

American University Neighborhood Liaison Committee Meeting
Bender Library Archives Reading Room (3rd Floor)
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, 2009

MEETING NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Neighborhood & Community Representatives:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Alan Pollock | Ft. Gaines |
| 2. Andy MacCracken | AU Student Government |
| 3. Anne Sullivan | Ft. Gaines |
| 4. Anthony Byrne | TCNA |
| 5. Benjamin Tessler | Westover Place |
| 6. David Fehrmann | Westover Place |
| 7. David Haselkorn | ANC3D |
| 8. Dennis Paul | Spring Valley |
| 9. Lee Minichiello | ANC3D |
| 10. Mary Ellen Fehrmann | Westover Place |
| 11. Nan Wells | ANC3D |
| 12. Robert Herzstein | Spring Valley |
| 13. Samantha Green | AU student |
| 14. Sarah Shapley | Spring Valley – RCA |

AU Representatives:

1. Jorge Abud, Assistant VP, Facilities & Administrative Services
2. Penny Pagano, Director, Community and Local Government Relations
3. Maria Pahigiannis, Projects Coordinator, Office of the President
4. David Taylor, Chief of Staff, Office of the President
5. Sara Waldron, Associate Dean of Students

1. Introductions & Attendance

2. Old Business – None.

3. Facilities

SIS Building

- a. The garage/lower level construction is complete.
- b. Above ground structure is in progress. It is scheduled to be under roof in October.
- c. Completion date is still projected for May 2010.

Kay parking lot removal and Kogod landscaping

- a. The Kay parking lot has been removed and the landscaping outside the new Kogod expansion is almost complete – more plants and trees will be added in the near future.
- b. The neighbors expressed concerns regarding the new landscaping:

- The re-grading of the land gives Spring Valley a more institutional feel.
 - Objections were voiced about removing the buffer previously provided by the wall of trees. They hope AU will reconsider putting the buffer back.
 - A number of neighbors said they were not fully aware of the final landscaping and grading plans.
- c. AU administration responded to the neighbors' concerns:
- David Maloney from the Historic Preservation Review Board commented that he thought the new re-grading and landscaping looked great and that he very much liked the views of the quad from Massachusetts Ave.
 - They also reminded the neighbors that Paul Davis, Landscape Architect, made every effort to reach out to the neighbors during the landscaping process.
 - AU believes that the growth and addition of other plants can achieve the buffer the neighbors want.

Kreeger/Roper renovation

- a. Kreeger is being renovated for Faculty offices. Faculty in Roper will be relocated there.
- b. Roper will then be converted to housing for 60 students.
- c. Demolition of Kreeger started several weeks ago, and completion is scheduled for December 2009.
- d. Roper is scheduled to be completed by August 2010.
- e. Clark and Gray may also be converted to housing after the completion of Roper.

Annual Residence Hall Renovation

- a. Anderson Hall was renovated this summer.

Retail food service in Mary Graydon

- a. The retail food service concepts have been updated to keep them contemporary.
 - The former Chik-fil-a location will now host a Tex-Mex restaurant.
 - The former Pure Vida coffee shop will now host a "grab-and-go" location.

Zoning Action

- a. The Zoning Commission approved an extension request for the McKinley building.

Housing

- a. AU is leasing at least 80 units in The Berkshire Apartment Building as there is a housing shortage on campus. This lease is short-term only.
- b. No freshman will be housed there. Only juniors and seniors were offered housing there.
- c. The students will be dispersed throughout the building.
- d. There will be two Housing & Dining employees (similar to resident assistants) also living in the Berkshires to assist with student issues.

Real Estate

- a. Balduccis is closing on 6/30/2009 as they chose not to renew the lease.
 - AU is working to find replacement tenant, and assured the neighbors that they are looking for a similar type of store if possible.
 - Some neighbors said they would lobby Trader Joes to fill the vacant location.
 - An issue the neighbors would like to see addressed for that location is the delivery

procedure. As trucks cannot deliver before 7am, they often double park on New Mexico negatively affecting the traffic in the area.

Miscellaneous

- a. A suggestion was made to fix the landscaping between Katzen and Nebraska Hall as well as the area along Massachusetts Ave to the side of the President's Office Building.
- b. The cinder blocks from the Katzen parking garage that are visible from Massachusetts Ave. will be painted.

4. Campus News

- a. Enrollment estimates for fall semester:
 - 1,500 new freshman
 - 275 transfers
 - 3,400 students in housing (On main campus and at Tenley). Housing is tight. There will be quite a few triples.
 - 12,000 total enrollment (including undergraduate, graduate, law and nondegree/certificate programs)
 - Population cap & enrollment report will be shared with NLC at the September meeting.
- b. Freshman orientation underway
 - 530 freshman are registered for the Freshman Service Experience where they will participate in community service activities at 50 different sites around DC
- c. AU receives A2 rating from Moody's
- d. AU branding study
 - Thanks to the neighbors who participated in this survey
- e. Other activities on campus:
 - Farmers Market every other Wednesday on the Quad
 - OLLI lectures that neighbors can attend free
 - Summer Exhibits at the Katzen
 - Summer programs at WCL
 - Arboretum tours
 - October 10, 2009 – Dalai Lama speaking at Bender Arena

5. Neighborhood Issues

- a. 4485 Sedgwick St
 - This house is once again occupied by students, after a 2-year break. Neighbors would like AU to meet with the new student tenants to make clear the expectations of them to be good neighbors
 - Similar houses on Springdale, Tindall & Upton Streets should receive the same info.
- b. 4437 Sedgwick St
 - This student house was great throughout the academic year. During the summer months it appeared to become a “rooming house” and there were a few incidents. The police were called once.
- c. The Office of Campus Life produces a “Good Neighbor Guide” and distributes it to all students. Housing & Dining has also held a number of workshops about being a good neighbor.

6. New Business

- a. Introduction to new website www.american.edu and its new Community Relations page
- b. Introduction of new AU Student Government President Andrew MacCracken and Sami Green, AU student interested in running for vacant ANC3D seat
- c. Update on Army Corps Cleanup
 - AU expects the President to move into 4835 Glenbrook Rd. sometime during the Fall semester.
 - 4825 Glenbrook Rd. will still need a few months of work.
 - Public Safety Building is also still being worked on.
 - Army Corps may again want to look at the soccer field and track to conduct a few other assessments. This could happen in December or January.
 - Nebraska Parking Lot will now also be investigated due to neighbor concern.
 - AU Archives are open to the public for review. The only documents that are not publicly accessible are the Board of Trustees materials that deal with the university as a private corporation. EPA personnel, however, were allowed to review these materials in April 2005 and reported their findings to the Restoration Advisory Board in May 2005.
 - Neighbors expressed their concern that the USACE will leave before the job is complete and urged AU to take the responsibility to make sure the work is done.
 - AU administration assured the neighbors that the USACE cannot stop their work until Congress has approved it and feels that the work is done – Eleanor Holmes Norton made this very clear at the last hearing.
- d. Update on Campus Plan, new Campus Plan working group, and first meeting date.
 - The first proposed meeting date of the campus plan community working group is in the last week of July, with the second meeting to follow in September and the third in November.
 - The expected submission time for the Campus Plan is July/Aug 2010.
 - All meeting dates and relevant documents will be posted on the Campus Plan website - <http://www.american.edu/finance/fas/Campus-Plan.cfm>.

7. Other Business

- a. The next NLC meeting will take place on September 15, 2009.