

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(As called for in the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, Condition P-7)

Meeting #24/Quarter 3 – September 16, 2013 – 6:30 pm in Duques Hall (2201 G Street) 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 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 Caroline Baker, Ellie Becker, Sara Maddux, Clara and Liduvina Manrique, Dorn McGrath, and Marina Streznewski; ANC Commissioners Jackson Carnes, Florence Harmon, Patrick Kennedy, and Peter Sacco; GW staff members Dave Andrews, David Dent, Richard Livingstone, John Ralls, and Eric Selbst; GW Hatchet staff members Colleen Murphy and Tiana Pigford, and; Jody Winter of JFW consulting.

## **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 included 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 has also submitted background information to the DC 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). Cora said additional items such as the BigBelly solar powered trashcans are being incorporated into this plan and a revised draft would be shared in the future with the ANC.

### **2b) Updates on campus development projects:**

**2b i) School of Public Health and Health Services/Square 39:** Cora said the project site is located on Washington Circle with New Hampshire Avenue to the east, 24<sup>th</sup> Street to the west, K Street to the north and Eye Street to the south. Construction began spring 2013 and construction is well underway. The project will be completed in late 2013, in time for classes to begin in the spring 2014 semester. GW has worked with the project team to move the 24<sup>th</sup> Street barricades three feet to provide additional travel lane clearance. Responding to a community question, Cora confirmed that, per commitments made during the Zoning Commission approval process for this project, the pocket park will be at the southern end of the project site would be refurbished by GW in spring 2014 as this project moves toward completion.

**2b ii) Science and Engineering Hall/Square 55:** Cora said the project site (bounded by 22nd, 23rd, H, and Eye Streets) will serve as an academic center for the incubation of new research and learning and is expected to be completed and open for classes in January 2015. She gave a general overview of the project: eight floors above-grade and six below-grade; targeting LEED Gold; includes approximately 379 below-grade parking spaces which 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:** Cora said this site is a commercial investment property located on Pennsylvania Avenue block between 21st and 22nd Streets. The site was approved in the 2007 FBCP and identified as a site for either a future commercial/investment or academic/ administrative/medical use. This project was approved by the DC Zoning Commission in February 2013 (including additional PUD modification for the additional GFA over the 2100 West portion of the project) and GW 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. The associated alley closing was discussed later in the meeting as noted below.

**2b iv) Site 77A on Square 77:** Cora said this residence hall, located in the center of campus, will retain important facades of West End, Schenley and Crawford Halls on the 2100 block of H and I Streets while incorporating a new infill structure between the three historic buildings (in what is now an alley) to create a unified structure with 12 above-grade floors and two below-grade which provides approximately 898 beds, retail space on the Eye Street frontage of the site, and a food court/student life area on the first below grade level. Cora said that

since this project had received final approval by the DC Zoning Commission, initial site preparation was now underway to prepare for upcoming demolition work and this will continue while legislation confirming reconfiguration of the site's alley finishes its review this fall. Cora said the transfer of alley status from public to private was anticipated during the review and approval of the 2007 FBCP and completion of this project allows for GW to fulfill a commitment made during the campus planning process to move all off campus undergraduate student beds onto campus. She said the additional beds created in this new larger structure ensure GW will provide all required undergraduate beds on campus and, in turn, allow for it to end its lease in 2016 of City Hall (950 24<sup>th</sup> Street) that is outside the campus boundaries.

**2b v) The George Washington University and The Textile Museum on site 102B:** Cora said this partnership with The Textile Museum and philanthropist Albert H. Small will incorporate the historic Woodhull House and a new structure on 21<sup>st</sup> Street now under construction with the museum opening to the public in fall 2014.

**2b vi) Law Learning Center Garage on Square 103:** Cora said this would be the last update on this project since it is now finished. 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). She also noted that the university had successfully worked 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 opened in late August.

### **2c General Campus Development Updates**

**2c i) Gelman Library entry renovation:** Cora said this would be the last update on this project since it completed in late August and the library's main entrance has moved from previous H Street location to Kogan Plaza is via a main staircase with an ADA accessible ramp leading to the second floor's 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 which would be officially dedicated on Veteran's Day/November 11, 2013.

**2c iib) 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. In response to a question from Sara Maddux, Cora confirmed that vehicles would continue to use the curb lane on the north side of H Street after the fall 2013 completion of the floors 5 and 6 work so as to accommodate the utility plant work which will conclude in late 2014.

**2c iiii) Law Learning Clinic Townhomes:** Cora said this would be the last update on this project since it is now completed which combined three historic townhomes (with ADA access) into a new structure.

