

**MEETING NOTES for the GW/COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**(As called for in the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, Condition P-7)**  
**Meeting #33/Quarter 4/November 9, 2015 – 6:30 pm in Duques Hall (2201 G Street) Room 362**

**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; Mark Levine, Senior Associate Dean of Students; and Stephanie Sarvana, Assistant Director for Community Support and Leadership. Following this, attendees introduced themselves, including: Foggy Bottom Association President Marina Streznewski; Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC) Patrick Kennedy, Philip Schrefer and Eve Zhurbinskiy; ANC Executive Director Peter Sacco; Foggy Bottom neighbors Susan Armbruster and Maria Florencia Caula; 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:** The university has complied with historic preservation requirements as part of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP). **Foggy Bottom Campus Streetscape Plan:** Cora said while there are no active projects at this time, the streetscape on the H and Eye Street facades of the District House will be updated in spring/summer 2016 as this project nears completion.

**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. Selective demolition work is being done at this time. Skanska is the developer for this site and is responsible for demolition and construction scheduling activities. Installation of the covered sidewalk on Pennsylvania Avenue is in process and active demolition of townhouses and 2100 Penn – West is scheduled to commence as early as this week. Knight added that a crane would be on site later this week to begin removing windows and pre-cast materials from the 2100 West façade. Knight said current work is on the connecting walls between 2100 West and 2100 East to limit impacts. With regard to potential controlled blasting at this site, Knight said it is too early to confirm this but it may be undertaken as the project proceeds depending on soil conditions.

Knight asked the minutes reflect that per request from previous meetings, GW has introduced/connected Kahlow and Maddux of West End Citizens Association with appropriate representatives of Skanska. Sacco asked how many retail spaces would be on this site and Knight said it would depend on how the square footage set aside for retail use on the ground floor is subdivided as well as input received from major tenants when they are signed to leases.

**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. Cora shared an update somewhat associated with this project, that GW has waived its right to extend its lease at City Hall/St. James and will be vacating the building following the academic year – this action is per GW's compliance with a condition in the 2007 FBCP.

**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 this evening, November 9.

**2c iii) Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA):** As the community is aware, GW has been pursuing a project to construct graduate and faculty housing at this location. Selective demolition and abatement of interior spaces has occurred. During this time, GW has received a number of inquiries from entities interested in purchasing the building, and as such, the university has decided to explore the sale of the building. As such, GW will be hiring a broker/advisor to assist with this transaction and expects the

building to be on the market at the start of the calendar year. Specific details of timing will depend upon the advice of the selected broker/advisor. Sacco asked if the soliciting of a broker meant the building would be sold and Knight responded this decision would depend upon offers received.

**2c iii) GW Corcoran School of Arts and Design:** On May 4, 2015 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. Per the interior historic designation was deliberated by Historic Preservation Review Board on February 26, 2015, 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. Design is currently underway for remediation of the stone facades and roofing repairs.

A new director for the Corcoran School, Sanjit Sethi, began October 2015 and GW is working to finalize the program for the future renovations of the building based upon further input from Sethi and his engagement with faculty/others. Kennedy asked as to how long the renovations would take and Knight said the new director would need to determine his plan for the growth of the building. She clarified the initial work had focused on allowing the programs previously in the Corcoran's satellite campus (the Fillmore School in Georgetown) to move into the main space, with current work focused on the exterior and then the following phase will be interior focused. Knight also added that the Corcoran will be publicly open three days a week for the "Push Factors: Perspectives on Guatemalan Migration" exhibition. Public access began Oct. 29 and is 1-6pm Wednesdays and Fridays and 10am-4pm Saturdays.

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

Levine said that midterms are nearing completion and we are entering into the last third of the fall semester including Thanksgiving Break and final exam period (last day of classes is Dec. 9, reading day Dec. 10, final exams Dec 11-19), followed by winter break. Beginning of semester/welcome-back events will take place during early January 2016.

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

Knight reiterated her earlier update on HOVA for an attendee who arrived late. Armbruster asked as to what type of interest had been received and Knight said it was across the board. Caula asked if this space could be used as a residence hall and Knight responded that, in terms of undergraduate student housing, GW has committed to not using this location for undergraduate housing and most graduate students are currently being taken care of via existing options.

Sacco asked as to the status of retail spaces in District House and Knight said an RFP was issued in recent weeks and responses are expected back in early December with most, if not all, the responses anticipated to be from food outlets for the 4-5 lower level retail spaces and possibly one on ground level.

Zhubinskiy and Schrefer raised the issue of security on Eye Street Mall. Knight said she had seen a copy of ANC 2A's recent resolution and that she was working with various GW stakeholders (including GWPD Chief and staff from Division of Operations planning/construction staffs as well as grounds crews) and they were looking at both a short and long-term response as to how this could be addressed. Streznewski asked if WMATA had been contacted regarding this and Knight said, since GW oversees much of the property, the university was trying to determine first if there were some improvements it could implement on its own. Sacco asked if there were any existing security cameras on the mall and Knight said she was not certain. Armbruster said she uses this area often and she has called GWPD recently regarding her concerns that the lights need to be brighter on the Eye Street Mall and the increase in loitering.

With no additional comments, Waddell asked attendees for potential dates to have the next meeting of this group and it was agreed that the 2016 first quarter meeting of this group would be Monday February 8, 2016 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.