

Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Monday, June 5, 2017

**American University – School of International Service – Abramson Family Founders Room
7 p.m.**

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened at 7 p.m. by Don Edwards of Justice and Sustainability Associates, who acted as facilitator. He opened the meeting by welcoming neighbors and representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs).

He added that his role as facilitator was to keep the agenda moving forward with the aim of concluding the meeting by 9 p.m.

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

Fanta Aw, AU's Interim Vice President for Campus Life, then introduced herself as the interim chair of the Community Liaison Committee.

Jonathan McHugh, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, asked if there were any objections to him audio recording the meeting. There were none.

New Business & Neighborhood Issues

Don Edwards asked if there were any questions or comments related to the meeting agenda.

Alma Gates, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, expressed interest in discussing the differences between the Community Liaison Committee and the recently launched Neighborhood Collaborative.

Tom Smith, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association (SVWHCA) and Neighbors for a Livable Community (NLC), asked for enrollment information related to the number of students accepted for the fall of 2017.

Linda Argo, AU Assistant Vice President for External Affairs and Auxiliary Services, replied that preliminary enrollment information is typically provided in September, with a final report in December. She added that June is early, much is still in flux, and that it would not be productive to provide the information until the start of the fall semester. She added that the university has no reason to believe at this point that fall enrollment will exceed expectations.

Tom Smith stated that AU exceeded its enrollment projections by close to 10 percent last year due to the large number of applicants. He added that AU should know by now the number of accepted students, the number of enrolled students, and the number of transfer students. He asked if this information could be shared prior to the September 13 meeting of the Community Liaison Committee.

Dan Nichols, AU Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs, said that when AU's Director of Admissions presented at a meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, she spoke of the many variables that make it very difficult to make side by side comparisons of enrollment data. He stated that it would be more beneficial to provide accurate information at a later date.

Tom Smith stated that he wants to see the information so that he can make the comparison himself.

Troy Kravitz, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, said that he would like to see information related to matriculates.

Jeffrey Kraskin of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association stated that a patient of his advised that they were told at an AU information session that 70 percent of acceptances are through early admissions. He also said that having Don Edwards facilitating a meeting of the Community Liaison Committee is not a part of the CLC's rules.

Don Edwards replied that this concern was noted.

Chuck Elkins, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if AU could provide tentative numbers for fall enrollment and that providing this would show that AU trusts the CLC with this information.

Judy Chesser, of the Tenleytown Neighbors Association, said that the group should refer back to the CLC Operating Document.

Jonathan McHugh replied that the CLC came out of the zoning process.

Linda Argo stated that the zoning order governing the 10-year campus plan specifies an overall student enrollment cap (undergraduate, graduate, and law) which the university is not close to approaching. She added that in 2011 a separate enrollment cap of 2,000 was placed on the Washington College of Law, which AU is also not close to approaching. Some have raised concerns over recent increases in AU's undergraduate enrollment that exceed the projections made in AU's 2010 Campus Plan submission to the Zoning Commission (the original forecast was for a flat enrollment over the 10-year period). While the university has exceeded these projections for undergraduate enrollment, overall enrollment is not approaching the cap outlined in the zoning order.

Tom Smith replied that AU's housing requirement serves as a cap on undergraduate enrollment.

Linda Argo agreed and added that there is also no reason to believe AU will exceed this cap.

Jonathan McHugh stated that he would also like to see preliminary enrollment numbers.

Update on the AU Neighborhood Collaborative / Future of CLC

Linda Argo shared that since the last CLC meeting, the AU Neighborhood Collaborative has met three times, one of which was a Collaborative-sponsored meeting related to the new Hall of Science project. The other two meetings were organizational in nature where protocols, ground rules, and rules of engagement were discussed. There will be a Collaborative-sponsored meeting on August 7 and will focus primarily on gathering feedback on the proposed Hall of Science before filing plans with the Zoning Commission.

John Wheeler, of Ward 3 Vision, asked who made the decision on which people and groups to include as part of the Collaborative and how this decision was made.

Linda Argo stated that the initial filing with Zoning Commission included a list of members that consisted primarily of parties from the last campus plan. She added that AU received positive feedback from the Commission on the Collaborative proposal.

Troy Kravitz said that Collaborative members took a very expansive view of inclusion during the group's initial meetings.

