

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

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

Meeting #9/Quarter 4 – December 7, 2009 – 6:30 pm -- Saint Mary's Court, Lower Level

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

Michael Akin, Executive Director of Government International & Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting promptly at 6:30 p.m. by noting this ninth quarterly meeting was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of GW's *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP)*. He said notices of the meeting had been sent via letter and/or email to the six Commissioners on 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). Additional outreach to publicize this meeting included:

- Advertisement placed in the December 1, 2009 edition of *The Foggy Bottom Current*;
- Email invite sent to approximately 400 members on the FRIENDS listserv, as well as distributed via the Foggy Bottom Alert Neighborhood listserv;
- Notice placed on five pages of GW's neighborhood website [www.neighborhood.gwu.edu](http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu);
- Email reminders were sent to attendees of previous GW Community Advisory Committee meetings.

Next, representatives of GW who have been appointed by the University as members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves, including: Akin; Alicia O'Neil, GW Senior Associate Vice President for Operations; Susi Cora, GW Director of Planning and Project Management/Office of Real Estate; Peter Konwerski, GW Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services (SASS); and Brian Hamluk, GW Director SASS & University Guide to Personal Success Program. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: Toni Boyer, Jeff Gold, Kris Hart, Barbara Kahlow, Sara Maddux, Bill Schechter, and Paul Winick. Also in attendance were GW representatives Corey Barenbrugge, Amber Lewis, Tara Pereira, John Ralls and Britany Waddell, as well as Colin MacDonald, a student attending on behalf of the GW Residence Hall Association. At the completion of introductions, Akin said minutes from all previous meetings of the GW Community Advisory Committee (including the Quarter 3 meeting held 09/22/09) are posted at several locations on GW's neighborhood website, [www.neighborhood.gwu.edu](http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu)

### **2) FEATURED DISCUSSIONS:**

**2A) Discussion of GW's November 20, 2009 Compliance Report for the 2007 FBCP – Susi Cora:** Cora said the fall compliance filed 11-20-09 showed GW was in compliance with all aspects of the Zoning Commission's order for the *2007 FBCP*. Kahlow asked two questions regarding court appeals of the Zoning Commission's 2007 approval of both the *2007 FBCP* as well as the Square 54 Planned Unit Development (PUD): 1) Regarding the remanding of certain enrollment issues within the *2007 FBCP* by the DC Court of Appeals back to the DC Zoning Commission for further explanation, Kahlow asked how this would be addressed and O'Neil said the Zoning Commission had not yet notified GW how it would address this matter; 2) As to the status of the DC Court of Appeals review of the Square 54 appeal, O'Neil said GW had not received any new information regarding this and was continuing to await the Court's order.

**2B) Discussion of GW's 2008-2009 Community Concerns Report from GW's Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs – Tara Pereira, University Assistant Dean of Students:** Pereira said this report showed a decrease in complaints from the previous year with 158 complaints, many of which were noise or trash related. She said the issue of noise was divided into types based on where it was generated (street vs. townhouse vs. apartment unit) as well as day of the week (showing Friday and Saturday nights as the most active) and month (October being the most active).

Akin said this report is used as a guide for GW officials when determining how to address student concerns and gave an example of how GW had revised its policy to proactively address concerns in townhouses where GW students reside but are not owned by the University. Kahlow inquired how the numbers were compiled for this report and Akin said it was based largely on reports to GW's Community Concern Hotline. Kahlow asked if the underlying reports and data could be reviewed and Akin indicated he would have to share this request with other GW administrators and report on the outcome at the next meeting. (*Note: upon further review, University officials determined that, due to the confidential personal information included in the GW police reports, these reports cannot be shared publicly.*) MacDonald asked how complaints related to summer interns were included in this report since these occupants are likely not GW students. Maddux said Knapp's residency on campus had coincided with a reduction in street noise in that area.

### **3) OTHER COMMUNITY UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**3A) H Street Community Garden/Square 41:** O'Neil said GW has worked with GW's student group, Food Justice Alliance, to facilitate the fall opening of this garden located on the north side of H Street between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Streets. She said this project had recently received a grant from Fulbright Fellows for additional hardscape work in Phase II of the project which is anticipated to occur in the spring. Gold asked about the possible vandalism of produce and O'Neil said student organizers were considering ways in which this could be minimized without having to erect a fence. Akin said the project organizers hope to eventually donate surplus produce to Miriam's Kitchen and other local charitable outlets.

**3B) Foggy Bottom Neighborhood Cleanup:** Akin said this November 9, 2009 student-organized event experienced an increase in volunteers due to additional publicity and coordination by students. Kahlow requested future student cleanups consider addressing homeless encampments near both Roosevelt Bridge and 25<sup>th</sup> and K Streets.

