

MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Meeting #28/Quarter 3 – September 15, 2014 – 6:30 pm in Duques Hall (2201 G Street) Room 320

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 herself and: Susi Cora, GW Director of Campus Planning; Alicia Knight, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations; Peter Konwerski, GW Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs, and; Andrew Goretsky who oversees GW's off-campus student affairs in GW's Center for Student Engagement. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: West End Citizen Association members Barbara Kahlow and Sara Maddux; John Seichter with Foggy Bottom West End Village; Foggy Bottom Association President Marina Streznewski; Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC) Patrick Kennedy and Peter Sacco; Foggy Bottom neighbors Clara and Liduvina Manrique; Ari Masefski of GW's Residence Hall Association; GW staff members Kurt Hiatt, Richard Livingstone, and John Ralls.

2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2a) Other 2007 FBCP initiatives:

Historic Preservation Plan: Cora said the university has complied with historic preservation requirements as part of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP), including providing background information to the DC Historic Preservation Office for its work in recent years to create Historic District Guidelines and application for the George Washington/Old West End Historic District. Cora said that the hearing was at 9:00 a.m. on October 2, 2014 before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB).

Streetscape Plan: Cora said GW will commence later in 2014 the streetscape work on 22nd and 23rd Streets between Eye Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (associated with the Square 54). Kahlow asked about the segmented bench that had been removed from the park adjacent to the new Milken School of Public Health. Cora said the original number of benches installed was one extra over what had been indicated on the zoning filing but, due to the installation of the emergency phone, the one extra bench was removed. Kahlow requested that the bench be re-installed facing another bench so elderly people could talk to one another; Cora responded that we would consider that when adding back the bench. Kahlow also noted that there may be a bench in this area that is without segments.

2b) Updates on campus development projects:

2b i) 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. Streetscape work associated with this site is expected to be completed in late November. Sacco asked as to status of selection of a vendor for the retail frontage at this site and if GW was in negotiations with a particular vendor. Knight confirmed that GW was in final discussions with a vendor but could not yet share the name but expected it would soon be announced. Kahlow asked if the project was behind schedule because the electrical engineering company subcontracted for the building had gone bankrupt. Knight informed her that while it was true that the company had gone bankrupt, the project schedule was not impacted by that company's bankruptcy.

2b ii) Site 75A on Square 75: Cora said this site is a commercial investment property located on Pennsylvania Avenue 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. It was announced this past spring that Skanska is the developer for this site. Kahlow asked if Skanska would meet with the community as to its desires for retail on the space and Cora said she would inquire as to that.

2b iii) District House on Site 77A on Square 77: Cora said this residence hall, located in the center of campus and expected to open in fall 2016, will retain the historic 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). Cora said demolition and excavation work is ongoing.

2c General Campus Development Updates

2c i) Ross Hall new stair tower and utility upgrades: The new Research Center for Neglected Diseases of Poverty on floors 5 and 6 are complete. Work on the Central Utility Plant (CUP) in the basement levels is scheduled for substantial completion in late November and commissioning activities will likely continue into the beginning of next year.

2c ii) GW Hillel building including associated zoning and regulatory approvals associated with GW's proposed long-term tenancy in newly proposed redeveloped GW Hillel building: Cora said GW Hillel intends to develop its property located on 23rd and H Streets to better serve its mission, and this group approached GW to lease space in the new building to support development costs for the project. The university's minor modification to its first stage PUD (part of the 2007 FBCP) to assign a campus life use designation to the Hillel site and the Hillel project will be heard by the Zoning Commission on October 20. Kahlow asked for information regarding Hillel's

progress with re-design and Knight reiterated that this project is being undertaken by Hillel and GW is only a tenant in the building and they would need to be contacted directly.

2c iii) Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) rehabilitation plan: Cora said GW intends to rehabilitate the existing Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) residence hall to provide a new faculty housing program to help recruit and retain highly talented faculty. In addition, upgraded graduate market level housing will be provided. Cora said work continues on design and finances of this project. She said she expects construction to begin in 2015 with completion in mid 2016. Kahlow asked for confirmation as to project's design – specifically related to the balconies and facade. Cora reiterated that the design is not yet complete and that GW would follow up with the ANC at the appropriate time.