Tom Smith stated that the Zoning Commission would not take any action on the Community Liaison Committee or Collaborative at the last hearing due to their belief that members of the CLC should have a chance to weigh in. The commission also accepted AU's language for changes to the university's housing requirements in exchange for working with neighbors on the issues discussed at the July hearing.

William Clarkson, of the Spring Valley Neighbors Association, said that it would be helpful to circulate the language of both the original and modified agreements.

Claire Craik, of Westover Place Homeowners Corporation, added that the Collaborative is an organization and a new process. As such, some confusion may exist. She added that, personally speaking, she finds the Collaborative to be refreshing due to the fact that discussion is free-flowing and members can bring all issues to the table.

Chuck Elkins seconded Claire Craik's comments and added that the Collaborative has the potential to be a positive force. He stated that procedurally speaking, there is no direction from the Zoning Commission concerning the Collaborative's membership. Perhaps the CLC could discuss this and make recommendations as to membership in the Collaborative.

John Wheeler stated that he was in agreement with Chuck.

Judy Chessler, of the Tenley Neighbors Association, also shared her agreement and asked about the difference between the CLC, Neighborhood Collaborative, and Neighborhood Forum. She said there are already too many meetings to attend.

Alma Gates, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked why it is necessary to have three different groups.

Troy Kravitz responded that he sees the Forum as a venue for neighbors only to build capacity and learn about campus and city planning to prepare for the next round of campus plan discussions with AU. The Collaborative will act as a precursor to the next campus plan. The CLC is the least functioning of the three groups and he has no stance on its future.

Jeffrey Kraskin added that the CLC should be for reporting purposes and for meeting standard reporting requirements.

Alma Gates said that one of the reasons the CLC was created originally was due to the complaint that AU was not communicating with its neighbors. She added that the CLC is open to everyone and that this is helpful as an ANC Commissioner in gathering information to share with constituents.

Troy Kravitz stated that the Forum is also open to everyone with the exception of AU.

Tom Smith said that the significance of the CLC should not be minimized and that the reports presented are critical to ensure AU is complying with its campus plan. He added that he attended one Forum meeting and found it interesting, despite the fact that AU is paying an outside party to educate the community on campus planning, which does not feel right. He continued that the Collaborative, as it has evolved, now seems duplicative. The Collaborative was to be geared to addressing day-to-day problems, but looking at group's guidelines, it seems as process-oriented as the CLC. He added that he has not attended any meetings of the Collaborative.

Troy Kravitz stated that neighbors have an opportunity to make these groups functioning bodies and that trust among neighbors is key to its success. This trust could be built at the Forum with an additional level of trust between AU and its neighbors as well.

Chuck Elkins added that detailed staff work is needed at the Collaborative level. He continued that issues need to be discussed in depth and that all involved will need to do some work in between these meetings. Ideas for solving these problems could be brought to the CLC, which is missing this layer of staff work in between meetings. Chuck said that he recently talked to Linda Argo about this as it relates to the proposed Hall of Science. A couple of technical issues were raised regarding the emission of chemicals and other hazardous materials. While he has no

reason to think that AU will not address these matters, how can the CLC discuss it without reading a report ahead of time? He stated that this means work on behalf of neighbors as well in that they must read these materials ahead of time and be prepared to comment and ask questions.

William Clarkson asked how the Collaborative compares with the “model” Georgetown Community Partnership.

Don Edwards responded that AU and Georgetown present two different situations from an historical standpoint. Institutions are learning and growing and developing mechanisms to engage with fence-line neighbors. As such, they evolve. At Georgetown, the way that it grew was to have as many of these conversations as possible until folks felt these issues had been sorted out. Building consensus after this discussion built the integrity of the Partnership. This conversation leads people to feel confident in decisions that get made.

Tom Smith said that during the last campus plan, there were lots of complaints about concerns not being heard and taken seriously which was the genesis for having the VP of Campus Life as the CLC chair. He added that student behavior was a large part of it as well, especially in Tenleytown.

William Clarkson stated that the letter from the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Neighborhood Association that accompanied the recent agreement states that the CLC is all reports and offers no opportunity to resolve issues. He added that the Collaborative is needed to address concerns from adjacent neighbors.

Jonathan McHugh said that Tom Smith raised this issue a couple of meetings ago. The Collaborative will have working groups like the Georgetown Partnership. He asked what is trying to be accomplished through the Collaborative.

