

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(as called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*, Condition P-7)
Meeting #6 – March 16, 2009 – 6:30 pm -- Saint Mary's Court, Lower Level

1) INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Akin, Executive Director of Government & Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm and welcomed attendees. Akin said this sixth quarterly meeting was being held in compliance with Condition P-7 of the *2007 GW Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and 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 the 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: Ed Abramic, Jack Batham, Toni Boyer, Genny Hsieh, Barbara Kahlow, Mary Francis Kornak, John Kurutz, Daniel Lozier, Sara Maddux, Bill and Claudia Schechter, Sarah Shapiro, Steve Timlin, Frank Vibert, Paul Winnick and Monroe Wright. Also in attendance were GW representatives Meghan Chapple-Brown, Gina Fernandes, John Ralls and Britany Waddell. At the completion of introductions, Akin noted minutes from all previous meetings of the GW Community Advisory Committee (including the most recent meeting on 12/16/08) are posted on GW's neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu.

2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2A) Campus Development Updates

2Ai) Square 80 residence hall/2100 block of F Street:

- Cora said work is progressing on schedule for its fall 2009 opening. Most windows have been installed and interior work is continuing into the summer. Akin said the new residence hall would house seniors beginning fall 2009 as part of GW's efforts to keep upper class students on-campus by providing attractive housing options. Claudia Schechter asked about progress on the DC Public Schools component of the Square 80 project: renovation of existing historic structure used by School Without Walls (SWW) and new addition. Cora said it is proceeding on schedule for a fall opening.

2Aii) Square 54/2200 Pennsylvania Avenue:

- O'Neil said the first tower crane was erected on the northeast corner of the project site this weekend. It is anticipated the second tower crane will be erected on the site within the next month with the third and fourth cranes to follow shortly thereafter.

- Kahlow asked if any commercial spaces within the project had been leased and O'Neil said the law firm of Hunton & Williams has signed a lease for almost 200,000 square feet. O'Neil said project developer Boston Properties is continuing negotiations to procure a potential grocer for the site that would comply with the previously discussed 24,000-43,000 square feet range. Based on recent indications from Boston Properties, the vendor currently negotiating with Boston Properties has space needs on the higher end of the square footage range.
- Bill Schecter asked about how the construction trucks would exit the site. O'Neil said current construction traffic proceeds north on 22nd Street and then turn right/east onto Pennsylvania Avenue.

2Aiii) Renovation of the Charles E. Smith Athletic Center:

- Cora said the structural steel work and minor interior slab infill of Phase I of the three-phase project would be completed in April and Phase II (major interior renovations) would start shortly thereafter. Substantial completion is targeted for late August 2009. Phase III work (including exterior façade work) will take place in spring/summer 2010.
- Cora shared graphic renderings with the audience of proposed interior and exterior renovations (review online [here](#)). Cora said the exterior look of the renovated Center will be in keeping with adjacent buildings such as the Duques addition to GW's School of Business which was completed in 2006. Akin said these images were shared with the public at the February meeting of the Foggy Bottom Advisory Neighborhood Commission/ANC 2A. Akin said lane closures and traffic impacts due to construction should be minimal.

2Aiv) School of Public Health and Health Services/Square 39A:

- O'Neil said work is underway on conceptual designs for a new School of Public Health building on Square 39 (current home to the Warwick Building).
- O'Neil said this proposed project will comply with provisions included in the 2007 *Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* including: no vehicular parking on the site; demolition of existing structure; maximum height of 90 feet; retention of the park/green space on the site's southern side/Square 39.
- O'Neil said the GW Board of Trustees approved initial design funds of approximately \$3 million but have not formally approved construction of the project. If the Board approves construction, O'Neil said she would then have conceptual designs to share with the community at a future quarterly meeting of the GW/Community Advisory Committee.
- Kurutz said he is a resident of the 182-unit Jefferson House and, since many of his neighbors frequently use the current green space on Square 39A, they would be interested in receiving regular updates on this project. Kurutz asked if a GW representative could attend the building's annual meeting this May and Akin agreed this would happen. Kurutz also asked that no cruel/unusual laboratory experiments occur in the new SPHHS building -- O'Neil agreed to attend the meeting and said the building would include academic and faculty office space, but no laboratory space.
- Claudia Schechter said she hoped GW would work to retain as many of the mature site trees as possible.

