

**Community Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 10, 2019**  
**American University – East Campus – Constitution Hall (Rooms 1-3)**  
**7 p.m.**

**Introductions & Opening Remarks**

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Don Edwards, from Justice and Sustainability Associates, at 7 p.m. Chief of Staff and Counselor to the President, Seth Grossman, who convenes and leads the meetings for American University, welcomed representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs). Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations, introduced Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations. Maria Barry introduced herself, shared her background, and expressed her willingness to connect with neighbors.

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

**Standing Reports**

*Construction Projects Update*

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management updated the CLC on progress at the Hall of Science. This presentation can be found at: <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Capital-Projects-Update-06-10-19.pdf>

Dennis Paul, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, asked if a brick façade is going up. David replied that a brick wall and a curtain wall would go up.

Jeffery Kraskin, of the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked about the individuals picketing Skanska.

David explained that the dispute is between the contactor and the subcontractor. He mentioned that he reached out Skanska.

Jeffery asked if there are any other building plans in this campus plan cycle.

David mentioned the Low-Temperature Hot Water Project. He introduced a potential project of a multi-purpose gymnasium to address American University's inadequate sports facilities. He stated that AU Athletics and donors have expressed interest. David explained that the timeline is not known, but that he will share more as information arises.

William Clarkson, of the Spring Valley Neighborhood Association, asked if the gym was related to basketball or tennis courts. David replied that conversations have not begun yet.

Tom Smith, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if the campus plan permits a separate athletics building or an additional facility.

David replied that additions to the multipurpose gymnasium and the replacement of the Sports Center Annex are in the current campus plan. He noted AU's intention to share information about the potential project early due to its location.

Bruce Klein, of the Fort Gaines Citizens Association, asked for clarification about what a curtain wall is.

David explained that a curtain wall is an all-glass wall with a laboratory behind it. He further explained the orientation of the brick-curtain wall.

Bruce Klein asked if the building would be four floors. David replied that three floors would be above ground and two floors would be below grade.

Dennis Paul asked about the intended use of the 25,000 square feet where the basketball courts are located.

David replied that the current problem is basketball practice space for varsity teams and competitions for wrestling and volleyball teams.

Dennis Paul asked how many stories the gymnasium would be. David stated that conversation has not gotten far enough to answer that question.

Dennis Paul suggested having an underground gymnasium facility and emphasized the expectation of neighbors to be involved in the process.

William Clarkson asked about the cost of building underground.

David responded that the cost and level of experience in building underground are concerns. He further stated his expectation that issues will be worked out through the process. David also emphasized the willingness of AU to share information about this project early and an interest in full discussions with neighbors.

#### *Student Conduct Off Campus since March 2019; Office Campus Conduct Presentation*

Michelle Espinosa, Associate Dean of Students, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as it applies to off-campus student conduct. She also provided information about AU partnerships with organizations unaffiliated with American University and information on new initiatives. This presentation can be found at:

<https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Off-Campus-Student-Conduct-06-10-19.pdf>

Marlene Connors, a neighbor, asked for an explanation of how students are educated about the code of conduct process.

Michelle responded that mechanisms used are the off-campus housing fair in beginning of each semester, emails and related information-sharing, and materials distributed by her office. She also pointed to orientations for leadership trainings that include student conduct discussions.

Don Edwards asked if there is a requirement that students must be oriented with student conduct before being permitted to move off campus.

Michelle replied that students are not required to live on campus. She explained that the Student Code of Conduct applies to all students, which means that all students are made aware of conduct expectations at the beginning of the year and throughout the year (e.g. risk management procedures, student welcome activities). She stated that plans for a mandatory off-campus orientation can be discussed.

Taylor Berlin, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, raised the issue that interpersonal off-campus conduct between students and student-to-student complaints is not handled efficiently. She asked what the process is for student complaints.

Michelle responded the complaint process is the same for students as for neighbor complaints.

Dennis Williams, of the Tenley Neighbors Association, reiterated a desire for a mandatory orientation for off-campus students. Michelle expressed that AU is moving in that direction.

Robert Scholz, a neighbor, asked if AU has processes and mechanisms to address interpersonal, sexual, and domestic violence.

Michelle replied that AU maintains compliance with Title IX and has an office dedicated to these issues. AU also works closely with MPD to address interpersonal and sexual violence.

Robert Scholz asked if AU has preventative efforts to address interpersonal and sexual violence.

Michelle said that AU requires workshops and education for new students on reporting, consent, and related topics. She explained that AU has procedures for both addressing sexual assault and preventing it.

Taylor Berlin raised a concern that professional sororities off-campus do not have requirements like social societies do. She further raised the issue that the AU Title IX office is not efficient or active enough.

Michelle offered to meet Taylor to further discuss her concerns.

Don Edwards asked CLC participants if there is interest in a briefing from Regina Curran, the AU Title IX Officer.

