

**AU Neighborhood Partnership**

**Steering Committee**

**6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**

**August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Meeting Held at 4400 Massachusetts Ave, Washington DC 20016.  
SIS Founders Room- terrace level.**

Steering Committee Co-Chairs (2): Matthew Bennett and Jerry Gallucci

Attendees (17): Jonathan Alger, Jeff Brown, Elizabeth Deal, Josh Finver, Laura Marks, Johnathan McCann, Jason Millison, Vicky Wilkins, Jeremy Del Moral, Ticia Duncan, Chuck Elkins, Dr Stanley Harris, John Wheeler, Carol Wells, Viraj Gandhi, William Clarkson, and Sherry Rutherford.

JSA Attendees (3): Donzell Robinson, Olivia Hille, and Katherine Smith

**Next Meeting:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 (full AUNP Membership)

<b>Highlights</b>	
<b>Key Discussion Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The potential for the partnership to grow and evolve beyond its initial scope.</li><li>● Upcoming Zoning Commission hearing on Wesley Seminary</li><li>● Scooter safety and the importance of rider etiquette in the community</li><li>● AU Neighborhood Partnership membership</li></ul>
<b>Action Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Clarification of which students should receive the off-campus student orientation and addition of scooter etiquette and safety</li><li>● Transportation and Parking to coordinate with Tony at OLLI to have someone at the parking gate to assist members with the garage code</li><li>● AU to find the history of how partnership members were selected and why</li><li>● JSA to send calendar hold for Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> as the next meeting date.</li></ul>

## Discussion Recap

### Welcome and President Jonathan Alger's Remarks

- Donzell Robinson welcomed everyone.
- Matthew Bennett introduced President Jonathan Alger, who joined AU in July.
  - Pres. Jonathan Alger provided his personal history and connection to Washington, DC and the community.
  - Discussed his initiatives and experience at JMU in engaging neighbors and maintaining relationships with the Harrisonburg community.
  - Shared that AU has a new athletics director and that he wants to encourage neighbors to come to AU events. Emphasized his belief that the more comfortable the community is with being on campus and the more comfortable students feel in the community, the better off everyone will be.
  - Provided insight on the civic life initiative that has already started. This initiative will be incorporated into a curriculum and speaker series, will focus on civic engagement and civil discourse
  - Shared that he is doing a listening tour on and off campus to get as much feedback as possible for hopes and dreams for the university.
- Questions:
- A member asked how do you think you will interact with the community and make sure everyone is heard and incorporated?
- Pres. Alger said he's learning the established mechanisms and operations to hear the feedback from the community. He is looking to promote win-win decisions.
- A member asked about challenges he experienced working with the community and his thought process for solutions.
- Pres. Alger said being responsible for student's behavior when they don't live on campus. He gave an example that during COVID, JMU worked with local landlords to communicate with off-campus students. JMU also invested in learning about being good neighbors and educating students on their responsibilities and rights.
- A member explained what started the partnership and how the partnership should be more than discussing facilities of the university.

<p><b>University Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew provided updates that included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New Athletics Director is JM Caparro</li> <li>○ Final enrollment report will be in the Fall, projected to be well under Campus Plan limits</li> <li>○ October proceeding with the Zoning Commission on the Wesley Building will include a statement from American University.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Members discussed the Wesley proposal</li> </ul>
<p><b>Working Group Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan McCann provides the Facilities and Planning report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meltzer construction updates and photos</li> <li>○ Members can sign up for construction updates and there are regular project updates shared with neighbors</li> <li>○ Reeves Field updates and future renovation plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chuck Elkins provided the Student Life and Safety report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reviewed the orientation for off-campus students, materials are up to date.</li> <li>○ Coordinated on back-to-school post card to neighbors to ensure the effectiveness and increased the reach of the post cards to the neighbors</li> <li>○ Highlighted how the student conduct reporting process works and that there are very few repeat incidents</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Off-campus orientation has been extended to the 20007 zip code</li> <li>• Josh Finver provided the Transportation and Parking working group report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DDOT reviewed the Urban Forestry concerns for the Capital Bikeshare, and it will not impact any trees.</li> <li>○ Scooter partnership, parking enforcement, and high campus activity day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A member asked if the student orientation includes scooter rules and alerting pedestrians.</li> <li>• The fall transportation newsletter to students does cover scooter rules and safety.</li> <li>• A member asked if there are designated pick-up and drop-off for rideshare vehicles.</li> <li>• Josh stated that there are four, including one on East Campus, South Campus and one on Nebraska.</li> <li>• A member reminded AU that the building where OLLI has classes now requires a code to access the parking area.</li> <li>• Josh said he would work with Tony to see if they can have an attendant to help them with entry.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members asked if the transportation newsletter could be sent monthly.</li> <li>• Beth Deal gave the Engagement and Communications working group report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Welcomed the new co-chair Viraj Gandhi</li> <li>○ Reviewed working group goals and target audience</li> <li>○ Requested suggestions for articles to be included in AU Now to be sent to <a href="mailto:deal@american.edu">deal@american.edu</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>AU Neighborhood Partnership Outreach</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Marks introduced Jason Millison, new Director of Community Relations</li> <li>• Laura provided an update on the community engagement plan regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community events scheduled and the increase of events, sponsorships, and partnerships</li> <li>○ Improved communication tools</li> <li>○ Student-neighbor engagement and hope to build a new neighbor-hosted “family dinner” program</li> <li>○ Working group speaker series and the potential for public working group meetings on topics related to their areas of focus</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Laura gave her email to those who want to reach out. <a href="mailto:lmarks@american.edu">lmarks@american.edu</a> . Jason also gave his email <a href="mailto:JMillison@american.edu">JMillison@american.edu</a></li> <li>• Laura provided and reviewed a draft calendar of upcoming AU events.</li> <li>• Jason let everyone know that there will be a revamp of the newsletter and the website.</li> <li>• A member asked about AU involvement in a neighborhood block party.</li> <li>• Laura said that they are important to the community, so they are important to AU, and Community Relations has been a sponsor of that block party in past years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Upcoming Meeting Dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donzell announced that Olivia will send a calendar hold for Oct. 22nd, and if there are issues, it will be communicated through the calendar hold.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outstanding Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member raised an item for the good of the order regarding partnership membership and partnership consensus, asking about with ANC Commissioners should participate and whether consensus reflects all viewpoints.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members discussed ANCs' role in the partnership and past participation.</li><li>• Matthew noted AU's interest in these conversations and that AU will research the history of ANCs' participation.</li></ul>
<b>Closing Comments and Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Donzell adjourned the meeting at 7:57PM</li></ul>