Tom Smith responded that AU originally came to ANC 3D and the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Neighborhood Association, but in retrospect there should have been a larger group. Discussions revolved around specific issues as opposed to the Georgetown Partnership. For example, students were congregating to smoke on Rockwood Parkway and he could not get a timely response on the matter from AU. Issues like this are for the Collaborative, as they do not affect residents in Embassy Park or McLean Gardens

Jonathan McHugh said that the Collaborative could be a set of working groups.

Tom Smith said that with respect to the Georgetown Partnership, he was chair of ANC 3D during the initial Georgetown campus planning process. One problem that emerged was that

once people were excluded from the beginning, they could not join the group and that these situations should be avoided.

Don Edwards stated that if the group wants the CLC to consist of only standing reports, then we should do that. If the group wants to catch people up from different parts of the neighborhood, the Forum is the mechanism. The Collaborative could be the problem-solving entity. The group should come to some conclusion as to how to spend time most efficiently.

Gretchen Randolph, of the Spring Valley Neighbors Association, asked if the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Neighborhood Association is the reason why we have a Collaborative.

Tom Smith responded that at the July 14 Zoning Commission hearing, AU was told to go back and talk to its neighbors, so AU approached the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Neighborhood Association to discuss the need for better communication. In addition, they worked together on language to help AU get its housing requirement exception.

Gretchen Randolph asked if the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Neighborhood Association played an integral role in developing the Collaborative.

Tom Smith replied that both that association and ANC 3D played a role.

Gretchen Randolph asked why then was the Association not participating in the Collaborative.

Bill Krebs, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Neighborhood Association, replied that the reason is that the agreement is not being upheld by AU. He added that the association will not participate in something with which they do not agree.

Dan Nichols stated that the Zoning Order dictates CLC membership and that AU took an inclusive approach to participation. At the Zoning Commission it was alleged that the CLC was not effective because of its inclusivity. From there, AU moved forward with the Collaborative, which is now being framed as too exclusive. What is the answer here?

Don Edwards stated that other venues are available that need to be taken advantage of to continue this conversation and that several reports remain on the CLC agenda.

Claire Craik said that neighbors should keep an open mind and that fighting the battles of the past will not get anyone anywhere. The emphasis moving forward is on collaboration and tonight's discussion is a waste of time. Some people are not willing to accept new ideas and this is unfortunate.

Gretchen Randolph added that the Collaborative is a great opportunity to discuss issues in depth and that one representative per group is a good idea. Thus far, the Collaborative has proven to be productive and it is unfortunate that some people have not been attending.

Chuck Elkins asked if one of these groups should be more limited and stated that it is hard to do business with too many people, but also could be difficult down the road if others are excluded. He asked if membership on the Collaborative could be offered on an annual basis for those who wish to participate in the process.

John Wheeler stated that when the Collaborative was brought to the CLC's attention, he believed it to be a good idea. The CLC is not effective in solving some issues. He added that what he finds offensive is how we define the body that will be making these decisions and that he believes that it deliberately excludes some people. He added that ANC members especially, no matter if their Single Member Districts are adjacent to AU or not, should be able to attend the Collaborative.

Troy Kravitz said that during the last Collaborative meeting, ground rules were established that lean towards inclusivity. What is needed is a body of neighbors that attends on a consistent basis, which can help to facilitate a more productive process. In addition, consistent representation is needed each time so that neighbors can get familiar with one another and there is continuity in the process and discussions.

Jonathan McHugh stated that he believes the CLC should have had this conversation originally and that he would like some sort of vote on the matter.

Chuck Elkins said that this conversation is too important and asked that it be continued at the conclusion of the meeting.

Construction Update

David Dower, AU's Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management, updated the CLC on progress at various construction projects both planned and under way on campus. His presentation can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Capital-Projects-Update-06-05-17.pdf>.

East Campus

David Dower reported that on East Campus, final "punch list" items are being addressed and that the Department of Public Safety has completed its move to the campus. Faculty will move into offices from mid-June through July.

Tom Smith asked for an update on the Westover buffer issue.

David Dower replied that additional plantings are being prepared for the buffer in

collaboration with residents at Westover Place. Planting is scheduled for the fall.

Claire Craik stated that the Westover Place Board of Directors supports AU's proposal for additional plantings in the buffer and has passed along the plan to residents for feedback which will be shared with AU.

