

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Meeting #22/Quarter 1 – March 18, 2013 – 6:30 pm in Duques Hall – Room 553

1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Britany Waddell of The George Washington University opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with introductions of individuals appointed by GW as members of this Advisory Committee, including: Andrew Goretsky who is a Director in GW's Center for Student Engagement and who oversees off-campus student affairs, the Graduate, Distance, and Professional Student Experience program, and the Outdoor Summit leadership program; Alicia Knight, GW Senior Associate Vice President for Operations; Peter Konwerski, GW Dean of Student Affairs; Susi Cora, GW Director of Campus Planning, and; Britany Waddell, GW's Director of Community Relations. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: community member Sara Maddux; Patrick Wohl of GW's Residence Hall Association; ANC Commissioners Jackson Carnes, Florence Harmon, Patrick Kennedy, and Peter Sacco; and GW staff members John Ralls and Eric Selbst.

2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2a) Other 2007 FBCP initiatives:

Historic Preservation Plan: Cora said there had been no change in status since the last meeting – the university filed the applications for six landmark nominations and the university continues to support the Office of Planning's work on creating a new historic district. **Streetscape Plan:** Cora said GW submitted a draft plan to District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and continues to work with DDOT on this and will share it as well with ANC 2A in coming months for further discussion.

2b) Updates on campus development projects:

2b i) School of Public Health and Health Services/Square 39: Cora said construction of this seven-floor above grade (and two-floor below grade) project is underway and the building will "top out" later this spring (when the structure reaches its highest point) and completion is now anticipated for spring 2014 semester. Maddux asked if DDOT could repair potholes adjacent the site, particularly midblock of 24th Street, and ANC Commissioner Kennedy agreed to share this concern with a DDOT representative.

2b ii) Science and Engineering Hall/Square 55: Cora gave a general overview of the project: eight floors above-grade and six below-grade; targeting LEED Gold; expected to be open in time for January 2015 classes. Cora confirmed this project's approximately 379 below-grade parking spaces will join with the recently opened 392 new below-grade parking spaces at the G Street Garage on Square 103 (discussed below) and 178 parking spaces in South Hall (opened in 2009) as well as the approximate 362 parking spaces dedicated to GW in The Avenue (aka "Square 54") to ensure the university maintains the minimum 2,800 parking spaces as required by the 2007 FBCP.

2b iii) Site 75A on Square 75: Approved by the Zoning Commission in February of this year, Knight said the university plans to engage the development community in coming months to assess interest and opportunities in terms of looking for a potential partner to develop this site.

2b iv) The George Washington University and The Textile Museum on site 102B: Knight said this partnership with The Textile Museum and philanthropist Albert H. Small will incorporate the historic Woodhull House and a new structure on 21st Street now under construction. Completion of this project is anticipated in late 2013 with the museum opening to the public in fall 2014.

Later in the meeting, there was a discussion related to the public space aspects of this project including two exterior signs, three benches and access through the curb via either a regular curb cut or a mountable curb. Cora said the concern with the mountable curb option is that it could produce enough vibrations to damage some of the more fragile pieces in the collection when they are being transported to the museum via the loading dock. Maddux asked for confirmation that tour buses will not be allowed to use this curb feature or double-park on 21st Street for offloading of passengers. Cora confirmed these points and said that the curb cut would be limited to the loading and unloading of artifacts. Tour buses will be asked to unload at a designated area on G Street. She added that the number of deliveries using the 21st Street curb cut would be small (potentially three weekly) and there will be a trained staff person on

duty at all times to assist with vehicles backing into this space. Sacco asked if there was a benefit to the mountable curb for pedestrians. Cora responded that DDOT's suggestion wasn't related to pedestrian access but was seen as possibly discouraging unauthorized vehicles from using the curb cut, but GW finds the mountable curb infeasible given the reasons noted earlier and finds the limited use and management plan to be satisfactory.

2b v) Law Learning Center Garage on Square 103: Knight said work is substantially complete on this project but final interior and exterior finishes (including landscaping) would continue into early summer. She confirmed that the 58 at-grade parking spaces are temporary and will be phased out upon receipt of a certificate of occupancy for the Science and Engineering Hall (anticipated in late 2014). Maddux asked if one way signs would be put in the alley to direct trucks and Knight confirmed the alley was approved to be two-way. Commissioner Sacco asked if the new green space on the western side of this project is permanent and Knight confirmed that the entire at-grade surface portion of this project was approved in the 2007 FBCP to be a development site so it will become the first floor of an above-grade structure if this site is developed. Knight said the university has been working with Tonic Restaurant to allow for creation of a "summer garden" as part of the green space on Square 103 with umbrellas/picnic tables which Tonic patrons can use during the restaurant's operating hours and can be used by others when Tonic is not open. The "summer garden" will also be removed when the site is developed.

3) GENERAL CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

3a) Gelman Library entry renovation: Knight said interior and exterior work continues on this project which will move the library's main entrance from existing H Street location to Kogan Plaza via a main staircase and also ADA accessible ramp leading to the second floor which is being entirely renovated into a new "entrance level" with significant new spaces for student gathering, studying, and meeting. She also discussed improvements to the outdoor space adjacent Gelman Library's east façade and south of Kogan Plaza, including relocation of GW's existing Veteran's Park. Knight said this relocation was in response to increased donor interest in supporting on-campus efforts for veterans as well as the fact that any upgrades to the existing Veteran's Park (near 22nd and G Streets) might not be long-lasting since this is a site designated by the 2007 FBCP for future development as an academic building. Knight clarified the existing green space at 22nd and G Streets would continue to exist but the flagpole and other items associated with Veteran's Park would be relocated to the east side of Gelman.

