

American University
Community Liaison Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The quarterly meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Donzell Robinson from Justice and Sustainability Associates at 6:00 PM. Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer, welcomed attendees. Donzell Robinson reviewed the ground rules. Matt Bennett reviewed the agenda and then introduced JM Caparro, AU's new Director of Athletics & Recreation.

JM Caparro shared his excitement to work with the neighbors and become a part of the community. He highlighted his expectations of his student athletes in that they engage academically, in the community, and on the field. He emphasized the importance of the community being engaged on campus at events. JM Caparro then introduced Bryn Underwood, Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) President, who then introduced American University President Jonathan Alger.

President Jonathan Alger shared his personal history and connection to Washington, DC and the community. He discussed his initiatives and experience at JMU in engaging the and maintaining relationships with the Harrisonburg community. He provided insight on the civic life initiative that has already started. This initiative will delve into how to have civic engagement and civil discourse. It will be incorporated into curriculum and have a speaker series that is free and open to the public. He shared that he is doing a listening tour on and off campus to receive as much feedback as possible for hopes, aspirations, dreams for the university. President Jonathan Alger welcomed attendees to email him at president@american.edu to share their thoughts and questions. He discussed the work at AU to support students in need, including on-campus food pantries as well as a place where students can access donated professional attire.

No participants raised questions for President Jonathan Alger.

Standing Reports

Off-Campus Student Conduct

Justin Bernstine, Deputy Dean of Students, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as relevant to off-campus student conduct from May 31 through Sept 10, 2024. AU received seven reports, all from single family homes. One was regarding noise/parties and gatherings the other six were regarding maintenance/upkeep of property. During the same period last year, there were three reports.

Two reports were resolved through meetings with the Office of the Dean of Students staff. Three reports were referred to the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices. Two reports were determined not to involve AU students.

Meltzer Construction Update

Jonathan McCann, AVP of Planning and Project Management, next gave updates on construction items around AU. This included information on the Meltzer Center for Athletic Performance and Sports Center Annex, including geothermal well construction, Bender Arena work, the SCAN foundation, and Reeves field fencing.

Community Relations Update

Laura Marks, AVP of Community and Government Relations, updated the group on several new initiatives regarding Community Relations, including introducing the new Director of Community Relations Jason Millison, June – August 2024 Jacobs Field Sound Monitoring report access, Upcoming Neighborhood Movie Night, and the Next Quarterly CLC Meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 PM. She also shared that notes and the presentation will be posted online.

Good of the Order

Donzell Robinson opened the meeting to any questions and reminded participants that there is an opportunity to ask questions during the reception following the meeting.

Lawrence Miller asked regarding the office that collects professional wear to give to American University students.

Justin Bernstein clarified that it was the American University Career Center. A potential for coordination with the community around ways to make donations was raised

Donzell Robinson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees

Community:

Mary Ann Alger, Neighbor, American University Presidential Spouse
Robert Barocas, Neighbor
Diane Brewer, Neighbor
Mary Buckles, Neighbor
Blaine Carter, Neighbor
Margaret Chung, Neighbor
Chuck Elkins, ANC 3D Representative
Matt Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember
Noah Getz, Tenleytown Neighborhood Association
Diana Gregg, Alumni, Neighbor, Student Life and Safety Member
Teresa Guzman, Neighbor, Facilities Planning Member
Mona Khademi, Neighbor
Judith Kopperud, Student Life and Safety Working Group member
Morissa Lambert, Student and SAAC Vice President
Joanne Leshner, Neighbor
Bill Lucas, Neighbor

Maria Meier, Neighbor
Scott Meier, Neighbor
Lawrence Miller, Alumni and Neighbor
Maureen Miller, Neighbor
Shy Pahlevani, Neighbor
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Georgianna Paul, Spring Valley resident
James Petyak, Neighbor
Barbara Repp, AU Park Resident
Shelly Repp, AU Park Resident
Ronaheen Roha, Neighbor
Thomas Roha, Neighbor
Courtney Schrader, Neighbor
Larry Seftor, Neighbor
David Thompson, Neighbor
Bryn Underwood, Student and SAAC President
Betsy White, Wesley Heights Neighbor
Chris Wilkins, Neighbor
Katie Yoo, Student and SAAC Director of Communications
Karina Young, Neighbor

American University Staff:

Jonathan Alger, President
Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer
Justin Berstein, Deputy Dean of Students
JM Caparro, Director of Athletics & Recreation
Elizabeth Deal, AVP for Community and Internal Communications
Josh Finver, Assistant Director for Transportation Demand Management
Steve Jennings, Women's Field Hockey Head Coach
Laura Marks, AVP of Community and Government Relations
Jonathan McCann, AVP of Planning and Project Management
Brendan McNickle, Project Manager
Patty Medina, Associate AD, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
Jason Millison, Director of Community Relations
Phil Morse, AVP University Police Services and Emergency Management
Lindsay Teethers, Women's Lacrosse Head Coach
Vicky Wilkins, Acting Provost

Justice and Sustainability Associates Staff:

Donzell Robinson
Katie Smith