

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Monday, December 10, 2018
American University – East Campus – Constitution Hall (Rooms 1-2)
7 p.m.

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by AU Special Counsel to the President, David Taylor, who convenes and leads the meetings for American University. He opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. by welcoming representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs).

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

Standing Reports

Student Conduct Off-Campus since September 13

Andrew Huff, AU Director of Community Relations, reported that since the last CLC meeting on September 13, there have been zero reports of off-campus student misconduct in single-family homes. He went on to state that there have been issues with several units in an apartment building at 3333 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

Alma Gates, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if the building was owned by AU, to which Andrew Huff responded no.

Claire Craik, of Westover Place Homeowners Corporation, asked if AU had provided or plans to provide any guidance to students related to the use of dockless scooters.

Andrew Huff replied that he was unsure and would follow up with the appropriate AU staff to find out.

Capital Projects Update

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management, updated the CLC on progress at the Hall of Science. His presentation can be viewed at <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Capital-Projects-Update-12-10-18-2.pdf>.

Tom Smith, of the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if AU engaged with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to commencement of construction.

David Dower replied, yes. The university is required to do so before any major excavation on campus. He added that AU also did some additional site surveying as the Corps had not investigated the location below the asphalt. No issues were discovered.

David Dower reported about an earlier incident involving a light malfunction on the WAMU tower. He said station personnel are working to determine the source of the malfunction and that it had nothing to do with the Hall of Science construction. He added that work on the WAMU tower upgrade has yet to begin and that this work likely will get underway in the spring,

Tom Smith asked if upgrades to the WAMU tower would involve any change in the current lighting.

David Dower replied that work mainly will entail rearranging the existing tower equipment and that he would confirm that no changes to the lighting are planned.

Jeffrey Kraskin, of the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if the tower is owned by AU.

David Taylor responded that while it is owned by AU, it is managed by WAMU because of their technical expertise.

Fall 2018 Enrollment & Housing Report

Karen Frosolid Jones, AU Assistant Provost of Institutional Research and Assessment, presented the Fall 2018 Enrollment and Housing report. This information can be viewed at <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Fall-2018-Enrollment-and-Housing-Report-12-10-18.pdf>.

Tom Smith stated that AU recently presented an undergraduate enrollment figure of 6,632 to the Zoning Commission that was meant to reflect a decline. He added that the original projection AU provided the Zoning Commission as part of the 2011 campus plan was 6,400.

Karen Frosolid Jones responded that these figures were projections, that things change over time, and reiterated the fact that the university remains under the Zoning Commission-imposed enrollment caps for both the main and law school campuses.

Tom Smith replied that impact comes from undergraduates – not graduates – and that AU committed to the Zoning Commission that it would flatten its enrollment. He asked if the university's approach is to continue to grow as long as enrollment remains under the cap.

David Taylor added that the university also has a housing requirement that acts as a governor for enrollment and reiterated that the numbers presented to the Zoning Commission were projections.

Tom Smith stated that an agreement was made to ease the housing requirement and all triples and beds at the Berkshire Apartments to be counted during East Campus construction and in return AU was going to manage enrollment, but the numbers keep going up.

David Taylor stated that projections involve several variables and that the university is not attempting to game the system, but simply to provide projections year to year. He added that it is not the university's desire to grow the undergraduate population significantly.

Troy Kravitz, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, stated that he shares concerns about the increase in undergraduate enrollment, but is more concerned about any potential objectionable impacts as a result. He asked if there are any indications that there are adverse impacts related to this increase.

David Taylor replied that over time issues related to off-campus behavior have declined significantly.

Tom Smith stated there also are adverse transportation issues related to the increase.

Alma Gates said that the mid-block pedestrian HAWK signal installed by the District Department of Transportation and the recent work to add signals at the Massachusetts Avenue approaches to Ward Circle are all due to the university.

Claire Craik stated that 300 students is not a lot in terms of overall impact, but that she also is concerned about increased enrollment.

Tom Smith asked how many of the 330 triples are being used currently and how many beds at the Berkshire apartments are being used.

Andrew Huff stated that he would find out and report back to the CLC.

Dennis Williams, of the Tenley Neighbors Association, asked what the enrollment cap is.

David Taylor responded that the overall enrollment cap is 13,600, with a requirement to have housing capacity for 2/3 of these students.

Shelly Repp, of Neighbors for Responsible Development, asked what the university's projections are for the next semester.

Karen Frosliid Jones replied that enrollment is always lower for the spring semester.

A member of the Fort Gaines Citizens Association asked how many student parking spaces there are on campus and how many students use them.

David Taylor replied that spaces are not specifically set aside for students and that AU will provide the total number of student parking passes issued currently.

Tom Smith asked when there will be a plan presented on enrollment moving forward.

David Taylor replied that discussions are forthcoming among university officials regarding many things including strategic planning, budgeting, and enrollment.

