

American University Neighborhood Partnership Steering Committee: Re-Affirmation of Partnership Principles

May 17th, 2022



**JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY
ASSOCIATES**



Agenda

Welcome and Review Agenda
(5 minutes) – Don, All

Existing Conditions (15 minutes) - Ed, All

Review and Re-Affirm Partnership's Core Principles
(30 minutes) – All

Next Steps (10 minutes) - Don, All



Existing Conditions

AU working in collaboration with the Partnership successfully developed the 2021 Campus Plan proposal, incorporating the input and requests from the Partnership, and filed and approved the 2021 Plan before the DC Zoning Commission in June 2021

Neighborhood Steering Committee Co-Chair is unfilled

Motion to re-open 2021 Campus Plan based on Fall 2021 Enrollment Report did not succeed

Mixed signals regarding adherence to core Partnership principles

AU
**Neighborhood
Partnership:
Core Principles**

Decisions are made in a Consensus-based Framework

Commitment to Open Dialogue and Collaboration

Dedication to Problem Solving through Outlined Processes

Communication Between Stakeholders

Transparency



AU Neighborhood Partnership: Ground Rules

1. The Partnership members (defined as Steering Committee members and Working Group members) will engage in facilitated discussion, which allows for the voicing of different opinions and holds everyone in the room responsible for a successful collaborative process to the maximum extent possible.
2. The Partnership members participate as representatives of their organization or neighborhood. Members will take care to delineate their personal views from organizational interests in The Partnership deliberations.
3. When speaking with others outside the Partnership (such as the media), Partnership members should indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the Partnership and present only the views of their organizations or their personal views, as the case may be. Members will conscientiously refrain from expressing, characterizing, quoting or judging the views of others. The Partnership Steering Committee Co-Chairs, by agreement between them, may speak from time to time on behalf of the Partnership.
4. Each member of the Partnership takes responsibility for attending regularly-scheduled meetings, reading distributed materials, honoring confidentiality of sensitive materials and promoting the overall success of the Partnership.
5. Each member of the Partnership agrees to reach decisions by consensus* to the maximum extent possible with the guidance of the Co-Chairs and impartial facilitation.



AU Neighborhood Partnership: Ground Rules

6. The Partnership members will be aware of the limited time in the meetings and will therefore express themselves succinctly to allow time for others to share their thoughts and opinions.
7. The Partnership members agree to accept impartial facilitation by Justice & Sustainability Associates, LLC to promote consensus-based decisions and to accept staff support from American University.
8. The Partnership members will attend an orientation organized by the Partnership Steering Committee with support by facilitators.

*Consensus-based decision: “Consensus decision-making is a group decision making process that seeks the consent of all participants. Consensus may be defined professionally as an acceptable resolution, one that can be supported, even if not the "favorite" of each individual. Consensus is defined by Merriam-Webster as, first, general agreement, and second, group solidarity of belief or sentiment. It has its origin in the Latin word *cōnsēnsus* (agreement), which is from *cōnsentiō* meaning literally feel together. It is used to describe both the decision and the process of reaching a decision. Consensus decision-making is thus concerned with the process of deliberating and finalizing a decision, and the social and political effects of using this process.



Upcoming Meetings:

Next Scheduled Steering Committee Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Additional Proposed Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Tuesday June 21, 2022

AU Town Hall: Tuesday, June 28, 2022