Hall of Science

David Dower reported that since the last CLC meeting, AU presented proposed plans for the Hall of Science at a Collaborative-sponsored meeting, as well as at a meeting of ANC 3D. AU will go back to ANC 3D, as well as submit to the Zoning Commission, in the fall. An August Collaborative-sponsored meeting will also focus on the proposed building.

A Hall of Science FAQ can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/buildingAU/upload/Hall-of-Science-FAQ-05-03-17.pdf>.

Tom Smith asked if the building's penthouse is viewable from the neighborhood.

David Dower responded yes, a small portion. He added that the penthouse structure will be taller than Beeghly but set back from the roof edge and further from the neighborhood. The building will be no taller than the existing Beeghly building.

Dennis Paul, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, asked what the façade will look like on the portion of the building that faces the neighborhood.

David Dower replied that he will address that question shortly.

Alma Gates asked if the 70-foot building height includes the penthouse structure, to which David Dower responded yes.

David Dower stated that the portions of the building facing the university will be teaching classrooms. The small portion that faces the neighborhood will be glazed. He added that this issue was also raised at the ANC 3D meeting and that the university is prepared to address any concerns regarding that side of the building.

Dennis Paul said that he advocates for timed mechanical blinds on the side of the building that faces the neighborhood.

Tom Smith asked when the university plans on filing, to which David Dower responded June.

Public Safety Building Demolition

David Dower stated that a small building along Rockwood Parkway which formerly housed AU Public Safety is being demolished down to the foundation. The demolition is being driven by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' desire to remediate the soil underneath the

building. After three weeks of demolition, the site will be turned over to the Corps for this work.

Summer Projects on Campus

David Dower said that there are several summer projects under way interior to the campus including in Bender Library and the Kerwin (formerly Ward Circle) Building.

Tom Smith asked how many parking spaces will be lost as part of the Hall of Science construction.

Dan Nichols responded that AU does not know the exact number at this point, but can report it to the CLC when we do.

Dennis Paul asked why an underground parking garage was not considered as part of the Hall of Science project.

David Dower replied that the site is not large enough to accommodate a garage and that the university does not have the demand. He added that even with the loss of these spaces, the university will maintain the minimum number required by the Zoning Commission.

Homes Whalen, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if feedback received at the meeting of ANC 3D will be included in the university's initial filing.

David Dower replied no, but added that AU is committed to addressing the issues that were raised at that meeting.

Holmes Whalen asked if what was presented to ANC 3D is what will be submitted to the Zoning Commission, to which David Dower replied yes.

Report on Off-Campus Student Conduct

Michelle Espinosa, AU's Associate Dean of Students, updated the CLC on reports of off-campus student behavior issues for the past academic year. This information can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Off-Campus-Student-Conduct-Update-06-05-17.pdf>.

Michelle Espinosa stated that AU received 33 reports this past year, 18 related to single-family homes, and 22 from apartments, the Berkshire and Avalon specifically. She also reported a decrease in public street activity and stated that a smoking shelter near Rockwood Parkway has helped with these issues on this side of campus. There were 30 individual complaints in addition to some anonymous ones. Three single-family homes had more than one report.

Michelle Espinosa added that AU's off-campus living orientation as well as reaching out to neighbors and students immediately upon receiving a complaint have helped bring these

numbers down. Continued coordination and collaboration between AU Public Safety and the Metropolitan Police Department also has contributed.

Betsy White, a neighbor, asked what happens with information related to complaints received during the summer months.

Michelle Espinosa replied that the information presented includes the day after graduation the previous year to the day after graduation the following year. She added that most complaints are received during the academic year and that AU averages around three complaints each summer.

Chuck Elkins asked how the university handles single-family homes with multiple complaints.

Michelle Espinosa stated that immediate referrals to student conduct have helped to address houses with multiple complaints.

Andrew Huff, AU's Director of Community Relations, added that he works closely with District agencies as well to address houses with multiple complaints.

AU President Sylvia Mathews Burwell Update

David Taylor, the AU President's Chief of Staff, said that Sylvia Mathews Burwell, reported June 1 as the new President of American University. He added that her first day on the job she welcomed around 500 staff members to the President's office building. She also will be planning a visit to the CLC in the near future.

Her first year on the job will include issues related to a new university strategic plan, as well as the next campus plan among other things. She'll be inaugurated in spring 2018 and her children will attend Horace Mann Elementary School.

