

## **MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Meeting #32/Quarter 3/August 31, 2015 – 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 herself and: Susi Cora, GW Director of Campus Planning, and; Alicia Knight, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations. She also introduced two new members Stephanie Sarvana, Assistant Director for Community Support and Leadership and Mark Levine, Senior Associate Dean of Students. Waddell said that Levine and Sarvana would replace outgoing GW appointees Peter Konwerski and Andrew Goretsky. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: West End Citizen Association member Sara Maddux; Foggy Bottom Association President Marina Streznewski; Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC) Peter Sacco and John Miller; Robin Eberhardt of GW Hatchet student newspaper; Foggy Bottom neighbor Karen Armbruster; GW staff members Kurt Hiatt, John Ralls, and Eric Selbst.

### **2) CAMPUS PLAN AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

**2a) Other 2007 FBCP initiatives:** *Historic Preservation Plan:* The university has complied with historic preservation requirements as part of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP). *Foggy Bottom Campus Streetscape Plan:* GW has completed the streetscape project on the east side of 22nd Street between I St and Pennsylvania Ave and on the west side of 23rd Street between I St and Washington Circle.

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

***2b i) Site 75A on Square 75 (Completion TBD per developer):*** 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. Pre-construction utility work is being done at this time. Skanska is the developer for this site and is working on a schedule for demolition and construction. GW expects to close on the agreement in the coming weeks at which time Skanska will commence demolition activities. In response to a request from Maddux as to when the community could meet with the developers of the site, Knight reiterated that Skanska would be willing to do this once the agreement is complete and they have had time to become acclimated to the project, likely later this fall or early 2016.

***2b ii) Site 77A on Square 77 – District House Residence Hall (Completion summer 2016 for Fall move-in):*** This residence hall, located in the center of campus between H and I and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> streets is expected to open for students in fall 2016. Historic facades of West End, Schenley and Crawford Halls on the 2100 block of H and I Streets have been retained while incorporating a new infill structure between the three historic buildings. Construction is well underway and on target for a 2016 completion. Sacco asked about status of selecting site vendors and Cora said that it should be starting in near future. Knight confirmed that GW would not be renewing its lease and would vacate the building in summer 2016. Streznewski also thanked GW for its assistance to move the louder construction to later in the morning. Knight confirmed that the majority of the extremely noisy work has now been completed.

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

***2c i) GW Hillel building including associated zoning and regulatory approvals associated with GW's proposed long-term tenancy in newly proposed redeveloped GW Hillel building:*** GW Hillel intends to develop its property located on 23rd and H Streets to better serve its mission, and GW has agreed 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 is currently scheduled to be discussed by the Zoning Commission on September 21st.

***2c iii) Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) rehabilitation plan:*** GW is still in the design process and continues testing and investigatory work to finalize its plans for renovation of the building. GW will

follow-up with the ANC when this design process has been finalized. Streznewski asked about recent increases in debris near the site associated with the project and Knight confirmed this was in the process of being remedied.

**2c iii) GW Corcoran School of Arts and Design:** On May 4, the Zoning Commission heard and approved GW's request for a modification to the 2007 FBCP which allows GW to account for Corcoran students who either take classes or live in GW housing on the Foggy Bottom campus. GW's enrollment caps on students and faculty staff remain as outlined in the 2007 FBCP. The interior historic designation was deliberated by HPRB on February 26 -- GW will undertake phased work to bring the structure up to code and HVAC modernization while working with the Historic Preservation Office to retain significance of designated historic areas. Over the summer months, GW completed critical IT infrastructure upgrades, painting and fitting out of new computer classrooms. The majority of this work occurred on the lower level but two new classrooms were also completed on the first level (northwest side closest to New York Avenue). In response to a question as to progress on updates to the gallery space and return of National Gallery of Art to the site, Knight confirmed this timeframe is still being developed in coordination with ongoing HVAC repairs as well as ongoing conversations with the National Gallery of Art regarding their requirements and the newly appointed GW director of the Corcoran, Sanjit Sethi.

**2c iv) City Hall:** Knight said there will be exterior work that the landlord will be doing on the exterior of City Hall this summer and it will be noisy and take place throughout the summer, likely beginning after commencement with the goal of substantial completion before students return. Kahlow asked that the Jefferson Condo be updated as to this work and it was confirmed this would occur. Streznewski asked whether water would be used to mitigate any dust impacts and it was clarified, this will depend on the type of work performed. Kennedy and Masefski asked what the hours would be for this work and Knight said she would confirm and, in a subsequent email after the meeting, it was shared that hours would be within the standard DC work hours of 7am-7pm/Monday thru Saturday. Maddux asked as to status of DDOT's restriping of the street in front of this building and Cora said she would raise this issue with DDOT who is responsible for this work. Maddux also asked that GW advise its waste and recycling vehicle to park as close to the curb as possible and Knight agreed to share this message.

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

Levine shared details regarding beginning of the academic year activities including: 1) Last week's move-in activities when approximately 3,000 moved in during the early part of the week and approximately 4,000 moved in on the main move-in day/August 29; 2) The first two weeks of school include numerous "welcome week" events and a range of activities to help new students acclimate as well as Fall Fest on September 5 and the student organization fair earlier that day which will include a closure of the 2100 block of H Street; 3) The capstone/final event of Welcome Week - GW's Day of Service, and; 4) GW's creation of its new Community Responder program as neighbors call response line so that responders will go to meet the neighbor (if requested) for additional details and then followup with the neighbor's concern. Streznewski shared her concern about student behavior incidents she noticed during the previous weekend and said she would be sharing feedback on the Community Responder program as it evolves. Maddux and Armbruster also shared concerns about student behavior. Levine finished his update by noting that Colonials Weekend is Oct. 16-18 and will include numerous events (including several for neighbors).

#### **5) PUBLIC COMMENT/SELECTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

With no additional comments, 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 would be Monday November 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. unless it is needed to be held at a different time. With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.