3b) Ross Hall new stair tower and utility upgrades: Cora said work continues on creation of a new Research Center for Neglected Diseases of Poverty on floors 5 and 6 (and its adjacent exterior stair tower) and the central utility plant in the basement levels that will support the new research center, strengthen the infrastructure within Ross Hall, and serve the future Science and Engineering Hall.

3c) Law Learning Clinic Townhomes: Cora said this project combines three historic townhomes into a new structure for the Law School and is anticipated to be completed in late spring 2013. Commissioner Kennedy asked when the sidewalk adjacent this project would be re-opened and Cora said she would confirm but anticipated a late May re-opening.

4) FEATURED DISCUSSION: FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL FACILITY ON SITE 77A ON SQUARE 77 AND THE ASSOCIATED INTERIOR ALLEY CLOSING PROCESS

Cora said the university will be going to ANC 2A in near future for review of three components associated with this project: 1) the Zoning Commission's second-stage Planned Unit Development (PUD) approval; 2) the Historic Preservation Review Board's approval of historic elements included in this project, and; 3) the associated alley closing needed to facilitate this project.

Cora said the current alley is accessed on H Street between Schenley and Crawford Halls via a one-way alley which will be closed so that space can be reconfigured to allow for construction of the in-fill portion of this project. A new service area will utilize an existing curbcut off of Eye Street next to the Marvin Center. A loading area and scene shop in the Marvin Center will be demolished to allow access to a shared loading/service area for the residence hall and the Marvin Center. Knight said this transfer of alley status from public to private was anticipated during the review and approval of the 2007 FBCP.

ANC 2A Chair Harmon asked if the DC Fire Department had approved this change and Cora confirmed that DCFD was included in the planning process and the new service area would be wider than the existing alley. ANC Commissioner Sacco asked if, from a student standpoint, a significant portion of the Marvin Center was being removed and Cora/Knight confirmed it was only the loading dock (which would be relocated to the interior of the service area) and the scene shop (the university is working with its theater and dance department to determine potential new locations).

Regarding the PUD component of this project, Cora said the university typically shares second-stage PUD approval projects when they are first initiated (as was done for this project) and, again, when the full proposal is submitted to the Zoning Commission (as is planned for the March or April ANC 2A meetings). Knight reiterated two components of this project which support the amenities proffered by GW in the *2007 FBCP*: first, this project will allow the university to expand its commitment to the Eye Street Retail Corridor by adding a retail venue on the ground floor of West End's Eye Street entrance with additional venues in the project's lower levels, and; the additional beds to be on this site will offset the planned discontinuation of undergraduate housing at City Hall, an off-campus property, as required by Condition P-8 of the Campus Plan/PUD Order. Commissioner Kennedy asked the university to inform residents of the President Condo (across the street from this project/on south side of Eye Street in the 2100 block) as to any potential impacts this construction might create for them and Cora thanked him for the suggestion.

Regarding the historic components of this project, Cora said portions of the facades of the West End, Crawford, and Schenley Residence Halls will be retained. The first-stage PUD of the *2007 FBCP* approved preservation of portions of these buildings connected to a new building with a height up to 110' and a total project GFA of 316,500 SF allowing approximately 850 beds. Kennedy asked for more details on the design changes made in response to HPRB comments and Eric Selbst responded that HPRB requested that the mechanical penthouse be reduced in size and shifted to the east side of the building closer to Marvin Center. The university accommodated this change and also made minor changes to some exterior materials per HPRB feedback.

5) OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES

Konwerski gave a general overview of spring and end-of-semester activities and said students are now in the eight week lead-up to finals. He noted a number of upcoming annual events, including Spring Fling, the last day of classes, the annual chalk-in sponsored by the University Counseling Center in the 2100 block of H Street, final exams, four designated "April Visit" days for potential future GW students (two Fridays and two Mondays in April). He said students will start to move-out as soon as the last day of class and the Monday after commencement and that, unlike move-in which is concentrated to a short timeframe, move-out takes place over a longer period of time. Maddux shared her concern about GW tour guides leaving enough space on the sidewalk for pedestrians and Konwerski explained that new guides are continually being rotated but said he would follow up on communicating with this group regarding this issue. Maddux said Lt. Craig of DC's Metropolitan Police Department shared at a recent community meeting that he intends for MPD to be more aggressive in the near future with regard to students living off campus who are not in compliance with DC's noise laws. Goretsky said messaging about this occurs at the beginning of the year and his office meets with students that violate these rules and GW's semi-annual "quiet zone" reminders will go out to all students in early April. Maddux reiterated her request for GW to continue discouraging students from playing football in the street.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

Waddell asked attendees for potential dates to have the next meeting of this group and ANC Chair Harmon recommended it be held before another ANC 2A meeting so as to allow this to be a forum where Commissioners could ask additional detailed questions they might not have time to raise during the ANC's often busy meetings. After some discussion of attendees, it was agreed Monday June 17 would be an ideal date for the next meeting. With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.