New Business & Neighborhood Issues – Open Discussion

Tom Smith stated that he had questions regarding the AU Neighborhood Partnership. He continued by asking how Ward 3 Vision is considered a neighborhood group adjacent to the university.

Andrew Huff, AU Director of Community Relations and interim co-chair of the AU Neighborhood Partnership, responded that the Partnership Steering Committee had made the decision based on the group's work in Tenleytown, where the Washington College of Law is located.

Jessica Herzstein, a neighbor, asked if the Partnership's Terms of Reference and Ground Rules could be shared.

Andrew Huff replied that these documents are internal to the Partnership Steering Committee members and that membership for the current year is closed. He added that annually the Steering Committee would hear requests from organizations interested in joining.

Tom Smith asked Don Edwards, of Justice and Sustainability Associates, what his role is with the Neighborhood Partnership.

Don Edwards replied that his role is that of facilitator and advisor and that Laura Gramling, a JSA staff member, has been more involved in the group's formation.

Tom Smith asked if the Terms of Reference and Ground Rules are the same as those of the Georgetown Community Partnership, to which Don Edwards replied he did not know.

Claire Craik, the neighborhood co-chair of the Partnership stated that the working groups have not been convened and that interested neighbors should reach out for additional information.

Bill Krebbs, of the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked what the process was for transitioning from the Neighborhood Collaborative to the Neighborhood Partnership.

Claire Craik replied that it was simply a name change that the group felt sounded better.

David Taylor reiterated that the Partnership and CLC are separate entities, intended to complement each other.

Troy Kravitz stated that the Zoning Commission viewed the Partnership as being separate but equal to the CLC.

Tom Smith stated that he cannot understand how the groups involved currently in the Neighborhood Partnership are able to agree to documents that others cannot see.

Jessica Herzstein asked if Partnership members are permitted to inform their constituencies of their work, to which Claire Craik responded yes.

Bill Krebbs asked if the Partnership will work with the university on development of the next campus plan and what the CLC's role will be in that process.

Claire Craik responded that the CLC also will play a role in developing the next AU campus plan and that the Partnership and CLC do not supplant each other, but rather will work together.

Good of the Order

Jeffery Kraskin asked for additional information on why participants in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) are not permitted to use the AU parking app and receive the parking discount that accompanies its use.

Andrew Huff replied that this is a contractual agreement between OLLI and the university and that he does not believe that the use of the app and the minor discount it offers is what is causing the OLLI-related parking issues around the Spring Valley building.

Shelly Repp stated that he has complained about the parking issue at this location before and encouraged AU to take a look at other solutions. He added that Dan Nichols' recent letter to the District Department of Transportation did not mention this location as a problem, despite many complaints.

Andrew Huff stated that enforcement of the Good Neighbor parking policy is a challenge in many ways, but that the university would continue to work on it.

Tom Smith added that OLLI participants also park on 48th Place and 49th Street on the opposite side of Massachusetts Avenue.

Alma Gates said that she has participated in campus planning for many years and that she feels division among the community over the Partnership will not bode well for the neighborhood.

Troy Kravitz asked if she had voted in favor of both the Collaborative and Partnership while service on ANC 3D.

Alma Gates replied that she was offering her observations of the discussion at the meeting.

William Clarkson, of the Spring Valley Neighborhood Association, stated that the Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens Association previously moved to strike from the record a submission at the latest Zoning Commission hearing which detailed the Partnership and its founding members. He added that the Zoning Commission is aware of what the university and neighborhood are doing as it pertains to the Partnership.

Bill Krebbs asked if the Partnership is going to be an official legal entity.

Andrew Huff replied that the Partnership is a legitimate organization.

John Wheeler, of Ward 3 Vision, stated that the CLC is not a legal organization.

Jeffery Kraskin stated that Wesley Seminary is considering development of a new housing facility on their campus and that AU may be interested in utilizing a portion of it.

CLC Meetings for 2018 – 2019

Andrew Huff reminded CLC members of the upcoming President's Annual Town Hall & Reception on January 14 and encouraged all to attend. He also reminded attendees of the proposed CLC meeting dates for 2019 – 2020 and asked for attendees to alert him to any potential conflicts.

Proposed 2019 – 2020 CLC Meeting Dates: June 11, 2019; September 17, 2019, December 10, 2019; January 7, 2020 (Town Hall); March 17, 2020

David Taylor thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

The next meeting of the CLC will be on **March 19** in Rooms 1-3 of Constitution Hall on East Campus.

Attendees

Community:

Diane Dragaud, Fort Gaines Citizens Association
Alma Gates, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Harry Gates, Neighbor
Troy Kravitz, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Bill Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Jeffrey Kraskin, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Shelly Repp, Neighbors for Responsible Development
Doug Saunders, Westover Place
Tom Smith, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
Dennis Williams, Tenley Neighbors Association

American University Staff:

David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management
Andrew Huff, Director of Community Relations
Karen Frosolid Jones, Assistant Provost of Institutional Research and Assessment
David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President

Other:

Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC

Kayla Elson, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC