

American University Neighborhood Liaison Committee Meeting
Studio Theater (Rm. 154), Katzen Arts Center
6:45 p.m. Tuesday, December 2, 2008

MINUTES

1. Attendance

AU Representatives:

1. Jorge Abud, Assistant VP, Facilities and Administrative Services
2. Jerry Gager, University Architect
3. Robert Hradsky, Dean of Students
4. Walter Labitzky, Director of Facilities, Washington College of Law
5. Anthony Newman, Director of Risk Management & Transportation Services
6. Penny Pagano, Director of Community & Government Relations
7. Maria Pahigiannis, President's Office
8. David Taylor, President's Chief of Staff
9. Sara Waldron, Associate Dean of Students

Neighborhood & Community Representatives:

1. Mike Bilecky (FGCA)
2. Anthony Byrne (TCNA)
3. David Fehrmann (Westover Place)
4. Mary Ellen Fehrmann (Westover Place)
5. Lee Minichiello (ANC 3D08)
6. Alan Pollok (FGCA)
7. Tom Smith (ANC 3D02)

2. Handouts & Old Business

• **Handouts**

- Agenda
- NLC/AU Meeting Summary for 09/23/08
- AU's Strategic Plan
- AU's Annual Report 2007-08

• **Old Business**

- **Sound:** We have been monitoring the sound on Jacobs Field; notifying Mr. Herzstein about upcoming games; have repositioned the speakers; and lowered the bass. It appears that these efforts have brought the noise down to a more acceptable level as we have not received any recent complaints. AU will continue to monitor.
- **Ticketing on Tilden:** Tom Smith, Walter Labitzky and Anthony Newman will meet separately to clearly identify the blocks that should be added to the "Do Not Ticket" list. Once the area has been identified, Mr. Smith will provide AU with a written request so that future ANC commissioners may understand why AU policy is as it is.
- **Crime Alerts:** There are no new incidents regarding the sexual assaults reported in late summer/early fall; they have subsided/abated. Neighbors thanked AU for forwarding crime alerts to them via email and asked that we continue doing so.

3. New Business

- **Reminders**

- The end of the semester is upon us. Classes will start up again on January 12.
- From Thursday, January 8 – Sunday, January 11 the Katzen Arts Center will host the Washington Antiques Show. As there are no classes at that time, there shouldn't be any problems with parking.
- Both January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr.) and January 20 (Inauguration) are holidays – the University is closed.

- **Inauguration**

- Bender will be used on Monday, January 19 by the MDP to deputize the Inauguration police force.
- It has been clearly communicated to the students that they are not allowed to sublease their dorms or apartments for the Inauguration.

- **Strategic Planning and Budget Process:**

- AU's Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees at the November 21, 2008 board meeting.
 - The University will now formulate a set of university-wide action steps for each goal within the plan.
 - The action steps will be developed by the provost and vice presidents in consultation with their respective constituencies and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.
 - The action steps will inform and shape the initial phase of strategic plan implementation, and also drive the revenue and expenditure proposals contained in the new two-year budget.
- The two-year budget is now being compiled for Board of Trustees' review/approval at their February 2009 meeting.
- Once the budgetary process is complete, we will begin focusing on the Campus Planning process, and begin to seek community involvement in the spring/summer.

- **Financial Health of the University:**

- To date there has been no disruption of normal operations.
- While AU's endowment has suffered, the university does not heavily depend on endowment earnings as part of its annual budget.
- Furthermore, student enrollment numbers for the spring and fall 2009 have remained strong despite economic conditions. We will remain watchful, though, as we do not know how the economic climate will affect enrollment going forward.
- The university leadership has worked to minimize the impact of this financial tumult on AU's finances as best it can. This has included restructuring some \$200 million or 90% of AU's tax-exempt bond debt, in order to protect against significant increases in debt service costs that have been prevalent in the current market environment and which have affected many other institutions.

- **Campus Plan:**

- Once the budgetary process is complete, we will begin focusing on the Campus Planning process, and begin to seek community involvement in the spring/summer.
- As we want to seek wide-scale community involvement and will ask for help to ensure that happens
 - At the next NLC meeting perhaps we can begin setting up the process/procedures for campus involvement
- The current plan expires in August 2011.

4. Facilities

- **Kogod Expansion**
 - Work is progressing well and we are hopeful that it will be completed for the first day of classes in January. They are just working on the finishing touches
 - Scheduled to complete January 2009
- **School of International Service Building**
 - Site utilities and foundation in progress
 - Steel structure will begin coming out of the ground in April
 - Scheduled to complete in May 2010
- **Mary Graydon Center** – the bridge canopy construction is scheduled to start late December and scheduled to be completed in February
- **4545 42nd Street** – the garage and plaza reconstruction are nearing completion; scheduled to complete in a few weeks
- **Real Estate** – nothing to report
- **School of Communication/McKinley project** – this project is on hold
- **4412 Sedgwick Street** – there is a family (not affiliated with AU) that will most likely rent the house and move in shortly – there is no set timeline for this yet, however.

5. Student Issues

- Students staying over the winter break will be housed at the Tenley campus.
- AU students continue participating in community service activities:
 - 200 students have participated in DC Reads
 - Greeks have raised over \$15,000 for St. Jude Hospital for Children
 - There were four alternative winter break trips planned this year – to Zambia, Thailand, Colombia and Guatemala. These trips are social justice-based programs that include a community service component.
- Thus far, there have only been three complaints forwarded to the Dean of Students and they have all been one-time issues.
- Students are now required to provide their off-campus addresses.

6. Parking & Traffic

- Mrs. Fehrman noted that she has asked the 2nd District police to monitor the 4300 block of Massachusetts Avenue in the early morning. There are people who sit in their cars until 9:30am, when it is legal to park there, in the process blocking and slowing down traffic on Massachusetts Ave.
- Mr. Pollock also informed the committee that about a month ago, there was a Penn State bus parked on 45th Street. When security was called, they came but the bus did not move.
 - Mr. Newman said he would have to speak to the security officer that responded to the call as he had not heard of this situation. He further noted that there is no reason buses should be parked in neighborhoods as we have plenty of space on campus for that purpose.

7. Army Corps

- Work continues on Glenbrook Road.

8. Other Business

- None.