

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2013
American University – Katzen Arts Center – Room 154
6 p.m.

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Gail Hanson, AU Vice President of Campus Life, who convenes and leads the meetings for American University. She opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. by welcoming attendees, who then introduced themselves and stated their affiliations. She advised that the meeting would be followed by a Town Hall meeting with AU President Neil Kerwin and the annual neighborhood holiday reception.

Gail Hanson referred attendees to additional parking enforcement data in their meeting packets which included a more detailed break out by neighborhood of issued parking tickets.

She then stated that some CLC members were having difficulty navigating the CLC website (<http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/index.cfm>) and advised that the site was reorganized recently to make it easier to find information and documents related to the CLC.

Finally, she reported that additional time is needed to complete the Fall 2013 enrollment report in order to keep the commitment that was made to produce the report in a standard format so it can be compared with previous reports. She continued that we are still within the reporting year and that this information should be posted on the CLC website by the end of the month.

Construction Update

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice President of Planning and Project Management, provided updates on the Washington College of Law and East Campus projects. His presentation can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/Capital-Projects-Update-12-03-13.pdf>.

Washington College of Law

David Dower stated that the Washington College of Law (WCL) construction currently is in the excavation and lagging stage and will be so for the next two months. At the end of January/beginning of February, concrete work will begin. He stated that construction is moving along, but that people would not see major changes on the site for some time.

Alan Pollock, representing the Ft. Gaines Citizens Association, asked if anything had been discovered underground during digging on the site.

David Dower responded nothing was uncovered and that if something were discovered, construction would stop to identify and remove it. He stated that two original cornerstones from the building were recovered and that one has a time capsule inside of it dating back to 1955. AU currently is working with the church to arrange an event to open the time capsule in the fall of 2014.

Matthew Frumin, representing the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, asked how long the section of fencing currently blocking sidewalk access on Yuma Street would remain.

David Dower replied that he is unsure, but that it will be moved as soon as the project allows. He added that there is a webcam available for those interested in watching the construction live (http://147.9.152.10/view/viewer_index.shtml?id=195).

Alan Pollock inquired about the hours for concrete work.

David Dower responded that AU is mindful of the approved work hours and that Whiting-Turner has lots of experience with neighborhoods and working in residential settings. He continued that if there are ever any work-hour-related issues, they will be communicated directly to neighbors.

Linda Argo, Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Auxiliary Services, stated that AU already has had a couple of occasions where neighbors needed to be notified and that a system is in place that works well.

David Dower stated the pile driving on the project concluded a few weeks ago and that this was the most disruptive part of construction.

John Wheeler, representing Ward 3 Vision, said that he heard the pile driving and was happy that it took place during the colder months when windows are closed.

Leigh Katherine Miles, representing the Tenleytown, DC blog, asked if there were any restrictions on trucks using Tenley Circle.

David Dower responded that trucks will be on site within approved work hours. He continued that the one complaint he has received thus far about truck traffic turned out not to be associated with the WCL project. He also said that the site is monitored closely and that AU constantly strives to minimize and mitigate any disruption to the neighborhood.

Kent Slowinski, representing the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked how many trucks a day enter/exit the site and where they are going.

David Dower replied that there are 150 trucks per day. He stated that he is unsure of their ultimate destination, but they are prohibited from traveling on neighborhood streets.

East Campus

David Dower stated that AU now is preparing building plans for East Campus that eventually will allow us to apply for the required permits and that these plans are being developed consistent with what was approved.

Alan Pollock asked if Nebraska Avenue will continue to be both an entrance and exit to the site.

David Dower replied yes and that construction vehicles are likely to utilize this entrance/exit as well. He stated that these are the types of specifics that will be provided at the project's pre-construction meeting with neighbors.

Harry Thayer, from the Foxhall Condominium, asked about the future of the trees at Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues, NW.

David Dower replied that AU is committed to preserving trees whenever possible and that we will work to preserve the landscape buffer. He added that AU is a designated arboretum and that we have a great staff of landscape architects.

Matthew Frumin asked when the project is targeted to begin and end.

David Dower stated that construction is slated to begin in April/May 2014 and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2016, in time for the Fall 2016 semester.

