

American University
Community Liaison Committee
Quarterly Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
6:30PM – 8:00PM

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Don Edwards, from Justice and Sustainability Associates, at 7:00 p.m. Vice President of People and External Relations Seth Grossman, who convenes and leads the meetings for American University, welcomed representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs).

Standing Reports

Student Conduct Off-Campus since March 1, 2022; Office Campus Conduct Presentation

Jeff Brown, Dean of Students, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as relevant to off-campus student conduct from March 1 – September 1, 2022. There were 9 reports of disruptive off-campus behavior that came from single family homes. All reports involved complaints of noise and large gatherings. Nothing came from apartment or condo buildings. During the same period last year there were 9 reports. Total for the academic year 2021-2022; 30 reports. Jeff also went over actions on how reports were handled.

Capital Projects Update

Jonathan McCann, AVP of Planning & Project Management, provided information on AU's House renovation of 3244 Nebraska Avenue, which is scheduled to be completed Spring 2023. Jonathan also provided information on the Marabar Art exhibit which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

Q: When was the article posted in the NY Times
Jonathan responded it was in 2021

Community Garden Relocation:

Jonathan provided information on the need to relocate the garden, possibly behind the Katz Arts Center.

Q: Who uses the community garden?

Jonathan responded it is for use by AU students. Four students are hired in the summer months to do the grounds work.

Community Events Update

Maria Barry, Director of Community Affairs, provided information on bringing back family movie night in partnership with Horace Mann Elementary School, which will be hosted on September 23 on AU's campus. The movie that will be screened is Paws of Fury. The Annual event, Art All Night returns to Tenleytown on September 24 from 7pm to midnight. This is a citywide event, Mayor Bowser initiative. Art All Night will consist of popup galleries, and performances to celebrate all the local artists. Information about the event can be found in AU's newsletter. The last event that Maria reported on is the Home and Garden Tour, which will be held in October.

Campus Plan Update

Jonathan McCann, AVP of Planning & Project Management, reported on campus planning and the final order on April 8 to build a sound barrier wall. The location chosen mitigates the buffer area. The filing of the process will take place no later than Oct 8.

Q: Where are you with them on the process?

Jonathan stated AU has actively engaged the neighbors throughout this process. Met on many occasions and will continue to do so.

Q: When will it be completed?

Jonathan responded that he is not sure when the start date will be because it is driven by the zoning process, which is unknown. It will take approximately 12 weeks to do the wall itself with additional time for landscaping.

C: AU is required to take action from the five events that has taken place since April 8 report.

Q: What's considered a loud noise?

Jonathan responded 80 decibels or more. Depends how close you are to the noise.

Q: If you live across the street from a hockey game, what is the point of the wall?
Jonathan stated the purpose of the sound barrier is to lower the decibels for nearby neighbors.

Q: The new retaining wall that was put up by the city due to the new expanded sidewalk on Nebraska Avenue and to protect the surface, is AU going to match the other side of the stone retaining wall to beautify the wall to match the circle?

Jonathan stated he will have to consult internally with AU first because it is the first, he is learning about the new wall.

Q: What is the next project AU is working on?

Jonathan stated that the next project will be the new athletic facility. We do not have an immediate timeline for this.

Q: Any architects working on the design?

Jonathan responded not as of now.

C: Noticed there is no enrollment report here.

Ed fisher stated it will be provided at the December meeting.

Q: Have the students from Asia come back?

Ed stated that a lot of students came back from that part of the world, but probably not at the level in previous years.

Q: I noticed the AU bus stopping on Massachusetts Ave. Will that continue?

Ed stated that yes, the bus will continue to stop there.

Q: Can community members ride the bus?

Ed stated AU is not there yet, due to the pandemic. For now, it is suspended.

Other Upcoming CLC Meeting Dates:

December 6, 2022

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and mentioned the PPT presentation will be made available on the website in the next day or so. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Attendees

Community:

Alma Gates, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Betsy White, Wesley Heights resident
Bob Scholz, resident
Bruce Klein, Ft. Gaines
Carols Wells, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Christian Damiana
Denise Liebowitz, Wesley Heights Neighbors
Dennis Williams, Tenleytown Neighbors Association
Diane Dragaud, Fort Gaines Citizens Association
Douglas Saunders, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Jared Sax, American University Park
Judith Kopperud, resident
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
Josie Scholz, resident
Mona Khademi, Wesley Heights
Richard Morrison, Cathedral Heights
Shelly Repp, Tenleytown Neighbors Association
Steven Lamm
Teresa Guzman, Westover Place
Timothy Talley, Wesley Heights resident
Tony Long, OLLI at AU

American University Staff:

Beth Deal, AVP Community and Internal Communication
Ed Fisher, AVP of Community and Government Relations
Phillip Morse, AU Chief of Police
Jeff Brown, Dean of Students
Jonathan McCann, AVP, Planning & Project Management
Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations
Seth Grossman, Vice President of People and External Relations
Sherry Rutherford, AU Consultant

JSA Staff:

LaTia Few, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC
Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC
Sureka Jayawardena, Justice and Sustainability Associates LLC