2Av) Science and engineering complex:

- O’Neil said the GW Board of Trustees at its February meeting approved up to \$10 million in funding for initial feasibility, design, programming and benchmarking work to proceed with regard to locating this proposed project on Square 55 (current site of GW’s University Parking Garage).
- O’Neil said that, at this time, the site was anticipated to include science programs from Columbian College of Arts and Sciences as well as the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences with potential overlap from GW’s School of Medicine – but programming work is still needed to determine which departments will be in the new building.
- Winnick asked O’Neil how the current global financial crisis is, or could, impact progress on this project and how/if GW’s recent debt restructuring was related to this. O’Neil said GW feels it is in a strong position financially to take advantage of current opportunities (e.g., lower costs for labor and supplies) and precede with planned academic facility upgrades while also continuing to increase financial aid to students and pursue strategic new hires for key faculty positions. With regard to GW’s restructuring of its debt earlier in the year, O’Neil confirmed GW had restructured some of its debt, including acquiring an additional \$200 million to ensure continued liquidity.
- O’Neil was asked how GW would maintain the minimum required 2,800 parking spaces if the University Parking Garage site is used for the new science and engineering complex. O’Neil said this would be accomplished via creation of various new parking spaces throughout the campus, including 362 dedicated GW spaces in the new Square 54 project and 187 spaces in the Square 80 project (both currently under construction), as well as creation of several hundred spaces within the new science and engineering complex and other measures.

2Avi) Mount Vernon Campus:

- ***Pelham Hall Redevelopment:*** O’Neil said site work has proceeded to the construction phase with a tower crane recently being erected at the site and the initiation of concrete foundational work. Configuration of the residence hall (anticipated to open in fall 2010) will be similar to the apartment-suite style 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 student recreational amenities.
- ***Mount Vernon Campus Plan:*** Cora said initial work has begun to update the existing Campus Plan for the Mount Vernon Campus. She said this new plan it is not anticipated to propose significant changes from the previous plan. O’Neil said planning was underway to begin outreach to community leaders, DC agencies and other key stakeholders. There will be a series of meetings held on an approximately monthly schedule beginning in April for residents in the vicinity of GW’s Mount Vernon Campus, including the neighborhoods of Foxhall and Palisades.

2B) GW’s April Campus Plan Compliance Report:

- Akin said GW will file in April its next 2007 *Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* bi-annual compliance report which will be posted on the GW website as have the other previous three compliance reports. O’Neil said the “spring” interim report focuses on enrollment and on-campus housing numbers and she was pleased to report GW is in full compliance

- After the summary of the upcoming Compliance Report, Vibert asked about GW's efforts with regard to students living off-campus at 1016 22nd Street, N.W. Akin said GW has aggressively worked to ensure the students living at this site fully comply with all rules and regulations of the University as well as the District of Columbia.

2C) Other Campus Plan initiatives:

2Ci) Streetscape and Historic Preservation Plans:

- O'Neil said work continues on the Streetscape and Historic Preservation plans called for in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* and she 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.
- ***Streetscape:*** O'Neil said GW has reengaged with EE&K Architects and has been working to redevelop proposals for a master plan to implement new streetscape components as outlined in the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*. She said there will be a meeting in mid to late April as well as later in the spring at which community input will be solicited. O'Neil said the goal is to have the proposed streetscape plan completed by summer and ready for implementation upon resolution of the legal challenges to the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*.
- ***Historic Preservation Plan:*** O'Neil said approval of the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan* included provisions that GW will apply for historic landmark status of six buildings on campus and assist the DC Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office in its work to create a new historic district on the southern portion of GW's campus. She said work continues on each of these efforts even though they can not be officially initiated until resolution of the legal challenges to the *2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan*. O'Neil said the University has also been working to create and implement internal maintenance guidelines to ensure all current and future historically designated properties owned by GW comply with historic regulations.

