

## American University Neighborhood Liaison Committee Meeting

Mary Graydon Center, Room 3  
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, 2010

### MEETING NOTES

#### 1. Attendance

##### Neighborhood & Community Representatives:

- Jane Becker, Westover Place
- Judith Berson, Westover Place
- Mike Bilecky, Ft. Gaines
- Jane Deland, Wesley Seminary
- David Fehrmann, Westover Place
- Mary Ellen Fehrmann, Westover Place
- Matt Frumin, ANC 3E
- David L Haselkorn, Wesley Heights
- Lee Minichiello, ANC 3D08
- Dennis Paul, Spring Valley
- Alan Pollock, Ft. Gaines
- Susan Rolnick, The Greenbriar
- Dorothy Sampas, The Greenbriar
- Tom Smith, Spring Valley

##### AU Representatives:

- Jorge Abud, Assistant VP, Facilities and Administrative Services
- Jerry Gager, University Architect
- Gail Hanson, Vice President of Campus Life
- Hisham Khalid, General Counsel's Office
- Walter Labitzky, Director of Facilities, Washington College of Law
- Michael McNair, Chief, Department of Public Safety
- Penny Pagano, Director of Community & Government Relations
- Maria Pahigiannis, President's Office
- David Taylor, President's Chief of Staff

#### 2. Student Issues

Vice President of Campus Life Gail Hanson spoke to the neighbors regarding student behavior, problem houses, and the University's process for dealing with student issues in the neighborhood. She communicated:

- There are two problem houses this year, one on Ellicott St. and the other on Butterworth Pl.
- AU takes student issues very seriously, and is working with a variety of community partners to combat undesirable student behavior, including: Metropolitan Police Department (MPD); Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA); National Greek Officers; and the homeowners/landlords of the student houses.
- When incidents occur, students are always personally engaged. They are brought into the office for face-to-face discussions.
- The law constrains AU from speaking with parents without the consent of students, but often they do provide consent when they feel the situation is serious.
- AU has also put together a committee of on-campus individuals to address student issues, including representatives from: Campus Life, Student Activities, Greek Life, Student

Conduct and Conflict Resolution Services, General Counsel, Public Safety and the President's Office.

- This committee is reviewing the current student conduct code and will make changes to it that will expand the University's authority to intervene more off-campus.
- Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Services have mediation experts on hand.
- Campus Life has hired a new staff member to deal specifically with off-campus housing and to provide orientation programs for students who decide to live off campus.
- AU is also looking at updating the Community Relations website to make it more interactive so that neighbors can access/communicate with the appropriate AU staff persons 24-hours a day.

The neighbors expressed their frustrations that AU does not have a handle on student behavior, and that the University is not educating students well enough on being good neighbors. Furthermore, neighbors feel that AU responds too slowly to incidents/problems.

Lastly, the neighbors raised their concerns about the cross walks on Ward Circle. They are very poorly lit and when evening classes let out, students are in danger of getting hit. Many students also neglect to use the cross walks, which in turn make the Circle even more dangerous. The neighbors suggested AU work with the DC government to install new lighting around the Circle.

### 3. Housing Update

- Historically, AU has accommodated returning students in on-campus housing. This year the University is limiting the number of returning students to make more on-campus housing available to freshman.
- This year AU has also made some changes to the housing lottery system, guaranteeing juniors who study abroad in the fall on-campus housing for the spring semester. This is an incentive to for juniors to study abroad in the fall, which would balance/smooth out housing needs some.
- Additional housing – Roper & Clark buildings – will be completed by the fall and will add 118 beds.
- 200 students will be accommodated in the Berkshires for AY 2010-11. AU has also just begun talking to the Berkshires about renting apartments for a few more years while new on-campus housing is built.
  - Housing and Dining has assigned two resident assistants to the Berkshires and they live in the building with the students.
  - AU only rents efficiencies & one-bedroom apartments.
- The neighbors suggested that AU expand the shuttle service to include a new route that goes around Ward Circle, down Massachusetts Ave to Cathedral and up New Mexico Ave. to deal with all the students who walk up Massachusetts and New Mexico Avenues.
- The neighbors also asked that we remind the residents of Nebraska Hall to keep their outdoor activities quiet as the weather gets nicer.

### 4. Parking/Ticketing

- See attached handout.
- Commissioner Smith asked AU to provide the actual number of tickets that are given to students, faculty and staff.

- Chief McNair estimated that about 90% of the tickets issued around the main campus are for students, faculty and staff.
- Mr. Labitzky estimated that only about 10% of the tickets issues around WCL are university related individuals. He explained that WCL has a lot more commercial traffic so their ticketing technique is different from that of the main campus.

#### 5. Army Corps

- 4825 Glenbrook – they will soon be moving the containment structure to another area on the property. The Army Corps has found more than 300lbs of debris, ceramics, glass and containers. Some empty munitions have also been found, as well as some vomiting agent, mace and mustard.
- Reeves Field – they are on schedule to begin sideways trenching on a strip of the field near Western Avenue.
- In response to a question from Commissioner Smith, Mr. Abud informed the neighbors that AU has shared all pertinent information with the Army Corps with regards to the possible locations of munitions.

#### 6. Campus Calendar

- April 28 – May 4: exam period
- May 7 – 9: graduation
- May 23: WCL graduation
- June 10: Juvenile Diabetes event on campus

#### 7. Other Business

- SIS Building Completion: the building is on target for a May completion.
- Other Facilities Updates:
  - The Kreeger renovation is almost complete.
  - Work on Clark and Roper has already begun.
  - There is nothing new to report on real estate. The Balduccis space remains vacant, but Grawlers market is coming to visit the location.
- AU will be meeting with DDOT in April to talk about improving pedestrian safety at Ward Circle.
- Janey School: AU will provide access to the athletics fields at the Tenley Campus for the school's recess and physical education classes.
- Next Campus Plan Meeting – April 20, 2010.