

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Meeting #23/Quarter 2 – June 17, 2013 – 6:30 pm in St. Mary's Court (625 24th St) Lower Level

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 members Susan Ambuster, John Barnett, Richard Best, Jackie Durham, Ken Durham, Dina Fox, Barbara Kahlow, Sara Maddux, Lara Manrique, Marina Streznewski, Paul Winnick, Billy Wright, Judy Wyant; ANC Commissioners Jackson Carnes, Florence Harmon (arrived apx. 7:10 p.m.), Patrick Kennedy, and Peter Sacco; GW staff members Richard Livingstone, John Ralls, and Eric Selbst; GW Hatchet staff members Sarah Ferris and Cory Weinberg.

2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2a) Other 2007 FBCP initiatives:

Historic Preservation Plan: Cora said the university has complied with both historic preservation requirements include in Condition P-9 of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan and there had been no change in status since the last meeting: the university filed the applications for six landmark nominations (which were approved by the Historic Preservation Review Board at its January 28, 2010 hearing) and the university submitted background information to the Office of Planning for creation of a new historic district and continues to support DCOP's work to file the application for this district. **Streetscape Plan:** Cora said GW submitted a draft plan to District Department of Transportation (DDOT) in early 2011 and continues to work with DDOT's Public Space Committee on its review of the plan (which had been previously shared with the community in 2009 and other community meetings dating back to 2006).

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 "topped out" this spring (when the structure reaches its highest point) and completion is now anticipated for spring 2014 semester.

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 (including additional PUD modification for the additional GFA over the 2100 West portion of the project), 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. Fox asked for timeline of this and Cora said this will be determined once a developer has been selected and further plans for the site are determined.

2b iv) Site 77A on Square 77: Cora said this project had received the first of its two approvals by the DC Zoning Commission on June 10 and it would now be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission before receiving a second and final vote by the DC Zoning Commission. Upon approval, demolition work and initial site preparation would begin and continue while legislation confirming reconfiguration of the site's alley is reviewed this summer by the DC Council. Cora said this transfer of alley status from public to private was anticipated during the review and approval of the 2007 FBCP.

2b v) 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. In response to Commissioner Sacco's question later in the meeting as to if GW Police Department would move back into Woodhull House upon completion of this project, Cora confirmed that GWPD's relocation to the Academic Center is permanent and reiterated that the Woodhull House would be incorporated into the new museum.

2b v) Law Learning Center Garage on Square 103: Cora said work is substantially complete on this project but final interior and exterior finishes (including landscaping) continues as well as alley improvements

currently underway to enhance pedestrian safety (including rumble strips to further notify pedestrians of traffic). 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). 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 will open in August.

3) GENERAL CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

3a) *Gelman Library entry renovation:* Cora said 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. Cora said work was on schedule for an August opening.

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 which is now substantially completed and being painted) 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 (with ADA access) into a new structure for the Law School and with work substantially completed, on target for use in fall semester.

4) OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES

Knight shared a status update about the renovation of the Hall on Virginia Avenue: the GW Board of Trustees approved approximately \$250,000 in 2012 to do a feasibility study to explore potential future options for use of this residence hall with regard to providing graduate student and faculty housing. The study showed a complete renovation of the building could yield 100-120 units of various sizes and it is still being determined if this will use the existing base structure of an entire demolition. The goal is to continue planning work into early 2014 and get approval for construction from the GW Board of Trustees at its May 2014 meeting. Kahlow asked if the university would continue to restrict use of the balconies on this new structure and Knight said she would consult with the agreement documents between GW and Watergate West (approved when GW purchased HOVA).

Konwerski gave a general overview of summer and beginning-of-2013 activities and noted a number of upcoming annual events, including: Colonial Inauguration, currently underway and continuing to July 2; early move in, August 21-23; Fall Colonial Inauguration for Transfer and International Students Only, August 24; Freshman Move-In, August 26; Welcome Week, August 24-September 7, 2013; First day of classes, August 26; Freshman Convocation and Day of Service, September 7 (with more than 2200 GW freshmen volunteering in all eight of DC’s wards); Fall Fest and Greek recruitment in September; Alumni Weekend, Sept 26-29; Colonials Weekend, Oct 18-20 (Parents’ Weekend); 11th annual FRIENDS Block Party - Oct 20.

Kahlow asked if the university was asking its student tour guides to leave space on the sidewalk for non-tour-attendees and Konwerski confirmed they are regularly reminded of this need. Maddux asked about FallFest and Konwerski said it would be held on University Yard, all attendees are required to show an ID for entrance, and GWPD would also be present.

Winnick, Fox, and Kahlow shared concerns about temporary closures of traffic lanes and sidewalks due to construction projects. In response, Knight stressed GW consistently works with DDOT to ensure both compliance with DC regulations and the safety of pedestrians/traffic. She said there university also works between the construction teams to ensure coordination between the projects and also with DC Government’s work in the area. In response to a request by Commissioner Kennedy, Cora said she would follow-up with DDOT officials as to enhancing coordination between GW’s work and DDOT’s ongoing renovation of New Hampshire Avenue and added that GW regularly attends monthly stakeholder engagement meetings hosted by DDOT for this project.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

Waddell asked attendees for potential dates to have the next meeting of this group and ANC Chair Harmon said it was helpful for this meeting to have been 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. It was agreed Monday September 16, 2013 would be an ideal date for the next meeting. With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.