

MEETING NOTES
GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)
Meeting #3 – June 30, 2008 – 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 third 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, 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 Office of Real Estate; Peter Konwerski, Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services; and Brian Hamluk, Director of Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs. Members of the public present included: Rita Aid, Ceil Gallagher, Elizabeth Elliott, Barbara Kahlow, Sara Maddux, Eric Roper of the GW Hatchet, Bill Schechter and Paul Winnick. GW representative Britany Waddell was also in attendance. At the completion of introductions, Akin moved to address the first agenda items, Campus Plan and campus development updates:

Campus Development Projects

- ***Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center:*** Overview began with the viewing of the new Smith Center video. Cora said this project was in the early development stage. The University is currently working on contracting an architect for this project. O’Neil said there will be a community meeting in the future as the project details are determined. The project will be the same height and will not increase the capacity of the building. There will be upgrades to the locker rooms and office space. There will be no community questions or concerns regarding this project.
- ***Square 39A – School of Public Health building:*** This project is currently in early stages of architectural design. There are two firms proposing plans for this site. O’Neil said this project is being developed as part of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*. In response to a question from Ms. Kahlow as to the height of this project, O’Neil said she will verify information and provide her findings through email [*Note: the approved building height pursuant to the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan was confirmed to be 90 feet*]. In response to the question of the

project's exact location, O'Neil said the adjacent streets were, Washington Circle, 24th Street NW and New Hampshire Avenue NW. In response to a question as to where the existing parking on Square 39A will be relocated, O'Neil said the University will maintain its minimum required parking capacity and the parking will continue to be built in other new campus developments, including 178 spaces will be located on the Square 80 project and 362 spaces will be available for University use on Square 54. In response to a question as to how long construction of this project will take, O'Neil said the project has a 2-3 year proposed completion and will be submitted to the Zoning Commission for second-stage approval under the Campus Plan & Campus Plan Planned Unit Development (PUD). In response to a question as to whether this project was large enough to be a PUD, O'Neil said the size requirements for a PUD was a legal zoning question she was unable to answer, however she could verify the actual size of this project and provide information [*Note: the size of the site was confirmed to be 21,398 square feet*].

- **Square 55A – Current University Parking Garage:** O'Neil said the University is studying future possibilities for the development of a science and engineering building on this site. These studies will determine which departments might be accommodated in such a building and ensure conformance to the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*. In response to a question O'Neil said the proposed science center would include both development sites A1 and A2 (within Square 55). In response to a question as to what programming means, Cora said programming is undertaken to determine the best potential use and occupants for a site, or building. In response to a question as to how long construction of this project will take, O'Neil said the Board of Trustees has just approved the blocking & stacking study and it is far too early to determine the schedule for the building, but the Board will review the project again during the next academic year and more information will be available then. In response to a question as to if this building was planned prior to President Knapp's administration, O'Neil said this project had been voted as the top facilities priority by the Faculty Senate and that strengthening science and research were priorities outlined in GW's 2003 Strategic Plan for Academic Excellence.
- **Site 103A – Below-grade parking:** O'Neil said there is currently a feasibility study being done on Site 103A to explore the possibility of constructing below-grade parking on that site in advance of the above-grade structure. Ultimately, this site is being considered for the future site of a Law School Building or Law Learning Center. In response to a question of what is currently on site, O'Neil said the site is currently a parking lot. There is also one property not currently owned by the University that would need to be acquired before GW could develop the site.

O'Neil also said the University publishes both its operating and capital budgets, and that the capital budget provides funding information on these projects, as well as maintenance and other small projects.

