

AU Neighborhood Partnership

Full Membership Meeting

October 22, 2024, 6pm

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

Attendees (26): Justin Bernstine, Patricia Susan Cervini, William Clarkson, Amy Dacey, Elizabeth Deal, Jeremy Del Moral, Chuck Elkins, Josh Finver, Teresa Guzman, Diana Gregg, Stanley Harris, Jessica Hassell, Judith Kopperud, Ellen Malasky, Laura Marks, Jonathan McCann, Jason Millison, Phillip Morse, Ava Paul, Dennis Paul, Georgianna Paul, Marguerite Pridgen, Doug Saunders, Marilyn Slatnick, John Wheeler, and Betsy White.

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

Highlights	
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call to Order• Review Agenda• Co-Chair Welcome• Amy Dacey, Executive Director of AU's Sine Institute of Policy & Politics• AUNP Working Groups• AU Community Relations Update• For the Good of the Order and Adjourn• Reception

Discussion Recap	
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Jason Millison opened the meeting and handed the floor to the co-chairs, Jerry Gallucci and Matthew Bennett.</p> <p>Jerry Gallucci noted that this is the first full membership meeting of the Partnership, the importance of gathering all together, and hearing from all the working groups.</p> <p>Matthew Bennett opened by thanking Jerry and the team at Mary Graydon for hosting the meeting. Matt emphasized the value that AU brings to the neighborhood as a place of gathering, celebration, and most importantly, academics. He introduced the night's guest speaker, Amy Dacey, who is the executive director of the Sine institution of Policy and Politics.</p>
Remarks from Amy Dacey	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Dacey introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics at American University. She has a personal connection to AU as an alum and current neighbor. • The Sine Institute focuses on policy and politics, aiming to bring different perspectives together to foster robust conversations and find common ground on important issues. • The Institute's programs include... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fellows program that brings in diverse experts to work with students ○ Distinguished lecturer series ○ Annual youth poll to engage young voters and understand their views on long-term societal issues ○ Certificate leadership programs and training sessions for students • The Sine Institute's youth poll has provided valuable insights, such as finding that 82% of young people don't believe the U.S. has a strong democracy currently. • The Institute creates events and programming that address timely, relevant topics and encourage civic engagement and understanding. • Dacey emphasized the Institute's goal of convening, communicating, and collaborating with the broader community, not just the university. <p>Link to the Sine Institute's website: https://www.american.edu/sine-Institute/</p>
Partnership and Working Group Overview	<p>Jonathan McCann, Co-Chair of the Facilities and Planning Working Group, provided an overview of the working group's duties and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Facilities Planning Working Group collaborates on issues related to physical campus facilities, existing campus developments, and general project status reporting and updates. • The group discusses zoning ordinance compliance and conditions, such as those related to the Jacobs Field sound barrier and construction management plans. • The group provides transparency and advance notice on further processing application matters, allowing for collaborative discussions before projects move forward. • The group looks ahead to future campus plans, discussing sustainable infrastructure projects, opportunities with older buildings, and the priorities of the new university president. <p>Phillip Morse, Co-Chair of the Student Life and Safety Working Group, provided an overview of the working group's duties and objectives:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Student Life Working Group focuses on educating students on how to be good citizens and neighbors, including educating them on local ordinances and the university's conduct code. • The group is involved in community building efforts, encouraging students to interact with neighbors as they live in the surrounding neighborhoods. • They work closely with the Dean of Students office to ensure any student conduct issues are addressed through an educational, rather than purely punitive, approach. <p>Josh Finver, Co-Chair of the Transportation and Parking Working Group, provided an overview of the working group's duties and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transportation and Parking Working Group has focused on issues around scooters and policies for their use on and around campus, including the installation of new scooter stations. • They provide updates on upcoming special events like commencement, move-in, etc. to help coordinate and communicate with the community. • The group reviews the annual Transportation Demand Management (TDM) report to the District Department of Transportation, sharing metrics on the university's efforts. • The group has had discussions around the Spring Valley building and the OLLI neighborhood program, working to address community feedback and fulfill the university's obligations. <p>Elizabeth Deal, Co-Chair of the Engagement and Communications Working Group, provided an overview of the working group's duties and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Engagement and Communications Working Group works closely with the community relations team to gain insights into community priorities and better serve the entire neighborhood. • The group is focused on broadening engagement opportunities, aiming to provide a range of experiences for community members to connect with AU. • Looking to the future, the group is looking to produce a community survey to engage with what the community wants to see AU do, and how AU can engage with its community as a whole more productively.
Community Relations Update	<p>Laura Marks and Jason Millison, the AU Community Relations Team, presented updates and information about upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AU Community Relations team organizes a variety of community events and engagement opportunities throughout the year, spanning different seasons and themes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These events aim to bring the university and local community together, leveraging resources and involvement from different AU departments like athletics. • The event lineup includes athletics-focused activities like 5K runs and school partnerships, as well as more general community festivals and volunteer initiatives. • The team works to provide a diverse array of experiences for community members to connect with the university, whether through recreational, educational, or service-oriented events. • The community relations efforts focus on expanding engagement beyond just the working group meetings, creating more touchpoints for the broader community to interact with the university. <p>Link to the Community Relations website to learn more about community events: https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/</p>
Closing Comments and Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry thanked everyone for coming to the first ever general meeting, noting it was an opportunity for the broader community to come together beyond just the working groups. • Matt thanked the team at Mary Graydon Center for hosting the event and looked forward to engaging in conversations that come from this meeting.