

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2013
American University – Mary Graydon Center – Rooms 3/4
7 p.m.

Introduction

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 p.m. by welcoming representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs). She also thanked those who submitted additional items for the agenda.

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

Linda Argo, Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Strategic Initiatives, shared with the group that Jorge Abud, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Development & Real Estate, will retire at the end of March. She congratulated and thanked him for his hard work over 33 years at American University and through three campus plans.

Construction Update

Jorge Abud, AU Assistant Vice President for Facilities Development and Real Estate, provided an update on construction projects currently under way, as well as those in the planning phase.

Cassell Hall (formerly North Hall): The skin of this building is nearly complete and the tower crane has been removed. The building is on track for an August completion. AU met with interested neighbors in January to discuss landscaping and screening options along Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Trees were selected and are on order for a spring planting.

Nebraska Hall: The structure is complete and the skin will be added soon. A utility connection to the Katzen Arts Center will be made this weekend. Special thanks to the Ft. Gaines Citizens Association for their flexibility in extending the allowable work hours, which helped the project to stay on schedule. Work now is back to the agreed upon hours and the building is expected to open in the fall.

McKinley Hall: Work has started on the new structure and the building is on track to open in January 2014.

4401 Connecticut Avenue, NW (future home of WAMU): Interior construction is under way with occupants being phased in from June through July. By early August, all occupants will be in the building.

Tenley Campus (future home of the Washington College of Law): Work at this location is scheduled to begin in June with the decommissioning of the residence halls and the relocation of offices in preparation for demolition. A preconstruction meeting was held with AU, Whiting-

Turner, and neighbors earlier this month to discuss issues related to site traffic, parking, work hours, etc. Regarding 42nd Street traffic calming efforts, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) currently is working on the proposal for this location, which will be followed by a community meeting for review and discussion.

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW (current Washington College of Law): Planning for reuse of this building continues, but still will include offices and administrative and academic uses. A special meeting of the Community Liaison Committee was held in January to further discuss AU's plans.

Tom Smith, representing Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D02, asked if there were any plans to include retail in the ground level of the building, to which Jorge Abud responded that there are not.

John Wheeler, representing Ward 3 Vision, asked where students housed currently on the Tenley Campus will go once construction begins.

Gail Hanson replied that most will be housed in AU-leased space at the Berkshire Apartments; some will be housed at other leased space off campus; and some will move to one of the university residence halls.

Beth Marcus, representing Sutton Place Condominium Association, asked if traffic issues on Ward Circle associated with Nebraska Hall construction also will emerge on Tenley Circle once construction begins on the new law school.

Jorge Abud replied that he does not anticipate traffic issues similar to the one at Nebraska Hall to occur at Tenley. He attributed the difficulties in moving construction truck traffic in and out of the Nebraska Hall site to its constrained location, and noted that this is not the case at Tenley.

David Fehrmann, representing the Westover Place Homeowners Association, asked if there were any transportation plans for Washington Semester students to facilitate their travel between the Berkshire Apartments and Metro.

Jorge Abud replied that there are no specific plans and that those who take classes on the main campus or travel downtown for internships will have transportation options including the AU shuttle and Metro buses.

Public Protection Measures for the Glenbrook Road Site

Dan Nichols, Executive Director of University Safety Programs, spoke about AU's public protection plan for students as it related to the upcoming high probability testing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Glenbrook Road. He stated that this testing is scheduled currently for late May, but that sequestration may delay this timeline.

AU will provide the required training to the campus community two weeks prior to the start of high probability testing. Because the campus population changes at different times of the year,

this will help to ensure that the right individuals are trained. Once AU receives the start date from the Army Corps, shelter-in-place training will be provided for users of Jacobs Field and Watkins, as well as to visiting athletic teams. AU has the ability to send emergency alerts across campus via email and text, which also are received by the Metropolitan Police Department, DC Fire and Emergency Management Services, and the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. He advised that the university has experience with this and is in close communications with the Army Corps.

Community updates from the Army Corps of Engineers can be found at:
<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx>.

Student Conduct Report

Michelle Espinosa, AU Associate Dean of Students, was unable to attend the meeting, so an update was provided by Gail Hanson.

Gail Hanson reported that there have been eight student conduct reports since December 3. Of these, five had sufficient information (student identification) for follow-up and action. All of these students were called to Dean of Students' office, and three of them were referred to Student Conduct and have been sanctioned.

She reported continuing problems with a house on W Street, NW, which is occupied by several members of a fraternity. Kent Slowinski, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, and AU both have been involved in addressing these issues.