2c iv) Lerner Health and Wellness Center (LHWC) Modification to Make Permanent Additional Users: Cora said the Zoning Commission had a July 21, 2014 hearing on this modification to permitted users so as to make permanent the current users under the 1 year modification and limited new use groups for a period of five years. Community members will soon be able to apply for a membership on the LHWC website: <http://campusrecreation.gwu.edu/membership>

2c v) The Corcoran Museum of Art: GW has entered into an agreement with the Corcoran Museum of Art. This collaboration will establish a world-class arts program, in association with the National Gallery of Art, to continue and strengthen the legacy of the Corcoran (including its College of Art + Design), is an historic opportunity for our students and faculty. GW is currently looking at potential renovation scenarios to make much-needed facility upgrades. The existing galleries are scheduled to close in October and the National Gallery of Art will announce when the galleries will reopen. Cora noted that GW would be coming to the ANC in October to discuss a minor modification to our campus plan to accommodate for the impact Corcoran students would have on FTE and bed space headcounts. At the end of this section Kahlow asked about the status of contractor parking and the dumpsters used for the City Hall renovation project being undertaken by the owner of City Hall and the challenges it has presented with pedestrian and vehicular access. Livingstone agreed to continue to work with Kahlow and other concerned with regards to this project.

4) OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES

Konwerski said it has been good start of the school year with relation to Fall Orientations, Move-in and Welcome Week Activities, Grad Welcome and Services Fair, Freshman, Transfer and International Orientations; Freshman Reading Speaker on September 5 at Lisner Auditorium, Freshman Day of Service (which had more than 2,000 students involved). Konwerski said Alumni Weekend is next weekend (September 19-21) and Colonials Weekend (aka Parents Weekend) is October 17-19. Kahlow said she feels noise related to students living off-campus has increased. Waddell said that she feels the level of complaints is in line with previous years and stressed GW has been working at length to address this issue. Streznewski also said GW is doing a lot on this issue and this year is not seeing increased activity as suggested by Kahlow. Streznewski noted that GW has been asked to have GW staff come out on weekends and patrol the neighborhood. Konwerski confirmed this is still under discussion and also being reviewed by GW's general counsel. Streznewski said that the neighbors are currently patrolling the neighborhood. Maddux said that there are many students on F Street between 21st and 23rd Streets – particularly on weekend nights – and she is concerned they are not focused on pedestrian and traffic signals. Maddux asked for GW to further educate students as to recreational options that might help detract them from walking along F Street -- Sacco said there is information GW provides as to non-bar options and this might be a good tool to address this request and he would look into expanding distribution. Konwerski gave a brief overview of GW's work over the summer to benchmark market basket schools as to how to enhance its penalties/sanctions. Streznewski said she periodically shares information as to how to address late-night noise via her association's newsletter and asked Kahlow/Maddux as to if they knew additional ways to share this information. Kahlow asked if GW would send a mailing and Waddell confirmed that GW has shared this information in its print edition of GWToday which is sent to more than 8,000 individuals. Sacco asked how GW is informing students of these policy changes, and Goretsky said the information is part of the online orientation and was included in two emails sent to all off-campus students this semester – this was also reviewed during the in-person orientations with selected townhouses. Streznewski said she has heard from off-campus students that they (wrongly) feel GW cannot intervene in their off-campus actions, and Konwerski agreed GW will need to continue to educate students that GW can and will hold off-campus students accountable for actions which negatively impact the neighbors. Sacco noted that most of the items being conducted are included the Student Code of Conduct but that many students do not read the full document and if there was a way to enhance education efforts of students with regard to this topic. Konwerski noted that GW has enhanced its off-campus student orientation, and Goretsky said that under the new regulations, students in violation of this would be required to take a quiz as one of many possible judicial outcomes. Kennedy asked if there was any interface with the property owners, and Livingstone said this does happen but often the properties are owned by “absentee landlords” who are difficult to contact; however, the university is working with the District to address this problem. Kennedy asked if GW sends certified letters to landlords and Livingstone said no and noted that GW would be

unlikely to do so moving forward. Streznewski shared details of the extensive work her association (FBA) has undertaken in regard to this issue.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT

Kahlow asked Cora if there were any new projects being planned and she said there are none at this time. Maddux asked as to the status of constructing a building on the northern end of University Yard adjacent H Street, and Knight said there are no current discussions as to this. Livingstone confirmed GW's annual block party would be during Colonials/Parents Weekend on Sunday October 19, 2014 from 1-4:00 p.m. on Eye Street in the 2200 block.

6) SELECTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Waddell asked attendees for potential dates to have the next meeting of this group and it was agreed that the fourth quarter meeting of this group will be Monday November 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.