Student Conduct: Summary of Incidents since September 24 Meeting

Michelle Espinosa, AU Associate Dean of Students, reported on conduct cases that have occurred since the last CLC meeting.

Since the last CLC meeting, six complaints have been received regarding six unique properties. She added that a few other general complaints about foot traffic and noise from voices also were received.

Of these six properties, AU students were identified and called in for a meeting with the Dean's staff. Three individual students were referred to the AU Conduct Council for not responding to meeting requests. She added that when AU student groups are implicated in off campus housing complaints, other relevant departments are looped into the process, such as Athletics and Fraternity & Sorority Life.

She concluded by advising an overall decrease in the repetition of complaints.

Gail Hanson offered thanks to AU students and ANC 3D Commissioners Rory Slatko and Joe Wisniewski for participating in AU's Community Relations Coordinating Committee. She stated that their involvement has helped with many successful interventions. She also advised the CLC that AU received no complaints during the

Halloween holiday. AU does a lot of outreach and messaging at this time to advise students of expectations of behavior in the neighborhood.

AU Events & Activities Open to Neighbors

Andrew Huff, AU Director of Community Relations, announced several events and activities open to neighbors, including:

- AU men's and women's basketball 2-for-1 ticket vouchers are available by contacting Andrew at ahuff@american.edu.
- AU is supporting and sponsoring the Tenleytown Winterfest, taking place the weekend of December 7.
- AU's Community Audit program is open for residents in the 20016 ZIP code who are aged 60 or older. Additional information can be found at <http://alumniassociation.american.edu/s/1395/index1col.aspx?sid=1395&gid=1&pgid=2556>.

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Benjamin Tessler, from the Westover Place Homeowners Association, asked additional questions regarding the East Campus project. Specifically, he asked if plans had changed regarding the underground parking garage and buffer buildings, as well as what the façade on the buffer buildings will look like.

David Dower responded that the number of parking spaces has not changed, as this is required by the District. However, the parking garage is being designed with two levels underground as opposed to one. He continued that AU originally proposed 119 parking spaces, but after a conversation with the community, this was increased to 150. No drawing was ever produced to show this, but two levels is the only way to accommodate this number of parking spaces. He stated that a two-level garage would not result in a significantly deeper hole than a one-level garage.

Linda Argo added that as we move into the permitting phase, AU believes that the design will be viewed as consistent with the approved plans. She added that a two-level garage does not add additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR) or add anything additional above ground. She also stated that AU is working to comply with the requirements for underground parking and loading, while maintaining the current curb cuts.

David Fehrmann, from the Westover Place Homeowners Association, asked if the hole dug for East Campus construction would be comparable to the hole dug for the WCL project (28 feet).

David Dower replied that it will likely be around the same depth. He added that the program for the buffer buildings has not changed and that they will house academic

departments, classrooms, administrative offices, and AU Public Safety. He continued that the façade will be consistent with what was presented and approved by the Zoning Commission – a combination of brick and pre-cast. The sections facing Westover Place, per the request of residents, will include more brick.

Bill Krebs, from the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if there might be any problems with bedrock when digging begins for the East Campus parking garage.

David Dower stated that extensive boring has been done around the site and that problems related to bedrock are not expected. There may be boulders to contend with, but no major issues.

The CLC meeting was followed by a Town Hall meeting with AU President Neil Kerwin and the annual community holiday reception.

The next meeting of the CLC will take place on Tuesday, March 4 in the SIS Founders Room.

Attendees

Community:

David Fehrmann, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Mary Ellen Fehrmann, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Matthew Frumin, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E
Susan Ganney, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Bill Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Maria Kress, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Leigh Katherine Miles, Tenleytown, DC Blog
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Alan Pollock, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association
Roshini Ponnampuram, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association
Kent Slowinski, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Benjamin Tessler, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Harry Thayer, Foxhall Condominium
Jane Waldmann, Tenleytown Historical Society
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision

American University Staff:

Linda Argo, Assistant Vice President for External Relations & Auxiliary Services
David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Development & Real Estate
Michelle Espinosa, Associate Dean of Students
Gail Hanson, Vice President of Campus Life
Andrew Huff, Director of Community Relations
Hisham Khalid, Office of the General Counsel
David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President

American University Students:
Rory Slatko, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D