### **3) ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ALLEY CLOSING/RECONFIGURATION ON SITE 75A IN SQUARE 75**

Discussion began with a presentation from Cora of project highlights, including: the redevelopment of Site 75A presents the opportunity for GW to maximize its existing investment real estate to fund its academic mission; the project included robust amenities and community benefits and it is anticipated that construction could commence in 2015 or beyond; the design of the reconfigured alley will improve traffic flow and there is no change in alley area from existing to proposed design, and; the current design maintains the current location on I Street and has received support from the President Condominium and approvals from DC Agencies.

Following Cora's presentation, Patrick Kennedy asked if there were plans yet for redeveloping the existing alley which will become a temporary green space when the alley is moved west and Cora confirmed this was part of a potential future development spot included in the 2007 FBCP. Kennedy asked if there was an agreement with President Condominium that GW would not make changes to the reconfigured space for a period of five years and Knight confirmed this site would not be developed any sooner than five years as part of the identified development site. Peter Sacco noted the reconfigured alley of 24' will be wider than the existing alley of 19' but GW clarified that the proposed width is 22', not 24'. In response to a question from Kennedy as to if GW had engaged yet with DC Councilmembers about its required approval for the project, Cora said a hearing has not yet been scheduled. Cora and other GW staff confirmed for Jackson Carnes the square footage of the existing and reconfigured alley will be the same. Cora confirmed for Sacco there are no current plans to redevelop Rice Hall and the adjacent existing alley space but that this was one of the approved development sites in the 2007 FBCP. Florence Harmon said she did receive a call from legal counsel to the President Condominiums confirming their support for the project and alley closing.

Carnes asked if the alley would remain a public alley and Cora said yes. Cora also confirmed Sacco's summation that where the legislative process includes an alley closing there is a subsequent reconfiguration for the public alley. Sara Maddux asked if, as part of this process, a traffic light could be installed at 22<sup>nd</sup> and H Streets and Cora said this was not related to this project/under the purview of the DC Government and these installations were

usually a long process as evidenced by the multi-year process taken by the DC Government to install the traffic light at 22<sup>nd</sup> and H Streets which GW paid for as part of the approval process for redevelopment of the old GW Hospital site (Square 54) into The Avenue. Sacco asked if the ANC requesting a traffic study might help further the process of installing a light at 21<sup>st</sup> and H Streets and Knight said that a similar study was done with Square 54 and, at that time, a light was not warranted at the intersection and it would likely take a substantive change to traffic flow/increase in traffic to change this finding. Kennedy referenced the recent installation of a traffic light on Foxhall Road at W Street near GW's Mount Vernon Campus and suggested this project could provide additional insights into this discussion.

In following discussion on a variety of topics, Knight asked if parking of personal vehicles at the SPHHS project site had decreased and Streznewski said she thought it had – Knight said she would continue to monitor. Dorn McGrath asked what additional development projects were currently being planned that had not been discussed at tonight's meeting and Cora confirmed all active projects within the Campus Plan have been discussed and, in response to a follow-up question from McGrath, there were no plans at this time to redevelop site 102A in Square 102 which runs on the south side of the 2000 block of H Street at University Yard. Sacco asked if there were plans to develop the surface parking lot at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> & H Streets on Square 101 and Cora said that there were no plans to date but when projects are conceived and approved by the GW Board of Trustees this information is shared with the community. Ellie Becker asked about the upcoming proposed renovation of the Hall on Virginia Avenue and Cora said the university continues to work on this project and Knight added that 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.

#### **4) OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES**

Andrew Goretsky said GW had proactive meetings prior to the beginning of the fall semester with more than 50 students who live off campus so as to educate them on GW regulations and DC laws about trash policy, noise, and other tips to living off campus. He said “welcome bags” have been shared with off campus students reiterating this information and an online orientation program will be launched early this fall to further educate students living both on and off campus about how to be a “good neighbor.” In response to a question from Ellie Becker as to how this will be enforced, Goretsky said there will be tracking of who has/hasn't completed and reminder emails would be sent to students. Florence Harmon thanked GW staff for this measure to help foster better relations between students and neighbors. Konwerski shared additional overviews on 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.

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

In response to a question from Marina Streznewski as to what had caused recent early morning jackhammering, David Dent said he would confirm and it was followed up that this was due to the DC Government's ongoing renovation of New Hampshire Avenue. Waddell asked attendees for potential dates to have the next meeting of this group and it was again requested this meeting 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. It was agreed Monday November 18, 2013 would be an ideal date for the next meeting. With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.