Tom Smith thanked and congratulated Michelle for her responsiveness and effectiveness in dealing with student problems in the community.

Jim Connors, a neighbor, asked if there is a directory of organizations available. Michelle replied that the Center of Student Involvement shows a listing of active organizations.

Dennis Williams asked for clarification about the sanction of student removal from university housing but not from the university itself. He expressed a concern of this sanction shifting the student behavior problem to people living in the community.

Michelle explained that removal is only for individual students, not for an entire fraternity.

Don asked Michelle if her office reports on the individual numbers on a semester basis.

Michelle replied that her office does not report data publicly on individuals in accordance with the law, but the office does provide numbers on neighborhood reports and what type of sanctions were used. She also mentioned that information on student organizations is available and not protected by privacy laws.

Don asked if reporting is available on the sanction categories. Michelle responded that statistics are not available publicly, but the statistics are in the annual report.

Don asked if requiring students who want to live off campus to receive an orientation is an onerous requirement on AU.

Michelle responded that the difficulties are when to provide the orientation and how to accommodate for the logistics. Michelle further explained that her office is discussing how to increase participation in orientations, especially considering the limited availability of enforcement mechanisms. She referenced other continuing efforts including orientation programs with group houses and an online education program.

Bruce Klein asked where students live in the Fort Gaines neighborhood and expressed interest in having the university track where individual students live off campus more effectively so Fort Gaines could take proactive actions before an incident. He suggested having a survey or census of students.

Michelle responded that AU has a list in their student records since students are asked to update local addresses before classes begin. She invited neighbors to contact her office for information and inquiries about students in a specific house or houses. She also expressed a willingness to address any problems.

Bruce Klein asked about tracking of off-campus students who move during a semester.

Michelle replied that movements from on campus to off campus are recorded. She stated that addresses of students moving between private residences are difficult to monitor, but that students are asked to update local address information.

Bruce Klein asked how many students live off campus. Michelle agreed to follow up with an answer.

Robert Scholz asked for information on AU's alcohol policies.

Micelle replied that AU follows DC law. She explained that students of age can possess limited quantities of alcohol on campus under certain stipulations. She further stated that students in violation are held accountable to the Student Code of Conduct.

Robert Scholz asked if binge drinking is an issue at AU. Michelle responded that AU, like all universities, respond to a high number of incidents of intoxication.

### *Traffic Management Update*

Daniel Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs, presented updates on the Transportation Demand Management program. His updates concerned car-sharing service providers, traffic management during graduation, and traffic concerns around the Spring Valley building (e.g. shuttle stop, ride-sharing services, and delivery vehicles on Massachusetts Ave).

Tom Smith asked AU to address a concern of AU vehicles parking around the Spring Valley building. He also asked if there were alternative options to using DDOT traffic directors.

Dan replied that corrective action is being taken for AU vehicles around the Spring Valley building. He explained that there are not alternatives to using DDOT, since AU police and MPD are not available options. Dan stated that he and Philip Morse, Assistant Vice President of University Police Services and Emergency Management, would meet with DDOT supervisors prior to the next graduation ceremonies.

Tom Smith asked if AU would work with DDOT and keep residents informed during fall move-in.

Dan replied that information will go out on the listserv. He explained that the move-in process has been changed significantly and expects significant improvements to traffic impacts.

Dennis Paul asked why AU cannot work with MPD on traffic management. Dan replied that AU is not allowed since traffic direction is no longer an overtime option for MPD.

Chuck Ekins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, shared that AU's aggressive programs to address students parking in neighborhoods is not being fully and effectively communicated to neighbors.

Dan replied that AU will continue to press forward and share information with neighbors.

Dennis Williams asked what the policy is for parking in neighborhoods and how many cars students have.

Dan responded that, according to the Good Neighbor Policy, anyone affiliated with AU must park on AU property without exception in order to abide by employment and student expectations.

Dennis Williams asked if students can receive Zone Three parking if they live in the neighborhoods.

Dan replied that students who come to campus are still expected to park on campus. He stated that he did not know the number of cars used by students, but mentioned that the use of mass transit is increasing. Dan agreed to retrieve information about questions that AU can answer.

Taylor Berlin acknowledged the increased student use of AU's Metro University Pass program (U-Pass program). She asked about AU's policy on bicycle and scooter usage.

Dan responded that the current campus plan allows dockless bicycles and scooters to park on campus in order to mitigate impact on neighborhoods. He states that AU is looking into options for the Spring Valley building and Tenley Law School.

Betsy White, from Wesley Heights, noted the frequent stopping of ride-sharing vehicles on Nebraska Ave. and asked about the where the permitted stops for ride-sharing vehicles are.

