

CPAC Meeting: January 16, 2024, Notes

Virtual Meeting - 5 pm

Introductions

- GW Participants:
 - Christy Anthony, Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities
 - Adam Aaronson, Assistant Vice President, Construction Management and Campus Planning
 - Maralee Csellar, Director of Communications
 - Kevin Days, Director of Community Relations
 - Brian Snyder, Director, Senior Director, Campus Planning
 - Gabrielle Sosa, Assistant Director of Government Relations and Stakeholder Engagement
 - James Tate, GW Chief of Police
 - Seth Wienshel, Associate Vice President, Business Services
 - Karen Zinn, Associate Vice President, Real Estate
- Community Participants
 - Patricia Baranek, Community member
 - Nancy Breslin, Potomac Plaza board member (1st time attendee)
 - Christopher Brick, Monroe House, Board member
 - Ed Comer, ANC Commissioner for 2A
 - John George, President, Foggy Bottom Association
 - Barbara Kahlow, WECA Board Member
 - Frank Leone, Co-Chair Foggy Bottom Association History Project
 - Sarah Maddux -, WECA President
 - Jim Malec, ANC Commissioner for 2A, Chair
 - Jordan Nassar, ANC Commissioner for 2A
 - John Peter Sacco, Executive Director for ANC2A
 - Seichter, WECA member & Columbia Plaza Tenants Association
 - Nadia Taran, Community member
 - Denise Vogt, FBA History Project member

Spring Semester Overview

- Overview of the Spring Academic Calendar – Gabrielle Sosa
 - No questions about the calendar
- Public Safety Implementation Update – Chief Tate

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- GWPD Officers are now going through deescalating training. Learning more about the issue, take the time to listen/understand. Using a virtual reality training simulator
- No questions for the Chief.
- Community Benefits –Sosa
 - Update on the Friends of GW GWorld Card Program
 - Need to renew the card every two years.
 - *Question from Ed Comer:* Asked if there is flexibility if a building pays for utilities not the resident. Days & Sosa said yes, there is flexibility in these cases.
 - Audit Classes Update -Sosa
 - Spring 2024 audit registration is open. Friday, Jan. 26 registration closes
- Student Affairs Update - Christy Anthony
 - SRR is going to be revising the off-campus Good Neighbor orientation for next academic year.
 - Reporting a off-campus issue. When you report it is fine to report anonymous, but a reminder, if you do it may be harder for us to follow-up and ask additional information.
 - *Question from John George:* Annual Report - where is that? Kevin Days; It's on the neighborhood web page.

Business and Real Estate Updates

- Campus Store Update – Seth Wienshel
 - will open early February. The build is done, waiting on the Occupancy Certificate.
- Mitchell Hall - Wienshel
 - Chick-fil-a will open. Construction will start in the late summer with a hopeful late fall opening.
 - *Question from Barbara Kahlow:* What is going on with the daycare at 2100 and the other retail spaces at that address. Zinn & Weinshel responded that is being handled by Boston Properties and GW will relay the questions to them.
- Residences at the Avenue Update – Karen Zinn
 - Anticipated closing in February
 - Will be managed as an investment property. No changes to retail leases or residential market rates.

- *Question from Kahlow:* What's going on with Whole Foods. Will you keep them? Karen - Whole Foods and the other retail have long-term leases in place. No changes expected.
- *Question from George:* Does this also include the new restaurant, daycare and all the other buildings on that block on 23rd street and on the circle. Zinn: The Office complex and that street level retail is not part of the Residences on the Avenue. The retail is Whole Foods, Sweet Green, Roti, Circa and Bank of America.
- *Question from Comer:* Will GW pay taxes on this? Zinn responded that as an investment property GW will pay property taxes.
- *Question from Comer:* Will GW move residential students into the building and operate it as a residence hall? Zinn responded that GW does not currently plan to operate it as a residence hall. The university will be developing a long-term plan and as we have updates, we'll bring them to the community.

Campus Plan and Construction Management Updates

- Amsterdam Hall - Adam Aaronson
 - - Crane construction for HVAC work this weekend (Jan. 20)
- Exterior work on Law School buildings. May impact walkways. If so, will reroute pedestrian traffic.
- I Street Mall - Aaronson
 - Outlined the feedback received from the survey Govt Relations sent out in the fall including enhanced lighting, reduce rodents, more plantings, better trashcans.
 - Pending Funding & permit, expect this as a Summer 2024 project.
 - Showed renderings.
 - *Comment from Comer:* I'm disappointed. I had suggested trees to provide shade for this area. Also wanted storm water retention. I don't see either. Aa: We are adding tables w/umbrellas. Rodents burrow in the tree beds. This is one of the reasons why we are not adding new trees. We are keeping the mature trees there; not the ones in the above ground plant beds.
 - *Comment from George:* Echo what ed said. We gave input from the community, especially about the tree canopy, which was completely ignored. Just bricking over a plaza is not the way to do it. This is going to be a heat bubble. Encourage you to revisit this decision to bring trees to

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the plaza. Does this require any DC Zoning input? Adam: yes, we will submit the required applications.

- *Comment from Peter Sacco:* Is this a public space application? Adam: No, this is not public space, this is GW property. Peter - have you involved the Farmer's Market in the conversation? Adam & Kevin - They know that there is a plan to renovate. We will seek their input.
- *Comment from Kahlow :* Will you submit the designs to the ANC so that we can provide our support/not support to DDOT? Adam: DDOT is one of many reviewing the project. Barbara - you didn't answer my question. Since the permits require an approval from DC Agencies, are you going to submit to ANC for review as well? Adam: We will have a discussion internally and come back to you with our next steps on how to engage DDOT.
- *Comment from Comer:* I do think since there is City & DDOT review, it should go to the ANC for our review.

Community Forum

- Kahlow - At our GW-WECA meeting last fall, we asked for an update about the GW Shabbat location that is off-campus.
 - Days - We do not have an official relationship with this off-campus organization that uses our GW name. As I mentioned this morning to you, I've reached out to our General Counsel for additional information.
- Comer - In December, Councilmember Pinto circulated a study that proposed to that the city encourage retail development in Foggy Bottom. Did you receive a copy of that study? Sosa - Yes, Renee & I received a copy of that study. Comer: you can be very helpful with this. Thank you for reviewing it.
- John Sceither - GW has a significant owner interest in Columbia Plaza and accordingly has an economic interest in the vitality of the retail component of Columbia Plaza.
- George - How much of this meeting can be shared beyond this meeting? Days - we are happy to work with you get help get the word out in your newsletters or at your monthly meetings.

Next CPAC Meeting

- Monday, March 18 from 6:30 - 8 pm. In-Person and via Zoom for a Hybrid meeting

Meeting ended: 6:06 pm