2Cii) Additional questions:

- Kurutz said residents in his building have been complaining about the discourteous, rude and loud behavior of DC Public School (DCPS) students in the area and asked if GW could contact its partners at DCPS's School Without Walls to encourage better student behavior. A neighbor said students from School Without Walls are likely not the cause of this behavior since the school is still temporarily located across DC near Union Station and will not return to Foggy Bottom until next fall when the renovations of its traditional home have been completed. There was discussion that these students are likely enrolled at the Francis Junior High School at 24th and N Streets, N.W.

3) MEGHAN CHAPPLE-BROWN, DIRECTOR, GW OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Chapple-Brown said she began work at GW on December 31, 2008 and has spent her first few months working to examine GW's environmental footprint and determine how GW can help create a world that is "generational" and has the right quality of resources both now and in future generations. She noted many recent and current GW environmental efforts including the

numerous educational and outreach activities planned for GW's first EarthWeek from April 15-22, including an outdoor fair on International Earth Day/April 22. She also discussed efforts to increase GW's participation in Earth Hour on March 28 from 8:30-9:30pm which is a global effort sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund that encourages all individuals and entities to turn off non-essential lights during the 8:30-9:30pm time slot in their respective time zones.

Chapple-Brown answered several audience questions, including how GW calculates its carbon footprint, which she said was accomplished using established calculation methods as laid out by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. With regard to the integration her office is having with GW's real estate and finance operations, Chapple-Brown said she has been working extensively with numerous individuals in both of these offices to get a better idea of GW's current carbon footprint and what measures should be taken to reduce it (including ongoing efforts to complete the greenhouse gas inventory and draft a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan). O'Neil said coordination between GW's Office of Sustainability and real estate/finance operations is further enhanced by the fact that each of these operations reports to GW Executive Vice President Lou Katz.

4) OTHER COMMUNITY UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

4A) Proactive Planning for Post-Spring Break:

- Akin said GW traditionally sees an increase in calls received at GW's Community Concern Hotline during the period following Spring Break and, as such, is taking several pro-active measures to mitigate this potential impact. Hamluk said GW's Neighborhood Action Team and F Street Commission were both increasing outreach to inform students of good neighbor policies. Akin said additional outreach of this message was taking place via articles in the GW Hatchet and announcements from GW Residence Hall Staff.
- Hamluk said GW's annual "Spring Fling" outdoor student festival/carnival was being relocated this year to GW's Mount Vernon Campus.

4B) Move out of GW students at end of spring semester:

- Hamluk said this year's move out will take place over a longer period of time (three weeks) which should further minimize its impact on the surrounding community. He said GW would again be implementing a "Green Move Out" strategy which resulted last year in more than 2,000 bags of unneeded clothing being donated to local charities.

4C) Additional questions:

- Kahlow said some residents of GW's Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) have been storing bicycles on the balcony adjoining their room and asked for efforts to be made to remind students these balconies are not to be used for storage or other uses. She also asked the University to consider about how to prevent future reoccurrences of this practice when new students move into HOVA.
- Akin said the Foggy Bottom Farmers Market will have its traditional spring opening on April 1 and the Market organizers, seeking to include additional vendors, have asked GW for use of a limited amount of space on the Eye Street Mall (portion of Eye Street between 23rd and 24th Streets, NW). Akin said the location of approximately three vendors on the Eye Street Mall did not appear to violate any of the terms of agreement to which GW agreed upon assuming ownership of the land in 1979 and that the market organizers have committed to securing all necessary permits. Steve Timlin said he

- Akin said GW often has surplus furniture which it tries to donate to local organizations and charities and encouraged the audience to let him know if they had ideas on potential future recipients of such items.
- Maddux reiterated her concern from previous meetings that GW students and community members are not obeying DC's pedestrian laws and regulations.

5) 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.