Dan replied that three locations are available for ride-sharing vehicles – one on East Campus and two on main campus. He explained that Uber and Lyft are resisting use of specified locations. He also stated that he and Ed Fisher planned to meet with DC Vehicle for Hire which is the enforcement arm for Uber.

Chuck Elkins suggested that the Good Neighbor Policy include license plate numbers of vehicles.

Dan responded that the ideas has been looked into for faculty and staff, but mentioned a concern about ensuring accurate, up-to-date information.

Tom Smith asked for information to be provided at the next CLC meeting on parking use at the Spring Valley building, specifically about what has changed in usage and times of usage.

Dan replied that there is 70 percent usage, with evening usage presenting a security issue. Dan agreed to look into usage with information that will include parking usage in the university overall.

Bruce Klein expressed appreciation from the neighborhood for allowing neighbor use the AU shuttle and being considered part of the AU community.

#### **New Business & Neighborhood Issues – Open Discussion**

School year events/calendar updates from Ed Fisher:

AU Museum Summer Exhibition Opening Reception

Saturday, June 15, 6 – 9 pm  
AU Museum, Katzen Arts Center

Eagle Summit  
June 20 - July 20 (Mon/Tues or Thurs/Fri sets)

Discover World Through

Boy Scout Conferences  
July 17 – July 21  
July 22 – August 1  
Aug 2 – Aug 11

First Year Move In  
Aug 20 and 21, 9 am – 5 pm

Returning Student Move-In  
Aug 22 and 23, 9 am – 5 pm  
AU Planning 101  
Sept 5, 6 – 8 pm  
Butler Board Room

Ed mentioned a change of date for the next CLC meeting to September 23, 2019. Ed also stated that a new tab is available on the AU website for the 2022 campus plan where documentation and materials from events and information-sharing sessions will be housed.

Maria Barry announced the upcoming AU movie night in August with more information to be provided.

Tom Smith asked if AU is planning to use the Berkshire in Fall 2019 for on-campus housing.

Ed replied that he did not know the answer but will look into the question and provide information.

Tom Smith asked for an update on the status of the AU Neighborhood Partnership. He requested a routine standard report of the Partnership and asked that a short presentation on campus planning updates be provided at CLC meetings.

Ed replied that once concrete information is available, AU will provide a presentation. He pointed CLC participants to the handout of the Partnership update and Partnership FAQs. Ed further stated that introductory Partnership meetings have occurred and there is nothing to report out yet. This handout can be found at:

<https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/AU-Neighborhood-Partnership-Update-06-10-19.pdf>

Tom Smith stated that potential plans at AU should be volunteered as information to community members.

Ed replied that AU plans to be transparent about information on projects and will continue to share as information arises.

Don asked where people can find dates of events.

Ed replied that the CLC websites have CLC meeting dates, the monthly newsletter provides AU Planning 101 dates, and events are listed in CLC meetings and meeting minutes. He pointed to the AU calendar and Katzen calendar online.

Ed shared that more information on move-in will be in the August newsletter and any changes that arise will be shared on the listserv.

Tom Smith asked if AU will restrict hours of move-in.

Ed responded that move in will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and that he will work with Dan Nichols on traffic concerns.

## **Good of the Order**

*CLC Meetings for 2018-2019*

**Proposed 2019-2020 CLC Meeting Dates: September 23, 2019, December 10, 2019; January 7, 2020 (Town Hall); March 17, 2020**

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

The next meeting of the CLC will be on **September 23, 2019** in Rooms 1-3 of Constitution Hall on East Campus.

## **Attendees**

*Community:*

Myra Barron, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Taylor Berlin, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
William Clarkson, Spring Valley Neighborhood Association  
Jim Connors, neighbor  
Marlene Connors, neighbor  
Martha Cutts, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Esther Garcia, neighbor  
Alma Gates, Neighbors for a Livable Community  
Teresa Guzman, Westover Place Homeowner's Association  
Jessica Herzstein, Spring Valley neighbor



Gordon Kit, neighbor  
Bruce Klein, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Jeffrey Kraskin, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association  
Troy Kravitz, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Bill Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association  
Denise Liebowitz, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community  
Alan Pollock, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Pat Pollock, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Charles Reusch, neighbor  
Doug Saunders, Westover Place Homeowner's Association  
Robert Scholz, neighbor  
Tom Smith, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association  
Phil Thomas, Palisades neighbor  
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision  
Betsy White, Wesley Heights neighbor  
Dennis Williams, Tenley Neighbors Association

*American University Staff:*

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations  
Jeffery Brown, Dean of Students  
David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management  
Michelle Espinosa, Associate Dean of Students  
Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations  
Seth Grossman, Chief of Staff to the President  
Philip Morse, Assistant Vice President of University Police Services and Emergency Management  
Daniel Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety & Transportation Programs

*Other:*

Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Kayla Elson, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Laura Gramling, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
George Koichi Wong, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC