

**Community Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 24, 2015**  
**American University – School of International Service – Abramson Family Founders Room**  
**7 p.m.**

**Introductions & Opening Remarks**

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by AU Vice President of Campus Life Gail Hanson, who convenes and leads the meetings for American University. She opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. by welcoming representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs).

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

**Scheduled Reports**

**Preliminary Report on Fall 2015 Enrollment & Student Housing**

Linda Argo, AU Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Auxiliary Services, presented the university's preliminary enrollment information and reminded attendees that the final numbers will be presented at the December 1 CLC meeting.

Undergraduate: 7,015  
Graduate: 2,863  
Other (study abroad, non-degree students, etc.): 804  
WCL: 1,484  
Total head count: 10,682

Tom Smith, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if undergraduate information was available by class.

Linda Argo responded that the freshman class consists of 1,786 students, almost identical to last year.

Gail Hanson added that AU Housing added capacity by opening with 330 triples, which helped to meet demand in the class, as well as retained 160 beds at the Berkshire apartments.

Jeffrey Kraskin, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if the Berkshire Apartments are AU's only off-campus lease, to which Gail Hanson responded yes.

Tom Smith asked how many students are housed on campus for the current semester.

Gail Hanson replied around 4000 with the triples.

Tom Smith asked Gail Hanson to comment on *The Eagle* newspaper story from the summer regarding an on-campus housing shortage.

Gail Hanson stated that the shortage was the result of housing demand by continuing students, as well as the fact that the freshmen class was large. As a result, some things needed to be moved around. She added that 22 students accepted the housing “buy out” offer and that while some students are currently in triples, there was no need to use lounges this year.

Tom Smith asked if this year represents the largest number of triples AU has ever had.

Gail Hanson replied that it is not, but it is the largest number of triples that AU residence hall can furnish.

Tom Smith asked if these numbers will be affected when the Washington College of Law relocates to Tenley in January.

Linda Argo responded that when WCL students are on AU’s main campus, the university will be under the 13,600 student enrollment cap.

Tom Smith asked if AU can increase its number of undergraduate students when WCL moves.

Linda Argo replied that while AU could, there are no plans to do so.

### **2014-2015 Annual Report on Traffic & Parking Performance**

Dan Nichols, AU Executive Director of Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs, presented the annual report of traffic and parking performance, which can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Off-Campus-Parking-Report-09-24-15.pdf>. He stated that adding personnel after the closing of the Nebraska parking lot increased the number of tickets issued to almost two times last year’s level.

He continued that additional changes are on the horizon including AU Public Safety taking over all enforcement efforts (including around the WCL at Tenley and the old law school at 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW), a soon-to-be debuted fine structure, and the addition of more parking enforcement personnel.

Tom Smith asked how many of these tickets were issued to students.

Dan Nichols replied that the current system is not able to provide that level of detailed information, but that parking software purchased recently will give AU the ability to make this determination.

Dennis Paul, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, asked how many of these tickets were collectable, to which Dan Nichols replied that he did not have this information.

Tom Smith asked if students are required to register their vehicles with AU whether they live on- or off-campus.

Dan Nichols responded that if a student, faculty, or staff member parks their vehicle on campus, it must be registered with the university.

Nan Wells, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, noted the largest number of tickets were issued on Rockwood Parkway and asked for additional information.

Dan Nichols replied that this is due to the street's close proximity to campus and AU's increased patrols in the area, since the closure of the Nebraska parking lot.

Dennis Paul asked how much a Good Neighbor parking ticket costs, to which Dan Nichols replied \$100.

Dennis Paul asked how many tickets are paid.

Dan Nichols replied that the payment rate is not good, which is one reason why there are administrative changes under way to the fine structure. He added that many do pay and that three unpaid tickets results in having your vehicle booted, if found parked on campus.

Tom Smith asked how AU will know which cars are owned by students once the new parking software is in place.