Good of the Order

Andrew Huff announced several upcoming campus events open to the community and referred attendees to their meeting packets for additional information. He mentioned specifically the annual Make Music Day on June 21 and Neighborhood Movie Night on August 18.

Continued Discussion on the CLC & Neighborhood Collaborative

John Wheeler stated that he believes the group agrees that there is a need for small groups to deal with specific issues.

Andrew Huff said that he believes a small group of regular attendees is critical to the success of the Collaborative.

Linda Argo said that there is no intent on AU's part to do anything to change the CLC. It is prescribed in the Zoning Order through 2021. She added that the Collaborative, on the other hand, has a different purpose and structure than the CLC. What the Collaborative agreed to do is consistent with what AU feels is important to focus on at this time.

She stated that Zoning Commission Chair Anthony Hood said positive things about AU working with the community in positive ways at the last hearing.

John Wheeler stated that the agreement only names AU's main campus.

Linda Argo replied that the final agreement includes the Washington College of Law at the Tenley Campus as well.

John Wheeler asked about the old law school at 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW (now known as the Spring Valley Building).

Linda Argo replied that this building is not included in the current campus plan.

Andrew Huff added that despite this fact, AU still works to address any issues associated with the building and its impact on the neighborhood.

Alma Gates said that there are many at the CLC with differing levels of knowledge. The Collaborative and CLC are both very important. She added that had there been information about the role of the Collaborative presented to the CLC ahead of the meeting, much of the meeting would not have had to focus on it.

Jonathan McHugh said that part of the issue is that the CLC has not discussed this yet.

Don Edwards asked the CLC – What are the next steps? What should we plan moving forward?

Chuck Elkins asked how will decisions be made.

Claire Craik stated that if neighbors continue to spin their wheels on bureaucratic issues instead of problem solving, nothing will ever be accomplished. She continued that there are issues and topics to discuss but if the group keeps going back to discuss organizational matters, everyone's time will be wasted.

Don Edwards asked who in attendance had read the established guidelines for the Collaborative. He added that the next CLC meeting is September 13 and the next Collaborative-sponsored meeting is August 7. Additionally, the next meeting of the Forum is June 27, which is the right venue to continue this conversation.

Don Edwards continued by stating that in his view, the Collaborative exists and has been formed. Members have agreed on a process. Things can be changed, but a decision was taken by members to create this body.

Dan Nichols asked Bill Krebs why the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association is not attending the Collaborative and who he is speaking for.

Bill Krebs replied that he is speaking for the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association and Neighbors for a Livable Community. He continued that there was an agreement that established the Collaborative but AU is not collaborating. For example, AU hired an outside facilitator and allowed outside groups to participate.

Dan Nichols stated that groups who chose not to participate risk losing their voice at the table.

Bill Krebs replied that he is considering this fact.

Chuck Elkins asked what new members had been added by AU since the original agreement.

Bill Krebs replied that the agreement listed the parties to the 2011 campus plan and that the plan was to limit membership based on the issue at hand.

Chuck Elkins stated that he was aware that Holmes Whalen had been added recently.

Linda Argo stated that the Spring Valley Neighborhood Association was added also.

Gretchen Randolph added that the agreement specifically states that newly formed neighborhood associations and groups will be invited to join the Collaborative.

Chuck Elkins asked to discuss the CLC neighborhood co-chair in greater detail once AU had determined who from the university would act as the new AU co-chair.

The next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee is **September 13, 2017**.

Attendees

Community:

Judy Chesser, Tenley Neighbors Association
William Clarkson, Spring Valley Neighbors Association
Claire Craik, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Caroline Croft, Neighbor
Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 3D
Alma Gates, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Harry Gates, Neighbor
Jeffrey Kraskin, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Bill Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Jonathan McHugh, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E
Nicholas Kram Mendelsohn, Office of Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Alan Pollock, Fort Gaines Citizens Association

Pat Pollock, Fort Gaines Citizens Association
Gretchen Randolph, Spring Valley Neighbors Association
Barbara Repp, Neighbor
Tom Smith, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Jane Waldman, Tenleytown Historical Society
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
Betsy White, Neighbor

American University Staff:

Linda Argo, Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Auxiliary Services
Fanta Aw, Interim Vice President of Campus Life
David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management
Michelle Espinosa, Associate Dean of Students
Hisham Khalid, General Counsel
Dan Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs
David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President

Other:

Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates
Ashley Blackwell, Justice and Sustainability Associates