Gail Hanson assured the group that every level of influence possible has been brought to bear on this property and these students. AU has been advised by the property management company responsible for renting the house that the current lease will not be renewed upon its expiration on July 31. The university will continue to watch this property closely and ensure that these students are held accountable for their actions.

Pedestrian Safety Campaign Update

Phil Morse, AU Senior Director for Public Safety and Emergency Management, provided an update on the university's pedestrian safety program and reviewed the measures that have been taken over the last several months as part of the Street Smart campaign.

In all, 1,500 contacts were made with students by AU Public Safety officers, who provided them with literature and tips on being a safe pedestrian. This effort will begin again soon and specific intersections will be targeted. Also, information on this topic will be incorporated into student orientation.

Stephanie Partridge, representing Embassy Park, asked if AU could pay particular attention to the intersection of Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues.

Phil Morse advised that this intersection has been, and will continue to be, targeted during both the morning and afternoon rush hours.

Beth Marcus reported that students often cross Nebraska Avenue mid-block from the parking lot to the main campus and asked if AU could target this area as well, to which Phil Morse responded yes.

Jeffrey Kraskin, representing the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, inquired about the recent pedestrian accident near Ward Circle.

Phil Morse replied that at 9 a.m. on February 11 at the Katzen Arts Center crosswalk on Massachusetts Avenue, there was a low-speed impact with minor injuries. Two students were transported to the hospital as a precautionary measure and were released the same day. The striking vehicle fled the scene and the Metropolitan Police Department continues its investigation.

Tom Smith asked if AU was aware of a jaywalking problem on Massachusetts Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets. He also asked if the university had ever considered ticketing jaywalkers.

Phil Morse responded that this area was included in AU's pedestrian safety campaign and that literature was distributed not only to jaywalkers, but to all pedestrians. He went on to advise that AU is focusing on education at this point and that the university's authority does not permit public safety officers to ticket jaywalkers. He also invited interested community members to join AU officers in seeing the campaign in action.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study

Dan Nichols provided an overview of plans for AU's transportation master plan.

A consultant will be hired in the next couple of months to help determine what is driving AU's transportation needs, what might compliment AU's goals, and what might be hindering them. In addition to the community, several partners will be engaged in the plan including DDOT, Sibley, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Rather than looking at the various transportation issues around the university in piecemeal, the plan will take a broader look at the entire system.

A special meeting of the CLC will be scheduled to discuss the plan in greater detail and to garner input from the community regarding specific issues. A Request for Proposals (RFP) currently is being drafted and will be sent out to vendors in the next one to two months. Once a consultant is selected, we will have a better sense of the timeline we are working with and a more detailed plan will be shared with the CLC.

Gail Hanson asked the group for some initial issues that should be shared with the consultant in advance of the special CLC meeting. Several issues were discussed briefly including more frequent Metro bus service around AU, shuttle service to the Berkshire Apartments, and the

relocation of Washington Semester Program to the Berkshire Apartments and its impact on the neighborhood and transportation system.

Tom Smith requested that AU be clear with the community about its objectives so that the community has realistic expectations and its input is relevant. He stated that there are many traffic issues in the area, some of which are AU related and some of which are not and that the university should set forth a clear framework for gathering community input.

Gregory Ferenbach, representing the Tenley Campus Neighbors Association, asked if this study is pursuant to the campus plan proceedings or if this is a separate study.

Dan Nichols replied that this is a separate study, but that the data will be useful in complying with campus plan reporting requirements.

Jorge Abud added that the campus plan includes requirements for tracking traffic data and projections both with and without AU's new facilities, and recommendations for actions the university could take to reduce vehicular traffic to campus and encourage the use of public transportation. This study takes that project list and other issues that might come up and will be more detailed and focused on what actions AU should take to move us towards the campus plan transportation goals.

Gregory Ferenbach asked if this study was related at all to the traffic calming efforts around the Tenley Campus, to which Jorge Abud responded no and that these are separate projects.

School of International Service (SIS) Driveway Update

Jorge Abud reported that last year DDOT asked AU to look at the SIS driveway configuration and propose changes to make it more difficult to turn left in and out of the garage. AU did so and submitted a report to DDOT. Despite multiple follow-ups, AU has yet to receive a response. The intersection of New Mexico and Nebraska Avenues was monitored again earlier in the month and a report from AU's consultant is expected soon. The most recent report will be forwarded to DDOT, and AU will again remind them about the report sent to them last fall.

Elizabeth Haile, representing Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E01, reported that vehicles are dropping off passengers from the southbound lane of Nebraska Avenue instead of turning into the garage, causing traffic backups. W. Philip Thomas, representing Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05, advised that taxis often do the same thing.

Jorge Abud replied that AU has not looked at this issue but that it can be included as part of the broader transportation review.