Dan Nichols stated that the new system, which will come online in October, will tap into AU's staff and student directory.

Ben Tessler, of Westover Place Homeowners Association, stated that AU students are parking vehicles in the Westover parking lot.

Dan Nichols recommended that Westover employ whatever enforcement action they would take normally for a vehicle parked illegally on their private property. He added that any students identified could be referred to student conduct for violation of AU's Good Neighbor policy.

John Wheeler, of Ward 3 Vision, asked whether Westover Place has an enforcement mechanism in place for towing a vehicle parked illegally, to which Ben Tessler replied yes.

Michael Ralston, of Greenbrier Condominiums, stated that the Greenbrier tickets and tows illegally parked vehicles through the District. He added that it is not always student violators.

David Fehrmann, of Westover Place Homeowners Association, said that if this is indeed taking place, residents at Westover need to start reporting it.

Walter Labitzky, director of Facilities at the Washington College of Law, presented the annual report of traffic and parking performance for the WCL, which can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/WCL-Off-Campus-Parking-Report-09-24-15.pdf>.

He added that of the 1,345 tickets, 163 were identified as students/staff and that out of those 128 payments were made for around \$10,000.

Tom Smith asked if AU Public Safety will continue to enforce around 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, when WCL relocates to Tenley, to which Dan Nichols responded yes.

## **Construction Update**

David Dower, AU's Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management, provided updates on all of the university's planned and ongoing construction projects. His presentation can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Capital-Projects-Update-09-24-15.pdf>. He stated that community update meetings were held recently for both the Washington College of Law and East Campus projects.

### *Washington College of Law @ Tenley Circle*

David Dower shared updated photos from the construction site and a six-month look ahead. He advised that the next time the CLC meets in December, this project will be finished.

He continued that WCL will move into the new location in November and December and that classes would begin there in January 2016.

Leigh Catherine Miles, a Tenleytown resident and blogger, asked if there will be an opportunity for neighbors and community members to tour the new facility.

Walter Labitzky replied that they would be able to tour the new facility once the move is complete.

### *East Campus*

David Dower shared updated photos from the construction site and a six-month look ahead. He stated that the construction of the garage and below-grade structure is well under way.

Jeffrey Kraskin asked what truck routes will be used for delivery of the precast façade elements of the buildings.

David Dower replied that the trucks will use the approved DDOT trucking routes and that all deliveries will be off-loaded on site.

David Dower continued that the project has encountered continuing scheduling issues as a result of an extremely wet spring, which compounded the existing delay in starting the project. In all, rain in June and July cost the project 33 total work days due to site conditions and the type of work that was scheduled during those months.

He added that recently ANC 3D, Westover Place, and AU came to an agreement that construction could take place outside of the restricted hours (7:30am – 4 pm), under which the

project has operated since it began, to include weekdays, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. (permitted hours of construction in the District of Columbia). Additionally, it was agreed that if a day of work is lost to weather, Saturday construction (limited to 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) can take place as of September 1.

Jeffrey Kraskin asked if construction crews were working until 7 p.m., as they are now permitted to do.

David Dower responded that it depends on the kind of work under way on a particular day and what is scheduled for the following day.

He added that AU again needs a modification of the project work hours and the ability to work limited hours (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) on Saturdays through March of next year to help get the project back on schedule.

Tom Smith asked for clarification on the loss of 33 work days.

David Dower replied that when the site gets wet from rain, it takes more than one day to dry out and that AU lost the equivalent of 33 days of work as a result of the unusually heavy rainfall and wet conditions experienced in the late spring and summer.

Bill Krebs, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if the current request for Saturdays takes into account the days lost back in the spring, when the original request for modified hours was made.

David Dower answered that the request to work limited hours on Saturdays is in response to the work lost to weather from April through August.

Jeffrey Kraskin asked what AU plans to do for those Westover residents inconvenienced by possible Saturday construction, to which Linda Argo stated that this has yet to be discussed.

Linda Argo stated that a reasonable compromise was reached among the parties – AU, Westover, and the ANC – in the spring and that this was appreciated greatly by the D.C. Zoning Commission. She continued that AU agreed to wait until September 1 for the option of working Saturdays as make-up days due to inclement weather during the week in deference to concerns of Westover Place residents, specifically those who live along the wall.

She added that there also appeared to be a misunderstanding among some that allowable construction hours in the District were different in commercial and residential zones and clarified that permitted work hours in the city are Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., regardless of the zone.

Tom Smith asked if the above-grade structure timeline was the same now as it was on the six-month look-ahead provided back in the spring.

David Dower replied that all of the structures were compacted into the most recent six-month look-ahead schedule, but that the completion dates of the critical structures of buildings, 1,2 and

3 were delayed by more than a month as represented by the “revised completion date of task” on the Remaining Schedule slide.

Ben Tessler asked about the process moving forward.

Linda Argo stated that the request for Saturdays (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) through March was presented at an East Campus community update meeting on September 17, as well as to the Board of Directors at Westover Place, and now the CLC. She added that AU intends to file a request with the Zoning Commission for a minor modification for limited Saturday work in order to finish the project on time. She added that parties to the original Zoning Order (including Westover Place Homeowners Association and ANC 3D) will receive a copy of the request when it is filed. AU also will discuss the minor modification request at the October 7 meeting of ANC 3D.

Teresa Guzman, of Westover Place Homeowners Association, stated that there are residents at Westover opposed to Saturday work.

David Fehrmann advised that he was at the last community meeting and, while he does have concerns about Saturday work, he believes there is no value in not finishing the project on time. He continued that we are talking about a limited number of Saturdays during cold months when windows will be closed and that he would like to find a way to accommodate the request. He concluded by adding there would be no more concessions provided by the community after this one.

Tom Smith said that the burden falls on AU to demonstrate the need for Saturday work and that the impact is not solely on Westover Place.

#### *Science Building*

David Dower reported that a feasibility study was completed recently for a new science building on AU’s main campus and that the university plans to meet with the community and file a further processing application with at the Zoning Commission later in the fall.

#### *4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW*

David Dower advised that when the WCL vacates this property, the current plan calls for its reoccupation primarily by administrative functions, such as the University Registrar, and some classrooms. He added that the university currently is seeking design and engineering services proposals for repurposing of the building as some interior renovation and construction will be necessary.

He added that the confirmed occupants at this time are those offices displaced by the recent sale of other AU-owned commercial properties to include the Office of Information Technology, Planning and Project Management, Contracts and Procurement, OLLI, Registrar, Enrollment, and the School of Professional and Extended Studies.

Jeffrey Kraskin asked if there are plans to return retail to the ground floor of the building, to which David Dower replied that while the idea was considered, there are no plans to do so.

Tom Smith asked what kinds of classrooms would be in the repurposed building.

David Dower responded that they will all be general purpose classrooms.

### **Student Conduct Off Campus**

Michelle Espinosa, AU's Associate Dean of Students, reported that since the last CLC meeting, there have been 15 complaints about off-campus student behavior, the majority of which occurred in late August, when school started.

She continued that in all fifteen cases, the students were identified and that the residents of all but one house have met with the Office of the Dean. Eight of these students and two student organizations were referred to Student Conduct.

Nan Wells asked if the AU postcard that is mailed to residents in the 20016 zip code every year was updated recently.

Gail Hanson replied that it was updated to include the process followed once a complaint has been made regarding student behavior in the neighborhood.

Nan Wells asked if "911" can be added to next year's card to encourage residents to call the Metropolitan Police Department as well as AU Public Safety to report incidents in progress, to which Gail Hanson replied yes.

