GW COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Per Condition P-7 of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan)

Meeting Minutes
Meeting #44 (Quarter 3) – Room 353 Monroe Hall
Monday, September 18, 2018 @ 6:30 pm

1.-Welcome & Introductions
The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with introductions of individuals supporting GW for the Advisory Committee, including: Alicia Knight, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations; Jen Alexander-Smith, GW’s Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities; Kevin Days, Director of Community Relations. GW staff attendees were Maralee Cseller, David Dent, Robert Dickson, John Ralls, and Karen Zinn; The Foggy Bottom Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2A) was represented by Commissioner James Harnett and Vice Chair Patrick Kennedy; The West End Citizens Association (WECA) was represented by Barbara Kahlow and Sara Maddux; the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) was represented by Marina Streznewski; attendees associated with the Foggy Bottom Grocery included new owner Cathy Martens and staff members Michael Ferrier, Neil Landers, Alec Rubman; additional GW students include Theodore Leavell; and Foggy Bottom residents included Steve and Sally Charnowitz, Mike Joyce, Dolma La Rabjungtsung.

2.-Campus Plan and campus development updates
2a.-Other 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan initiatives: i.-Historic Preservation Plan:
As previously reported GW has complied with historic preservation requirements as part of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (2007 FBCP). ii.-Foggy Bottom Campus Streetscape Plan:
Streetscape improvements on the west side of 23rd between G and H Streets have been completed. GW continues to upgrade sidewalks on campus. G Street between 20th and 23rd were completed and H St sidewalk is next.

2b.-Updates on campus development projects:
2bi.-Site 75A on Square 75 (2112 Penn Ave): This site is a commercial investment property located on Pennsylvania Avenue between 21st and 22nd Streets being developed by Skanska USA and expected to deliver in the third quarter of 2018.
Skanska has announced that North Italia (an upscale Italian restaurant) and Flower Child (more informal with menu options including organic gluten-free veggie and vegan dishes) have both signed leases for the commercial space in this building and, as previously shared, Skanska continues to work on an application for an Alcohol Beverage Control license as well as finishing of these tenant spaces. Also, the law firm of Cleary Gottlieb will relocate from 2000 Penn to this building.

2bii.-Site 75B on Square 75 (2100 Penn Ave): The development consists of a 420,000 square foot trophy office building and 30,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail. The building will have two towers – a North Tower and a South Tower – connected by a central atrium space. The ground floor of both towers will include retail and office lobby uses. There will be a dedicated parking facility (below-grade) for the building with approximately 330 parking spaces. This project and the campus plan amendment were approved by the DC Zoning Commission on February 12, 2018. Rice Hall staff will be relocated by the end of 2018 and 2100 Penn will be vacated mid 2019. 1922 F Street (formerly known as Old Main) is where a large number of Rice Hall staff will relocate to this building and it is currently under interior renovation as is 1918 F Street (former offices for Alumni Relations). No updates on retail as it is too early in the process. There was brief discussion on actions GW had taken in recent weeks to prevent early morning construction noise 1918 and 1922 F Streets as well as how to ensure communications continue on any possible upcoming impacts (noise, traffic, vibrations, waste, etc) that may occur as this project works to finish by the end of 2018.

2c.-General GW updates
2ci.-GW Hillel including zoning and regulatory approvals associated with GW’s proposed long-term tenancy in proposed developed GW Hillel building – As presented at last quarter’s meeting Hillel’s team continues to work through discussions with the community and DC agencies in the development of their new building. It was shared that Hillel is working with its construction management team to set mobilization plans in place and complete permits. Kahlow said the Zoning order was published in a recent DC Register meaning it was officially confirmed. Kahlow said the applicant/GW Hillel also agreed to retain the bus stop at 23rd and H Streets.