O'Neil and Cora then provided an update on the various projects currently underway:

- **1925 F Street (former Alumni House):** Cora said renovations are proceeding for President Knapp and his family to reside in the house later this summer. The “substantial completion” is proposed to be done by the end of July. There are plans to have the President moved into the house this August.
- **Square 80/GW School Without Walls Project:** Cora said the 474 bed residence hall project is on schedule to open in Fall 2009. In response to a question as to if the DC Public School’s (DCPS) School Without Walls (SWW) has started work on their portion of the site, Cora said abatement work has begun, but no exterior excavation work has commenced. Cora said SWW Principal Richard Trogisch said the project was “moving along,” even though DCPS’s ceremonial groundbreaking was delayed due to scheduling conflicts.
- **Square 54:** O’Neil said Square 54 developer Boston Properties has begun the construction. Construction will be below-grade for some time and the site will look the same to observers for some time. In response to question regarding how deep the project will go (in terms of below-grade stories), O’Neil said the project will include five levels of below-grade space. In terms of upcoming construction events, O’Neil said there will be digging until the developer hits bedrock. At that time, there will be controlled blasting on site. In response to question regarding when the controlled blasting will be, O’Neil said the blasting will be twice a day beginning in late summer. In response to comment that Metro will be very interested in what is going on with the blasting, Cora said the developer has been coordinating with Metro for almost 3 years on the project, and for many months regarding blasting. O’Neil said there has been no blasting done by the University in the recent past. O’Neil added this will be controlled and scheduled and is expected to last up to 90 days. In response to question regarding blasting occurring at night, O’Neil said blasting will only be at scheduled times during the day. O’Neil also said a webcam will be installed on the University Parking Garage and a link to this webcam will be placed on the Neighborhood Website. In response to question regarding blasting occurring only on weekdays, O’Neil said the blasting may occur on all days when construction is legally permitted and this does include Saturdays, but blasting was only expected on weekdays at this time. In response to comments regarding the dump trucks leaving the site at excessive speeds and running stop lights, O’Neil said she would have a discussion with the developer regarding the behavior and asked Akin to coordinate with GW’s University Police Department (UPD) as well. Akin said this type of feedback is helpful in a long development process. In response to question regarding whether there will be a scoping meeting on environmental issues, O’Neil said the DC Government had conducted a review process on environmental issues, that the project had been approved by the District and to her knowledge no such meeting is anticipated. The neighbors were given the Community Concern Hotline (202-994-6110) to report any future concerns with activities on this site.
- **The Aston, 1129 New Hampshire Avenue, NW** – Cora indicated there is on-going life safety upgrade work in this building and the project is expected to be

completed at the end of the summer in time for GW Law School students to occupy the building.

- ***Thurston Residence Hall facade:*** Cora said window replacement is currently taking place on the South and West elevations as well as the interior courtyard area.

Other 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan Initiatives

- ***Streetscape and Historic Preservation Plan:*** O'Neil 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 the 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. In response to questions regarding why the University is moving forward with certain aspects of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* yet delaying others due to legal appeals, O'Neil said the University is moving forward on these plans as if the plans are active although they are not in place. In response to question regarding the yellow areas on the development sites map on the Spring 2008 handouts, O'Neil said the yellow areas are where could additions or renovations could be made to buildings included in the Historic Preservation Plan.

April 15th Campus Plan Compliance Report

- ***Compliance Report:*** O'Neil said the compliance report was complete and had been submitted in advance of the April 15 due date. The report contained updates on various conditions including conditions: #4 – student head count, #5 - faculty/staff populations, and #6 – beds available and occupied. All of the conditions were met. The report is currently available on GW's neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu.

Public Space Items

- ***Square 54:*** O'Neil said in regards to the sidewalk and pedestrian traffic flow, the current configuration of the site is anticipated to remain the same throughout the construction process.
- ***Square 80:*** O'Neil said there will be 12 more months of construction and that temporary relocation of pedestrian traffic to across the street may be necessary when construction activities necessitate relocation.
- ***Move In:*** Konwerski said Fall Move-In is scheduled for August 30 and will include up to 500 volunteers including Foggy Bottom residents. Konwerski said this year's Green Move-out was a great success and garnered more than 3,000 pounds of food items, 4,500 books, and 261 bags of clothing/house goods for donation to local charities.

