fall 2008 Foggy Bottom Campus Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) student headcount of 16,225 is in compliance with the cap of 16,553 FTEs per Condition C-4;
- GW is in compliance with Condition C-6 the student housing requirement with 6,340 on-campus beds available to full-time Foggy Bottom undergraduates

- GW is in compliance with its ban on freshman and sophomores bringing cars to campus except in extreme circumstances – O’Neil said additional documentation on student parking restrictions has been posted on GW’s neighborhood website per a request made at a previous GW/Community Advisory Committee meeting.
- Information on GW’s transportation demand management efforts, including a new fact sheet detailing transportation options for neighbors, faculty, staff and students is included in the report.

Rita Aid asked if GW students living on GW’s Mount Vernon Campus are allowed to bring vehicles to that campus. O’Neil said they can bring vehicles, but these vehicles must remain parked on the Mount Vernon Campus and they are not eligible to bring the vehicles to the Foggy Bottom Campus. Sara Maddux then thanked GW representatives for providing additional documentation on student parking restrictions.

Additional Campus Development updates are as follows:

- **Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center:** Cora said the three-phase project was still in the design stages and design development documents will be done in early 2009. O’Neil said Phase I will begin this winter with minor interior slab infill, Phase II work will occur next spring/summer and will consist of interior work (locker rooms, arena upgrades, new floors, etc) and most Phase III work (including exterior façade work) will take place in spring/summer 2010.
- **Science and engineering complex:** current work includes feasibility studies for the site and initial programming studies to determine what departments might be located on this site. O’Neil said the preferred location for this complex is on Square 55 where the University Parking Garage is currently located. Further information will be shared as it was available.
- **Square 80 residence hall/2100 block of F Street:** Cora said work is being finalized on the exterior skin of the building, interior partitions are being constructed and individual units are being finished out. She said the project is on schedule to open as planned in fall 2009.
- **Square 54/2200 Pennsylvania Avenue:** – O’Neil said that much progress has been made on excavation and most controlled blasting activities have been completed. Also, installation of footing structures will begin in early 2009 and Boston Properties is continuing dialogues with potential grocers for the project’s 25,000-40,000 square feet allocated for a full-service grocery store.
- **Pelham Hall Redevelopment/Mount Vernon Campus:** O’Neil said initial site work continues on this project including sheeting and shoring, construction of perimeter walls and excavation. Configuration of the residence hall (anticipated to open in fall 2010) will be similar to the apartment suite layouts in the Square 80 residence hall (4 individual rooms sharing two bathrooms and a common space) but it will not include individual kitchens. She said the building will also house a performing arts space, dining facilities, a fitness center and other amenities.
- **Other Campus Plan initiatives:** O’Neil said work continues on the Streetscape and Historic Preservation plans called for in the 2007 *Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and GW anticipates separate community meetings will be held on these items in 2009 after further dialogue between GW and DC Government agencies on the form and regulatory process for these plans.

- Maddux asked a question regarding status of efforts by a private developer to construct a new building at 2013 H Street, N.W. O'Neil said this former private residence was purchased by the non-profit Hospital for Sick Children and the new owners have applied for a rezoning of the project to allow for construction of a commercial office building behind the original home. Akin reiterated this property is not owned by GW but is adjacent to other GW properties and within the boundaries of the proposed historic district. The project has been subject of hearings before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board and will also be presented to the DC Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment for review of zoning issues.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL PLANNING

Akin moved discussion to next agenda item, GW's planning for the upcoming Presidential Inaugural. He said this agenda item is not required for discussion by the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* but he wanted to share information since GW and the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods are directly adjacent to most major inaugural activities. Akin said there are numerous internal committees and individuals working to address the many challenges and opportunities presented by this historic occasion. Maddux asked about GW's policy on students within GW housing allowing non-students to share their housing during the inaugural weekend. Hamluk said GW students are allowed to have guests during this time, but there is a registration process that must be completed so GW will know what guests will be in its residence halls. Akin said GW President Knapp will host a Congressional Black Caucus reception on January 19, 2009 and GW will host its own Inaugural Ball on January 20 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel with students being transported via shuttle bus service. D'Onofrio asked if GW was certain there would be enough electricity and water for the additional guests on campus during this period. Cora said, even with additional guests, GW will comply with the occupancy level for each building.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Maddux opened the final agenda item by thanking GW for offering space in the Charles E. Smith Center to house Precinct 2's voting operations during the November 4, 2008 general election and noted its improved accessibility over the previous polling site. She also thanked GW for the recent community reception at the F Street House and said this was a wonderful opportunity to see the many renovations which have occurred inside the structure as well as the exterior landscaping. Maddux said the West End Citizens Association's recent meeting with DC Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy Lanier was postponed at the Chief Lanier's request and would likely be rescheduled for spring.

O'Neil solicited inquiries for possible topics to discuss at the next GW/Community Advisory Committee Meeting in the first quarter of 2009. Maddux suggested further details about how GW will accommodate the vehicle parking currently at the University Parking Garage when construction begins on the proposed science and engineering complex. She also asked what progress was being made on the green spaces called for under the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan and O'Neil said work is underway on converting an existing surface parking lot in Square 80 into a public green space. In response to an additional Maddux question about resurfacing of F Street as part of the Square 80 work, Cora said GW has already agreed that, upon project completion, F Street will be repaved from 22nd to 21st Street.

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.