

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Meeting #10/Quarter 1 – March 4, 2010 – 6:30 pm -- Saint Mary's Court, Lower Level

1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Akin, Assistant Vice President of Government, International & Community Relations for The George Washington University opened the meeting promptly at 6:30 p.m. by noting this tenth 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 February 24, 2010 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;
- 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: Sara Maddux, Laetitia Combrinck, Lionel Gloster and Paul Winnick. Also in attendance were GW representatives Amber Lewis, John Ralls and Britany Waddell, as well as Colin MacDonald, a student attending on behalf of the GW Residence Hall Association and Jeff Bridges of the GW Hatchet. At the completion of introductions, Akin said minutes from all previous meetings of the GW Community Advisory Committee (including the Quarter 4 meeting held 12/07/09) are posted at several locations on GW's neighborhood website, www.neighborhood.gwu.edu

2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2a) Campus development projects in planning stages

2ai) Renovation of Lafayette Residence Hall (corner of Eye and 21st Streets): Interior renovation with full interior demolition is still anticipated to begin late summer 2010 and last approximately one year. O'Neil said this will include fire and life safety upgrades and interior renovations. Exterior work will include window replacement and minor roof work. O'Neil confirmed this temporary removal of Lafayette Hall from GW's housing inventory will not prevent GW from meeting its Campus Plan requirements for provision of student beds.

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.

2aii) Science and engineering complex/Square 55: O'Neil said that consultant/advisor Boston Properties and Ballinger Architects have been hired for the project. Ballinger has begun benchmarking and programming studies, including outreach to and consultation with GW's

faculty, administrative officials and staff. Benchmarking considers the best practices of other institutions while programming reviews internal practices of the University to assess its needs. O'Neil said the new space will likely include office space/departmental offices for GW's Columbian College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences as well as research and teaching space and collaborative areas. O'Neil anticipates presentation to GW's Board of Trustees of a project design and funding proposal for review/approval by the Board at its fall 2010 meeting. Maddux asked if additional outreach had been made to St. Mary's Church regarding mitigation of potential impacts during construction and Akin confirmed this has and would continue to occur.

2b) Other 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan initiatives

2bi) Historic Preservation Plan: 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 (HPRB) which approved these nominations at its January 28, 2010 hearing. Cora said the HPRB complimented GW's work on these nominations.

2bii) Streetscape Plan: Cora reviewed the main streetscape components which have previously been shared with the community on several occasions including focusing vehicular routes on north/south streets and giving east/west streets a more pedestrian focus. This project was well received by the DC Government with a final draft of the streetscape project submitted to DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) and other key DC agencies in early February as a follow up to the December Preliminary Design Review. This process will culminate with an agreement between GW and DDOT that will result in standardization and predictability in the placement of streetscape components and improvements.

2c) Updates on campus development projects:

2Ci) Square 80 Open Space: Akin said the existing surface parking/delivery and loading area between F, G, 21st and 22nd Streets is being converted into a green and open space that employs progressive storm water management practices. Cora said work is underway and projected for completion before commencement despite this year's severe winter weather. Work has begun on the F Street plaza entrance and installation of all three cisterns has been completed at the site which will help with stormwater retention. Maddux asked about street markings on F Street near the site and asked if this would require any work on the sidewalk or F Street. Cora said she would confirm as to the nature of this work at the site. Akin said there had been requests to have a community-oriented event for the neighborhood once this project is completed and he would have additional details at the next meeting.

2Cii) 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 which will focus primarily on exterior renovations. Cora shared a rendering of the proposed exterior renovations.

2Ciii) Square 54/2200 Pennsylvania Avenue: O'Neil said work on this project continues on schedule for completion in early 2011 for the office component and mid 2011 for the residential component. She said the project had "topped out" on the north side of the project and above grade work now includes installation of the exterior curtain wall. Akin said a covered walkway had been installed on the project's Eye Street boundary. O'Neil said Boston Properties

is continuing negotiations with a potential grocer. She said work was set to finish on the office part of the building in early 2011, with the residential part set to deliver in the second quarter of 2011.

2d) Mount Vernon Campus Activities

2di) 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. She said some of the residential floors are near completion and GW would arrange to be happy to arrange tours for Foggy Bottom residents.

2dii) 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan Process: Cora said eight community meetings have been held since spring 2009 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 have been three additional meetings with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, including last night where ANC 3D provided a conditional approval of the proposal. Cora said this proposal would be before the Zoning Commission on March 25, 2010.

3) UPCOMING IMPORTANT GW DATES including Commencement, Move Out, UCC Chalk In

Hamluk said May 14-16 would be GW's annual Commencement Weekend and this would bring increased activities to the area. He said GW's annual move-out of students from its residential halls is scheduled for May 12-17, although many students will leave before/after those dates so this should not have as much impact as fall move-in. He said the University Counseling Center would again be hosting its annual chalk-in on H Street between 21st and 22nd Streets, NW which would require a temporary closure of H Street on April 22 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

4) FEATURED DISCUSSION – Discussion of the proposed underground parking facility and Law Learning Center on Square 103

Cora 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. O'Neil said the project is expected to provide approximately 350 new parking spaces (depending on the final design) on four levels of below grade parking 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.

Currently the project is in concept phase and what will eventually be designed may differ significantly from these initial concept drawings. Cora shared an image board with an elevation study showing concept renderings for the project. Cora said main ingress and egress would be via public alley between F & G Streets, N.W. She said the longterm goal would be for the Law School to build above grade but there was no timeframe for this. Maddux asked how this might impact incoming traffic during the morning rush hour and if this would exacerbate existing traffic conditions. O'Neil said she did not anticipate this would add further to existing traffic conditions since the vehicles would not be new vehicles but existing drivers currently parking on the campus and that a traffic study was underway to confirm this and these results would be shared at a future meeting. O'Neil said widening of the public alley was being considered so as

to better facilitate access to and from the garage. Cora said the University is seeking to file a proposal with the Zoning Commission in April or May. Akin said this would be a second-stage application under GW's 2007 FBCP.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

Maddux asked that trees be included on the agenda for the next meeting and it was agreed this would occur.

Akin raised several issues related to February's heavy snowfalls. Students organized a digout of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood and approximately 40 students spent a day helping Foggy Bottom neighbors remove snow from area sidewalks. Akin said questions had also been raised by students renting area properties as to who is responsible for removing snow since they are not the owner of the property and snow removal is usually the responsibility of the property owner. He said an education effort would be incorporated in the future so as to address this.

Akin said GW had also announced a new provost today, Steven Lehrman, who would begin work July 1 and would reside on the Mount Vernon Campus. He said this would be the first time GW's two top officials resided on a GW campus including President Knapp who resides on GW's Foggy Bottom Campus.

With no further comments or questions, Akin adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m. and encouraged residents to review the minutes for tonight's and previous meetings on the neighborhood website.