During general discussion, a comment was given that students are not walking within the designated pedestrian walkway being provided at Square 80 along F Street. Akin said he would coordinate with UPD to look into this concern and noted another issue that often arises during move-in/move-out periods is the mobile storage units such as PODS. There

is a process to use these units. In many cases, city permits are required and meters must be bought out for the location of PODS units. Protocol has been developed through GW by which these units can be given a University Parking Space. However, if neighbors see such storage units on public streets and they are suspected of not having followed the necessary permitting, please report these units as soon as possible.

- **Fall Fest:** Akin said this event will be held 2-7:30 p.m. on September 6, 2008.

With no additional questions or concerns noted, the meeting then moved to the final portion of the agenda, public questions and comments.

Community comments included:

- Maddux voiced concerns regarding the mural on the side of Foggy Bottom Grocery and asked if the University has obtained the required permits for such work. O'Neil said based on discussions with DC and counsel, the mural did not require permits as it is not advertising or signage and Akin said the art project on Foggy Bottom Grocery had been discussed during public forums and concerns had not been raised by neighbors;
- Elliott asked for revisions to the April 3, 2008 Minutes by adding a clarification on page 2 regarding the appeals by FBA to include the Square 54 Planned Unit Development (PUD) appeal. Elliott also added a change to the Community Comments on page 4 to say she was not asking UPD to patrol an off-campus area, but asking for increased patrols in areas within UPD jurisdiction;
- Akin and Elliott discussed noise problems within her building and said her building management has hired an off duty police officer as a courtesy policy however the effort is not working. Akin asked if the policy of not allowing more than two non-related persons to occupy an apartment was still active and Elliott said there are issues with the policy. Akin offered to try to engage the building manager through the quarterly Building Managers Meeting. Elliott said the management of both buildings, the York and Potomac Park, is Bernstein Management who is already participates in these meetings;
- Maddux asked if Tonic Restaurant is required to notify GW of special events due to parking and noise issues. O'Neil said they are currently not required to do so, but that GW would raise this issue with Tonic management.
- Elliott also raised the issue of weekend construction at 1925 F Street and the need for UPD to visit the site twice during the previous weekend. Cora said the contractor has been told repeatedly of the work hour restrictions and the project manager will monitor the construction each weekend to ensure work does not continue to be pursued outside GW's authorized work hours.
- Elliott said there has been a constant in-and-out of moving trucks at Old Main Building and asked why this was occurring. Cora said it may be GW's Geography Department preparing to move into the building. Elliott said some of the vehicles moving furniture are private trucks. Cora said GW could have parking services go by and check the site.

- Elliott said GW's Facilities Department had three new vehicles parked in public space in the alley behind Francis Scott Key dorm, and GW to determine whether these trucks are parked in public space.
- Elliott said the trucks delivering to the Subway and Starbucks in 1957 E Street have not stopped making deliveries on 20th Street despite multiple reports and she feels this behavior is in violation of the 1957 E Street PUD. O'Neil and Akin pledged to follow-up with the vendors.
- Paul Winick said although he had no opinion on the new statue that GW is proposing on 19th Street, he feels President Knapp should reconsider the matter as a good faith gesture to the community.
- Akin said DC's Department of Transportation (DDOT) is studying how to implement a cab stand at 19th and F Streets NW without the loss of public parking spaces. There are currently no clear regulations for this and DDOT is looking to establish these procedures. Elliott said she is concerned about traffic resulting from the circling cabs and cabs stopped in front of Thurston Residence Hall, as well as pedestrians using the nearby Mount Vernon Campus Express shuttle stop.
- Eric Roper asked how the attempt to obtain matching funds for the Smith Center renovations was going. O'Neil said fundraising was underway, but designs are conceptual at this point.

Upon completion of the community discussion, Akin asked for additional public Questions/Comments. Having none, Waddell announced the 6th Annual Foggy Bottom/West End Neighborhood Block Party on October 19th from 1-4:00 p.m. Akin said relevant materials from this meeting (including these meeting minutes) will be posted on GW's neighborhood website, <http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu>.

With no other public questions/comments the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

(meeting notes by Britany Waddell, GW)