

American University
Community Liaison Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The quarterly meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) convened virtually via Zoom and was opened by Sherry Rutherford at 6:00 PM. Sherry welcomed attendees and reviewed the ground rules and agenda. Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer, provided opening remarks, which included an update on the emergency response to the incident at AU's broadcast tower, noting that it necessitated rescheduling the CLC from June 10. He also shared updates on federal policy issues affecting higher education, work at AU over the summer on enrollment, the university's balanced FY26 budget, and an overview of AU's ongoing strategic planning process.

Standing Reports

Construction Update

Jonathan McCann provided an update on construction of the Meltzer Center/SCAN project and the renovation of Reeves Field and Greenburg Track. Meltzer/SCAN remains on schedule for substantial completion by the end of 2025 and Reeves is scheduled to reopen in August. Jonathan also shared photos of the completed renovations at the Mary Graydon Student Center and plans for other upcoming renovation projects.

Off Campus Student Conduct

Justin Bernstine presented the Off-Campus Student Conduct report, which covered incidents from March 13, 2025 to April 29, 2025. During this period, there was one report of disruptive off-campus behavior, which was related to recycling collection and resolved with the assistance of the Office of the Dean of Students.

Transportation and Parking Update

Josh Finver provided a transportation and parking update, noting that parking enforcement data from January 13 to March 9, 2025 shows a significant increase in ticketing, particularly at the Methodist Church. There were 412 tickets issued during this period compared to 148 tickets during the same period last year. Josh also presented upcoming changes in campus parking policies, slated to take effect with the new academic year.

Questions / Comments:

Are any of these tickets issued to students living off campus and parking in the neighborhood? Will this apply to the new dorm that Wesley Seminary is planning to build?

- Yes, students parked beyond a 3-block radius of their off-campus home address can be ticketed for violating the Good Neighbor policy. That practice will be updated as needed to address any negative parking impacts from future student residents of the Wesley dorm.

Community Relations Update

Jason Millison provided a Community Relations Update reporting recent and upcoming events at American University including:

- A recap of AU Night at the Nationals on April 25 and Community Relations' sponsorship of Mayfair at Turtle Park on May 17.
- Neighbors are invited to join AU for the Palisades Fourth of July Parade. Contact Community Relations to participate.
- AU Women's Volleyball Summer Camp for Grades 6-12 will be held July 21-25.
- Neighbors are invited for a concert at the AU Woods-Brown Amphitheatre on August 29 as part of the DC Jazz Festival.
- AU will be hosting another Family Movie Night at the Woods-Brown Amphitheatre in September.
- The annual CLC Meet and Greet with President Jon Alger will be held September 17 at 6:30pm.

Jason also provided information on where to access the most recent Jacobs Field Quarterly Sound Monitoring Report that covers March 2025 – May 2025.

Good of the Order

Closing Questions and Comments

Wesley Seminary is seeking approval of their new Campus Plan from the Zoning Commission. Is AU engaging with them to coordinate on shared areas of concern?

- Matt confirmed that AU is in ongoing dialogue with Wesley and monitoring the Zoning Commission proceedings.

Judith Kopperud shared that she's assisting Tenley Main Street with a public art grant application and would like AU's support.

- Laura offered to coordinate with her on the request.

Sherry thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees

Community:

Larry Seftor, Spring Valley Neighbor

Judith Kopperud, AU Park Neighbor

Gary, Neighbor

American University Staff:

Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer

Justin Bernstine, Associate Dean of Students

Elizabeth Deal, AVP for Community and Internal Communications

Josh Finver, Assistant Director for Transportation Demand Management

Laura Marks, AVP of Community and Government Relations

Jonathan McCann, AVP of Planning and Project Management

Jason Millison, Director of Community Relations

Skip Vaughn, AVP Facilities Management

Sherry Rutherford, Facilitator