Tom Smith requested that these reports also be provided to ANC 3D and asked if a "porkchop" lane divider was possible to physically prevent vehicles from turning left out of the garage.

Jorge Abud replied that a directional divider was possible, though space was tight and cars would have to slow down to navigate the restricted turn. This would likely create additional traffic back-ups.

Linda Argo added that not allowing left turns out of the garage is counterintuitive and makes traffic through the neighborhood worse as vehicles are required to make their way down several residential streets to get back to the direction they would like to go.

Communications with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

Linda Argo responded to a question from Tom Smith about conversations between AU and DDOT regarding issues at Ward Circle. She advised that the university's only role thus far has been an effort to get DDOT to move forward with a plan to address long-term issues and to include the ANC and larger community in doing so. AU advised DDOT that the issue is of particular interest to both the university and the community. DDOT has committed to revisit their Rock Creek West Livability Study, update the data, and report back to the ANC, AU, and community their plans for improvements at Ward Circle.

Status of Jacobs Field Sound Management

David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President, stated that adjustments continue to be made to the sound system in cooperation with neighbor Bob Herzstein. The scoreboard horn has been removed and replaced with ground-level speakers with simulated horn sounds. The volume has been tested and adjusted and does not exceed the allowable level. AU will continue to check in with Bob Herzstein on this matter and make further adjustments if necessary.

Adoption of Operating Document and Mediation Guidelines

Gail Hanson advised that all of the feedback received from the CLC to date has been incorporated into these documents and asked if there were any final comments.

Regarding the Mediation Guidelines, the CLC agreed on the final version.

Gail Hanson reported that Bob Herzstein and Bill Krebs, both representing the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, had volunteered to work with AU General Counsel Hisham Khalid to identify a pool of mediators. The group agreed to this.

Regarding the Operating Document, the CLC agreed on the final version.

The final versions of these documents will be circulated via the CLC list serve, as well as posted on the AU Community Relations website.

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Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

Dan Nichols advised that AU will host a CERT training in conjunction with Serve DC on June 1 and June 2, 2013. The training will be open to neighborhood residents, but Serve DC also may add attendees as needed to ensure a full house. AU will provide breakfast and lunch and the location will be announced soon. Kent Slowinski from ANC 3D will serve as the neighborhood contact for the training and will get the word out to neighbors about the opportunity.

Tom Smith requested that AU not rely solely on Kent Slowinski to spread the word about the training and that the university also send relevant information to Penny Pagano, Chair of ANC 3D.

Neighborhood Course Audit Program

Andrew Huff, AU Director of Community Relations, reported progress on plans for neighborhood participation in AU's Alumni Course Audit program. Although some details remain to be worked out, the goal is to launch a pilot program for the fall semester. Classes would be open to neighbors 60 years and older who reside in the 20016 zip code; course registration would be contingent upon available space and professor approval. Information on this program can be found at <http://www.american.edu/alumni/learning/Alumni-Audit.cfm>.

Opening of Wagshal's on New Mexico

Linda Argo announced that, while an official date has yet to be set, Wagshal's on New Mexico probably will open in the middle of April. It will be a great addition to the neighborhood and will offer both indoor and outdoor seating, as well as a butchery, prepared foods, sandwiches, and a custom bakery.

AU Special Events Highlights

Gail Hanson referred attendees to a flyer in their meeting packets which highlights several upcoming special events at American University.

AU Community Service Showcase

Joshua Matfess, Director of Community Relations and Civic Engagement for the AU Student Government, announced a Community Service showcase, scheduled for April 3 at 5 p.m. in the McDowell Formal Lounge. The event will showcase the abundance of community service being provided both on and off campus by AU students and organizations. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Gail Hanson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Attendees

Community:

Mike Bilecky, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association

Mary Christie, Sutton Place Condominium Association

David Fehrmann, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Mary Ellen Fehrmann, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Gregory Ferenbach, Tenley Campus Neighbors Association
Anne Griffis, Sutton Place Condominium Association
Elizabeth Haile, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E
Jeffrey Kraskin, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
William Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Beth Marcus, Sutton Place Condominium Association
Penny Pagano, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Stephanie Partridge, Embassy Park
Allan Pollock, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association
Tom Smith, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
W. Philip Thomas, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision

American University Staff:

Jorge Abud, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Development & Real Estate
Linda Argo, Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Strategic Initiatives
Jerry Gager, University Architect
Gail Hanson, Vice President of Campus Life
Andrew Huff, Director of Community Relations
Hisham Khalid, Office of the General Counsel
Phil Morse, Senior Director, Public Safety and Emergency Management
Dan Nichols, Executive Director of University Safety Programs
David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President

American University Students:

Joshua Matfess, Student Government