2cii. 2000 Penn -- Knight said that as she shared in recent meetings, GW went to the market in fall 2017 for a development project to ground lease 2000 Penn and it was announced in spring 2018 that Westbrook Partners/MRP Realty were selected. Knight said Westbrook Partners/MRP Realty did not have plans in the foreseeable future for a major renovation of the entire building but were actively looking to re-configure the retail space, entrance canopies and lobbies and would come to a future community meeting to share concepts. In response to a question from Kahlow, Knight confirmed there have not been any discussions as to alter the historic “Red Lion Row” properties on the ground level or to increase the height of the building. Knight also updated that work continues at Duke’s Grocery new location opening in the former Kinkead’s Restaurant space and anticipate completion this winter.

2ciii. Proposed new residence hall on Square 101 – Knight said this project received approval at the May meeting of GW’s Board of Trustees. In keeping with GW President LeBlanc’s focus on improving the experience of first year students living on campus (including full-scale renovation of Thurston Hall), this site (currently surface parking lot at 20th & H Streets) will include a new residence hall for 300+ students. Knight said GW is currently working with internal stakeholders and will bring the project to this Advisory Committee and the ANC2A as the design progresses. Commissioner Kennedy asked if there were any proposals yet as to ground floor retail and Knight said this had not been discussed. Knight also shared that during discussions of these projects the issue of renovating Thurston Hall in tandem with constructing the new residence hall is also being pursued and this will be discussed further at upcoming community meetings.

2civ.-GW summer projects – Knight said summer projects were completed in time for our returning students. Munson’s window replacement was deferred to next year due to fabrication delays from the manufacturer. She also shared that GW is still navigating the permit process for the Crosswalk located on H Street between 21st and 22nd Streets and received final comments on September 10 for the permit application submitted May 7. The civil engineer is making the revision (full striping across entire crosswalk) and will resubmit for final approval. Permit and weather permitting, GW has scheduled the work around the fall break for students, Oct 5-10. Later in the meeting, Kahlow raised concerns as to if the size will create too many delays for vehicular traffic and Kennedy said he did not think this would occur. Kahlow also expressed concerns with the food trucks that block pedestrian visibility and/or remain parking for periods much longer than officially allowed. Knight agreed with these concerns and reiterated that the DC Government regulates these entities.

2cv. Potential closures of sidewalks, vehicular lanes: There will be a temporary street & sidewalk closure affecting the 500 block of 20th Street and 2000 block of F Street on June 2 to facilitate renovations at 1918 and 1922 F Streets. Old Main and Francis Scott Key Hall.

3-Campus Plan and campus development updates
Alexander of GW’s Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities shared that a new online form for neighbors to report conduct has been launched and this allows her office to receive updates immediately and take actions.

4-Public Comments
-Maddux asked for removal of outdated temporary “no parking” signs, including on 21st Street and also shared concerns with pedestrians texting while walking and riding dockless bicycles/scooters on sidewalks. Days said that while this is a DC Government issue, GW also
recognizes the importance of these messages and is incorporating messaging on this issues future student outreach.

-Kahlow asked GW to continue its work with regard to Shabbat services being hosted at off-campus residence (2522 Eye Street) by an entity not officially part of GW but that provides services to GW students. Knight confirmed the person hosting events is not an employee of GW but does serve as an advisor to a student group, GW Chabad, and that GW does not own and is not affiliated with this property.

-The was an extended discussion on recent change of ownership of the Foggy Bottom Grocery (aka FoBoGro) to Cathy Martines who assumed management of the property in the summer. Kahlow and Kennedy both expressed concerns as to the transfer of the Alcohol Beverage Control license from the previous owners to Martens and it was agreed this issue would be discussed further at upcoming Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings.

5.-Selection of date for meeting #45 of this group in 4th quarter (Oct-Dec) of 2018

The date selection was tentatively confirmed for the standard meeting time of holding meeting before a monthly ANC 2A meeting, in this case Monday November 26, 2018 in advance of the ANC’s November 28, 2018 meeting. With no further comments the meeting was adjourned.