

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Meeting was Held Virtually On Ringcentral
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Don Edwards, from Justice and Sustainability Associates, at 6:30 p.m. Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations Ed Fisher, 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 December 2020; Office Campus Conduct Presentation

Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as relevant to off-campus student conduct from December 1, 2020 through March 8th, 2021. There was one report of a gathering/party related to COVID-19 regulations with AU conducting the appropriate follow-ups. The presentation can be found at <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/CLC-Presentation-March-9-2021-DRAFT.pdf>.

Betsy White, a Wesley Heights neighbor, asked about a report of an AU student passing away in an associated fraternity house.

Ed acknowledged the incident and offered his condolences, he further added AU was cooperating with Law Enforcement Officials in the investigation.

Construction Projects Update

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management updated the CLC on the new Hall of Science and research lab building. This presentation can be found at <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/CLC-Presentation-March-9-2021-DRAFT.pdf>.

New Business and Neighborhood Issues

Ed Fisher gave an update on the effects of COVID-19 on American University and the 2021 Campus Plan. Ed also shared information on the mid-semester residential experience. This presentation can be found at <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/CLC-Presentation-March-9-2021-DRAFT.pdf>.

Dennis Williams, of Neighbors for a Liveable Community, asked if AU was testing all students for COVID-19.

Ed responded that AU is making testing available for all students who want it, adding that any students living on-campus must be tested twice a week.

Dennis asked specifically about students living off-campus.

Ed replied that students who live off-campus have access to testing as well, but are not mandated to be tested. Next, Ed spoke to the launch of AU's Mid-semester residential experience which welcomed around 550 additional students on campus in three residential sites.

Shelly Repp, of the Tenleytown Neighbors Association, inquired about references in the Campus Plan for a possible downtown campus in AU's future.

Ed replied that they are waiting to see what the market looks like and discussing what AU students want in an educational experience.

Shelly stated hotel space downtown is pretty cheap at the moment.

Dennis Williams inquired about Condition 11 in the plan, asking if approval of this condition allows AU to enter into master leases without further approval by the Zoning Commission or other community involvement outside the Partnership.

Ed replied AU doesn't have the ability to enter into master-leases at will. They stated that AU believes entering into master leases where they control most if not all of the building does not have objectionable impacts, adding that AU would also take community input if that occurred.

Dennis stated that to him it seems that this is an open ended authority for AU to lease whatever it wants and read off a portion of Condition 11 of the Campus Plan.

Ed replied AU's goal is to not enter into extra master-leases, AU's stated goal is to build 500 beds on campus in priority sites. Ed added AU was also pleased with its agreement with the Frequency and would like to continue it.

Tim Talley, a Wesley Heights resident, stated in a prior meeting Ed conveyed what the term and lease of the Frequency lease is, and asked Ed to restate it.

Ed stated the current lease expires in June of 2021 and AU expects to extend the lease.

Tim stated he was reviewing the CLC website and in the past there had been project updates regarding the remediation in a project site on AU's land. He asked why there had been no updates on the CLC website since 2019.

Ed stated that AU would be more frequent about updating the website.

Good of the Order

The next AU Townhall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming CLC Meeting Dates:

June 1, 2021 (Townhall)

September 14, 2021

December 7, 2021

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Attendees

Community:

Anthony Ciccone, Fort Gaines Citizens Association
Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Gerry Gallucci, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Teresa Guzman, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Dr. Jeffery Kraskin, Spring Valley Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Troy Kravitz, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Tony Long, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Joan Morgulec, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Liveable Community
Shelly Repp, Tenleytown Neighbors Association
Douglas Saunders, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Josie Scholz, resident
Timothy Talley, Wesley Heights resident
Benjamin Tessler, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Dennis Williams, Neighbors for a Liveable Community
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
Betsy White, Wesley Heights resident

American University Staff:

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations
Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer
Bob Campe, Associate Dean of Finance, Administration and Strategic Planning
David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management
Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations
Seth Grossman, Chief of Staff to the President
Daniel Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety & Transportation Programs
Sherry Rutherford, AU Campus Plan Consultant, Requity Real Estate

JSA Staff:

Joshua Babb, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC
Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC
Laura Gramling, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC