

**American University Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting**  
**SIS Founders Room, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**  
**May 30, 2024**

**Introductions & Opening Remarks**

Don Edwards, JSA, opened the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) at 7:00 p.m. Don recognized Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer. Matt introduced himself as interim Chair of the CLC and welcomed participants to the meeting.

Don reviewed the agenda and initiated a round of introductions. He then turned the meeting over to Matt for his opening comments.

**Opening Comments**

Matthew's comments provided updates from AU on the following items:

- AU's new President starts on July 1, 2024. A "welcome" reception is scheduled for September.
- AU is managing its "most complex enrollment environment in its history to date". The FAFSA crisis has affected enrollment at colleges and universities across the country. AU's final enrollment will not be known until closer to "move-in" in August/September. Matt affirmed AU's commitment to remain compliant with the campus plan and to keep the community up to date.
- The enrollment unknowns will impact AU's budget deficit. However, AU is managing its financial reserves and foresees being able to weather the lower revenue projections.
- AU is monitoring the Wesley seminary dormitory project and expects that it will be addressed when the new administration is in place
- AU is also monitoring the Lady Bird project in Spring Valley.

Questions/Comments:

- Shelly Repp expressed concerns about the Wesley Seminary and the Lady Bird Projects:
  - Regarding Lady Bird, how might construction affect your revenues?
  - With respect to Wesley, the view that it will adversely affect AU's financials as revenue will go to Wesley, not AU. Shelly recommends that AU continue to keep an eye on that project.

**Standing Reports**

*Off-Campus Student Conduct since March 2024*

Jeff Brown, reported on off-campus student conduct for the period March 6 - May 30, 2024.

- AU received three reports: two from single family homes and one from an apartment or condo community. All three were regarding noise/parties and gatherings. During the same period last year, there were ten reports.

- One report was referred to the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices, two reports were determined not to involve AU students.

Questions/Comments:

- NA

### *Facilities and Planning*

Jonathan McCann updated the CLC on the Meltzer Center for Athletic Performance and Sports Center Annex. The project is on schedule and proceeding as planned.

Questions/Comments:

- NA

### *Transportation and Parking*

Josh Finver, reported on tickets issued in the neighborhood from March 22 - May 22

- There was a total of 116 tickets issued during the period.
- OLLI continues communication efforts to encourage students to park in the parking garage instead of on the neighborhood streets.
- Spin has initiated the following new measures:
  - An email campaign to reinforce rules for scooters.
  - Geo Fencing via its app. As long as locations are on, users will get notices reminding them of proper drop-off locations for scooters.
  - Josh shared the date for the next Neighborhood Partnership Transportation and Parking working group meeting.

Questions and Comments:

Barbara Repp raised the following items:

- Work for the Super Fresh development has begun. How will that affect parking?
  - Josh: The noise will not be any louder.
- The concern is about vibrations, not sound. I am concerned the vibrations will scare people who are parking underground. Is AUs putting students in harm's way with the pollution aspect as well?
  - Josh – AU will consider those concerns.
- Has AU given thought to moving OLLI classes out of that building during construction?
- Barbara also raised concern regarding asbestos remediation at the site and diminished air quality resulting from construction.
  - Don – AU will respond to all your questions and comments.

### *Community Relations and Government Affairs*

Laura Marks, updated the CLC on the following items:

- AU is making progress hiring a new Director of Community Relations.
- AU's dining options on campus over the summer are available.

- AU will sponsor “AU Day with the Nationals”.
- AU has started to tackle making the website more user friendly. All AUNP documents are now current.

#### Questions and Comments:

- Shelly – During construction, can the track that goes around the field be used?
  - Jonathan: If you are fine not using that portion of the field, you can still use the rest of it.
- Regarding Reeves Field, AU is in the process of getting permits for renewing the turf system. The water currently sits instead of draining properly. AU believes September is when it may be able to give access to the entire track.
- Dennis -Jacobs field is locked. Why can we not use that one instead?
  - Don: AU will look into it.
- Dennis – University Ave – Four of the heritage trees are dead and need to be replaced. A fifth will need to come down soon.
  - Josh – can mention it to our grounds folks.
- Dennis – Invited Matt to accompany him on a walk to explain the current condition.
  - Matt accepted the invitation.

#### *Business and Neighborhood Items:*

- Neighborhood: Judith Kopperud shared that Tenley Mainstreet is sponsoring Tenley Fest. All are invited to participate

#### AU Neighborhood Partnership:

Jerry Gallucci addressed the following items:

- AUNP Working Group meetings are continuing through the summer
- AUNP is looking at continuing community engagement methods.
- The AUNP is sensitive to the difficulties AU is having due to the FAFA crisis. I have lived in Westover for decades now. Values AU because Jerry could imagine a lot worse things than AU as a neighbor. It serves neighbors' interests to work cooperatively with the University Leadership. The display of neighbors vs university in front of Zoning Commission encouraged AU to do better. Taken it upon himself to be a salesman of the partnership. Those who have not considered the possibility of joining should do so -- it is a good way to serve both interests. Need to find other ways to bring people into the partnership. It needs to be viable and sustainable. AU to share more of its resources to the neighborhoods.

#### **Good of the Order**

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Don Edwards opened the floor for any additional comments. Receiving none, Don adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM and thanked everyone for attending.

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## **Attendees**

### *Community:*

Jerry Gallucci, Westover Place resident, AU Neighborhood Partnership

Dennis Paul, University Avenue, Neighbors for a Livable Community

Carol Wells, Westover Place Resident

Barbara Repp, AU Park Resident

Shelly Repp, AU Park Resident

Judith Kopperud, AU Park Resident, AU Neighborhood Partnership

John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision

Betsy White, Wesley Heights, AU Neighborhood Partnership

Mona Khad, AU Park

Blane, University Avenue, Neighbors for a Livable Community

Geraldine Agatep,

Svetlana Janco,

### *American University Staff:*

Matthew Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer

Jeff Brown, Interim Director of Student Affairs

Josh Finver, Assistant Director for TDM

Laura Marks, AVP, Community and Government Relations

Jonathan McCann, AVP, Planning and Project Management

Philip Morse, AVP, University Police Services and Emergency Management

Brendan McNickle, Project Manager

### *JSA Staff:*

Don Edwards, Facilitator

Donzell Robinson

Breanne Kroehler

Katie Smith

Olivia Hille