

The George Washington University Mount Vernon Community Partnership: Roles, Responsibilities and Ground Rules

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) The goals of the George Washington University Mount Vernon Community Partnership (also referenced as the GW MVC Community Partnership or the Partnership) are to:
 - a) Create a consensus-based framework for a 2021 campus plan as well as to support its subsequent implementation by providing a format for discussion, information sharing and problem-solving.
 - b) Improve the interactions and develop a cooperative and beneficial dialogue and shared analysis between the university and the community on issues related to university operations and to provide recommendations that improve university and community relationships regarding such areas as enrollment, student housing, student conduct, facilities planning, parking, and transportation. The Partnership is not intended to be a substitute for established University engagement mechanisms for dealing with campus impact issues. Rather, the Partnership is intended to complement and enhance such mechanisms.
- 2) Structure of the Partnership is comprised of the following:
 - a) The current four Advisory Working Groups are:
 - i) Facilities Planning
 - ii) Student Life & Safety
 - iii) Transportation and Parking
 - iv) Community Outreach
- 3) The GW MVC Community Partnership Advisory Working Groups' Composition, Responsibility, and Meetings.
 - a) Each Advisory Working Group is comprised of George Washington University (GW) representatives and representatives of community organizations and/or neighbors residing in the ANC3D SMD 3D06.
 - b) All members must agree in good faith to the Terms of Reference and Ground Rules of the Partnership.
 - c) Each Advisory Working Group is led by two Co-Chairs. GW Co-Chairs are chosen by the university. The community Co-Chairs are selected by community members of the Advisory Working Groups.
 - d) Each Advisory Working Group will meet at monthly or otherwise as deemed appropriate by the Co-Chairs.
 - e) Advisory Working Group Co-Chairs and members should actively connect with their constituents to hear their concerns and ideas on topics to be addressed by the Advisory Working Group. In cases where a topic is complex and spans the realm of several Advisory Working Groups, the appropriate Advisory Working Group Co-Chairs should confer on the best method for collaborative discussions including as needed, convening joint meetings.

- f) The Advisory Working Group Co-Chairs will report on their progress at the Mount Vernon Quarterly Community meetings.
- g) The term of service on each Advisory Working Group is twelve months and runs from March 2021 through February 2022. The term of service on the Advisory Working Group may be renewed.
- h) Because university and community issues may be complex, members of the Advisory Working Groups are asked to agree to serve at least six months and do the preparation necessary to participate actively in all meetings.
- i) The size of the Advisory Working Groups should be kept small enough to allow for effective discussion but large enough for diverse perspectives and expertise. Specifics on final size should be determined by each Working Groups' Co-Chairs.
- j) Members are expected to keep confidential information that has been so identified by GW, as well as other sensitive information if there is a consensus among Advisory Working Group members to do so.
- k) As a rule, members are expected to refrain from quoting, characterizing, or judging the statements/views of their fellow members or appearing to speak for the Advisory Working Group when discussing the activities. Advisory Working Group members are free to discuss what they personally have said in the Working Group with the exception of all information that is deemed confidential.
- l) To the maximum extent possible, Advisory Working Groups will be expected to reach conclusions through consensus as defined by the Partnership Ground rules. The Advisory Working Groups will be facilitated to promote discussion and decision-making. Members of the Advisory Working Group may from time-to-time wish to reach out to their constituents to garner reactions and understandings of impact prior to weighing in on final recommendations. Members are encouraged to share options, respecting any proprietary.
- m) All members of the Advisory Working Groups, regardless of origin or affiliation, agree to be bound by the Partnership Terms of Reference and Ground Rules. Working Group membership can be terminated by the co-chairs for not adhering to the Partnership Terms of Reference and Ground Rules.
- n) The current mission of each Working Group:
 - i) **Facilities Planning:** The Facilities Planning Advisory Working Group collaborates on issues related to physical campus facilities, including existing and proposed development and renovation projects.
 - ii) **Student Life and Safety:** The Student Life and Safety Advisory Working Group addresses neighborhood quality of life issues, including student conduct when they are off campus, noise, student safety in the community, and on-campus student life.
 - iii) **Transportation and Parking:** The Transportation and Parking Advisory Working Group addresses issues related to travel to, from and around the campus, and provides input on efforts to mitigate the impacts of university-related traffic on the community.

- iv) **Community Engagement:** The Community Engagement Advisory Working Group ensures that neighbors are aware of and have the ability to participate in campus events and activities, and the benefits associated with having the university as a neighbor.
- o) The GW MVC Community Partnership may add or retire Advisory Working Groups from time to time, modify the missions of Advisory Working Groups and create informal arrangements across Working Groups to work on issues.

GROUND RULES

- 1) The Partnership members (defined as the Advisory Working Group members) will engage in facilitated discussion, which allows for the voicing of different opinions and holds everyone in the room responsible for a successful collaborative process to the maximum extent possible.
- 2) The Partnership members participate as representatives of their organization or neighborhood. Members will take care to delineate their personal views from organizational interests in Partnership deliberations.
- 3) When speaking with others outside the Partnership (such as the media), Partnership members should indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the Partnership and present only the views of their organizations or their personal views. Members will conscientiously refrain from expressing, characterizing, quoting, or judging the views of others.
- 4) Each member of the Partnership takes responsibility for attending regularly scheduled meetings, reading distributed materials, honoring confidentiality of sensitive materials and promoting the overall success of the Partnership.
- 5) Each member of the Partnership agrees to reach decisions by consensus to the maximum extent possible with the guidance of the Co-Chairs.
- 6) The Partnership members will be aware of the limited time in the meetings and will therefore express themselves succinctly to allow time for others to share their thoughts and opinions.