#### **3C) Mount Vernon Campus Activities**

**3Ci) Pelham Hall Redevelopment:** Cora said work is well underway and continues on schedule for a fall 2010 opening which will provide 278 beds and additional student support facilities on the Mount Vernon Campus. Akin said Waddell has organized some Foggy Bottom resident visits to the Mount Vernon Campus and would be happy to also provide this tour to interested neighbors in attendance.

**3Cii) 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan Process:** Cora said eight community meetings have been held with residents/neighbors of the Campus (including the neighborhoods of Foxhall and Palisades) for discussion on a proposed 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan, which was filed November 26, 2009 with the DC Zoning Commission. Cora said there will be additional meetings with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D in advance of the Zoning Commission's hearing which has been scheduled for March 25, 2010.

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

##### ***4A) Campus development projects in the planning stages***

**4Ai) Below grade parking/Square 103:** O'Neil said in fall 2009, the GW Board of Trustees approved funding for initial planning and design services of this future academic building, and GW is now working to secure a project architect. Except for an entry lobby and stairwell/elevator, most of this project is below-grade. The project is expected to provide 300-400 new parking spaces (depending on the final design) to meet Campus parking demands as GW plans for future demolition of the University Parking Garage so as to create space for construction of a new science and engineering complex. Maddux asked if there were any underground streams in the vicinity of this project and O'Neil said she was not aware of any but this would be reviewed as the project continued.

**4Aii) Renovation of Lafayette Residence Hall (corner of Eye and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets):** O'Neil said this project (anticipated to begin summer 2010 and last one year) will include fire and life safety upgrades and reconfiguration of rooms. While this site is identified in the 2007 FBCP as a potential development site, current plans for the renovation do not call for an addition to this building.

**4Aiii) Science and engineering complex/Square 55:** O'Neil said that consultant/advisor Boston Properties has hired Ballinger Architects to guide the project's pre-design process. Ballinger has begun benchmarking and programming studies, including outreach to and consultation with GW's faculty, administrative officials and staff. O'Neil anticipates initial results will be shared this winter, with the goal being to present to GW's Board of Trustees at its fall 2010 meeting a project design and funding proposal for review/approval. Maddux requested additional outreach be made to St. Mary's Church regarding mitigation of potential impacts during construction and Akin confirmed this has and would continue to occur. Gold asked for consideration of a covered walkway between the WMATA elevator and the hospital which Akin agreed to share with proper WMATA and DC officials.

**4B) Other 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan initiatives -- Historic Preservation Plans and Streetscape Plans:** Cora said, per Condition P-9 of the 2007 FBCP, GW's Historic Preservation Plan (including provision of Historic District research and six individual landmark application filings) were submitted to the DC Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office. She said the landmark applications had been referred to DC's Historic Preservation Review Board which had scheduled a January 28, 2010 hearing. Also, Cora said a final draft of the streetscape project was being drafted to be shared with the DC Government via a Preliminary Design Review Meeting with the DC Department of Transportation and other key DC agencies. Kahlow inquired as to the type of benches included in the proposal and O'Neil said the benches are in keeping with the current style. O'Neil said the filing of both plans had been on hold until resolution of the Foggy Bottom Association's appeal of the 2007 FBCP and, with the DC Court of Appeals September 3, 2009 decision affirming the Zoning Commission's 2007 FBCP order, both plans were able to move forward during the fall.

##### **4C) UPDATE ON CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT**

**4Ci) Square 80 Open Space:** O'Neil said the existing surface parking/delivery and loading area between F, G, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets is being converted into a green and open space that employs progressive storm water management practices. O'Neil said work is underway but permitting delays have moved the anticipated opening from late 2009 to spring 2010. Maddux and Gold asked about nighttime safety lighting and other security measures and O'Neil

responded that GW would ensure provision of security in the space. It was confirmed after the meeting that there will be a blue light emergency phone (in approximately same location as current fixture) as well as adequate evening illumination included in the project design.

**4Cii) Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center/Square 57:** Cora said phase two of this three phase project, including the majority of interior work, was substantially completed in August and final punch list items are now being addressed. Design work for phase three of the project is underway and construction will be starting in the spring of 2010. She said the project's exterior work had received approval from the Commission on Fine Arts. Gold made note of operational issues such as availability of bottled water in the President's Club and a faulty shower seat, which Cora said would be referred to appropriate University officials.

**4Ciii) Square 54/2200 Pennsylvania Avenue:** O'Neil said work on this project continues on schedule and concrete work has progressed above grade with additional work including installation of HVAC units and mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems following the building's concrete being set. O'Neil said Boston Properties continues to actively work on leasing commercial and retail spaces and is compiling a list of individuals interested in learning more about the residential units and/or affordable housing components. In response to Kahlow's question regarding status of securing a grocer for the project, O'Neil said negotiations between Boston Properties and a grocer were still underway.

## **5) PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT**

With no further comments or questions, Akin adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. and encouraged residents to review the minutes for tonight's and previous meetings on the neighborhood website.