Michelle Espinosa described a recent orientation to off-campus living at which more than sixty students living in the neighborhood attended to learn about their rights and responsibilities as residents in the neighborhood.

Andrew Huff, AU's director of Community Relations, added that the majority of students were from fraternity/sorority and athletic groups and that attendance at the AU orientation exceeded attendance at similar events at other D.C. universities.

Michelle Espinosa concluded by saying that her office will continue regular communication with students who reside off campus.

### **Old Business**

#### *New Local Address Feature on Student Portal*

Andrew Huff reviewed AU's new system which requires students to provide a local address as part of the class registration process. This presentation can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Address-Verification-Process-09-24-15.pdf>.

### *Spring Valley History Project*

Gail Hanson stated that at the last CLC meeting Nan Wells expressed interest in neighbors working with AU to put together a history of the Spring Valley neighborhood.

Nan Wells added that perhaps a committee could be set up and that she would post something on the Spring Valley listserv to gauge interest.

Gail Hanson said that AU has a faculty member who specializes in public history and that it would likely take a couple of years for a graduate assistant to complete such a project. A graduate student would require funding, but if there is interest from the community, AU has the expertise and interest in assisting.

### **Good of the Order**

#### *CLC Meetings for 2015-2016*

Gail Hanson reminded attendees of the upcoming CLC meetings dates (December 1, March 3, and June 7). She also stated that this year, the winter CLC meeting has been decoupled from the annual Town Hall meeting with AU President Neil Kerwin and holiday party, which now is scheduled for January 13.

#### *Tenleytown Main Street & Van Ness Main Street*

Andrew Huff announced that AU is a founding member of the Tenleytown Main Street program, and WAMU is a founding member of Van Ness Main Street. These programs strive to revitalize, improve, and advocate for their respective neighborhood business districts.

#### *Appreciation for Community Participants in Explore D.C. & Back to School BBQ*

Andrew Huff described a recent Explore D.C. program where 25 incoming AU freshmen spent two days in the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights, Tenleytown, and Van Ness neighborhoods to learn more about the community in which they now live.

He expressed special thanks to Mary Ellen Fehrmann (Westover Place), Spence Spencer (ANC 3D), John Wheeler (Ward 3 Vision), and Tom Quinn (ANC 3E) for meeting with students and contributing to the event. He added that students also spent time with Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh and representatives from D.C. Vote at the John A. Wilson building, and at WAMU.

Andrew Huff went on to thank those who participated as celebrity grillmasters as part of the back to school neighborhood picnic held in collaboration with the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church. He thanked Mary Ellen and Dave Fehrmann and Spence Spencer. He added that Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, AU President Neil Kerwin, Linda Argo, and Senior Pastor Charlie Parker also participated.



*AU Special Events Open to the Community*

Gail Hanson referred attendees to material in their meeting packets related to several special events open to the community. This included the AU Arts fall calendar and information on the *Books That Shaped America* series.

Gail Hanson then thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the CLC will be on December 1, 2015 in the Abramson Family Founders room at the School for International Service.

**Attendees**

*Community:*

Antonio Cafoncelli, Westover Place Homeowners Association  
David Fehrmann, Westover Place Homeowners Association  
Teresa Guzman, Westover Place Homeowners Association  
Jeffrey Kraskin, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association  
Bill Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association  
Leigh Catherine Miles, Tenleytown resident, Tenleytown DC blog  
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community  
Roshini Ponnampuruma, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Michael Ralston, Greenbrier Condominiums  
Tom Smith, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Ben Tessler, Westover Place Homeowners Association  
Jane Waldmann, Tenleytown Historical Society  
Nan Wells, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D

*American University Staff:*

Linda Argo, Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Auxiliary Services  
David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management  
Michelle Espinosa, Associate Dean of Students  
Gail Hanson, Vice President of Campus Life  
Dan Nichols, Executive Director of Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs  
David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President  
Walter Labitzky, Director of Facilities, Washington College of Law