

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 7th, 2021
Meeting was Held Virtually On Zoom
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. 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 August 2021; 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 August 15, 2021 through December 1st, 2021. There were 14 reports of disruptive off-camping behavior, 13 reports from single family homes and one report from Cathedral Heights. 12 Reports involved complaints of noise, large gatherings and alcohol, and one report involved graffiti and vandalism. **The presentation can be found at:**

Alma Gates, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, expressed concern that there had been 4 complaints at the same residence.

Jeff stated that actions taken by AU are dependent on the University being given specific information about what occurred at which specific times, they stated they are waiting for the neighbor to provide specific information to AU to take action.

Alma stated it seems that the neighbors are the ones who are at a disadvantage.

Ed Fisher, AU Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations, clarified that all four incidents were from the same neighbor about the same resident.

Chuck Elkins, ANC 3D Commissioner, asked if these incidents occurred on the same day.

Jeff replied that there were four different complaints from the same neighbor about the same address over several different days.

Syedah Asghar, a Journalism student at AU, introduced herself, stating she was writing an article about AU and Community Relations, adding that if anyone wants to provide comment for the article they can reach out.

Don Edwards thanked her for the comment.

Capital Project Update

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management, updated the CLC on construction at 3244 Nebraska Ave. [This presentation can be found at:](#)

Tim Talley, Wesley Heights resident, asked if there were any plans by AU to change the entrance and exit points of the property.

David responded by stating the existing curb cuts will remain as is.

Campus Parking Enforcement Update

Dan Nichols, AU Assistant Vice President for Risk, Safety and Transportation, provided an update on the off-campus parking enforcement statistics from August 1, 2021 through December 1, 2021. AU issued a total of 71 tickets. [The presentation can be found at](#)

Chuck stated his concern around lack of enforcement around the new scooter regulations being rolled out in DC. They added they were taking up a resolution at the ANC level on the issue.

Dan thanked Chuck for his comment and added he was looking forward to further collaboration on this issue.

Tim stated he has seen multiple cars with out of state plates parking near his residence across from AU's Fletcher Gate entrance, he added he has rarely seen the student-lead parking enforcement in the area. They questioned if students needed to register their cars with AU if they were out of state.

Dan thanked him for his comment, he added when students register at AU they do not need to register their vehicles unless they are registering for parking with the University.

Tim then asked what a student pays per day for parking at AU.

Dan stated the per hour rate was 75 cents and the semester rate was around 500 dollars.

Tim added he anticipated more students parking on the street with the planned campus expansion.

Dan replied that the number of violations has been in decline year after year. He added since his time at the University, they have implemented hourly rates and increased the cost of parking fines.

Tim added the context that not only do neighbors have to deal with those parking for AU but also parents of children at the Horace Mann school.

Dan agreed that the area near the Mann school does pose challenges for traffic flow.

Jessica Herzstein, a Wesley Heights resident, asked how AU determined which cars were students or staff.

Dan replied that they look for vehicles with out of state plates, or materials in their car that align them with AU. They also put spotters to observe busy areas during rush hour. AU also looks for people who have previous violations on campus, who may be parking off campus to avoid being booted.

Jessica stated that the numbers from semester to semester may not mean a lot since it's based so heavily on AU enforcement. They also questioned the locking of the gates over on the University Ave entrance.

Ed Fisher stated that the gates on University Ave are locked now, AU had an issue where the gates were not locking properly, but that has been fixed.

Shelly Repp, of the Tenley town Neighbors Association, stated the buses near his house close to Spring Valley had been repeatedly idling in excess of 3 minutes, sometimes even two buses at a time. They also asked about the potential re-routing of the buses.

Ed responded that AU is working with DDOT and WMATA on the process to re-route the buses, they added they realistic timeline is likely in the Spring semester.

Dan stated he would get in touch with facilities management over the bus idling issue.

Shelly asked about the lack of parking violations on Windom, they also questioned why transportation companies are allowed to drop off the larger scooters seemingly wherever.

Dan thanked him for his comment and clarified that AU actually had issued several tickets on Windhom, they also added they would look to work with Chuck on the scooter issue.

William Clarkson, of the Spring Valley Neighborhood Association, stated that in many instances AU students have reasons for parking in the neighborhoods, such as housesitting or babysitting, they asked if there is anything students or neighbors can do to prevent someone from getting a ticket.

Dan emphasized AU wants to avoid at all costs ticketing neighbors. All neighbors have the ability to put themselves or their contacts on a do not ticket list. They emphasized again that AU wants students to park on AU property.

Alma stated she was under the impression that students who live on-campus but are out of state must register their car with the district.

Dan stated he thinks the D.C. City Council modified that rule a couple of years ago, but would need to follow-up.

Alma stated she thought the DDOT program was called ROSA (Registration of Out of State Automobiles).

Dan thanks her for the clarification and stated he would investigate the issue.

Enrollment & Housing Update

Ed Fisher and Fanta Aw, VP of Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence, provided information on AU's Fall 2021 Enrollment and Housing Report. **The presentation can be found at:**

Alma asked for AU to explain the figures that appeared in the Washington Business Journal, which stated AU has 14,883 students enrolled.

Ed stated he had not seen that article, he added he was unsure of where they got that information. They added the enrollment number which are used for the Campus Plan are slightly different from the overall enrollment numbers.

Fanta Aw stated the Business Journal numbers likely include students who are fully online.

Ed stated that students who are 100% online are not included in the Campus Plan enrollment number, as they do not step foot on Campus.

AU Neighborhood Partnership Update

Ed Fisher gave an update on the status of the AU Neighborhood Partnership and invited CLC Participants to attend a planned open house in early 2022.

Tony Ciccone, of Fort Gaines Citizen's Association, introduced himself as a resident living near AU for over 30 years. He stated he was looking forward to working with Ed on the Partnership.

Jessica was interested to know about the Campus experience with COVID-19 testing.

Fanta replied that AU has been conducting on average of about 2,000 tests per week, with a vaccination rate of 98%. AU also has a public COVID-19 dashboard with information. She added AU is also doing clinics for booster shots.

Jessica asked about the case rates specifically, and whether positive COVID-19 cases had to quarantine.

Fanta stated AU does mandate isolation upon testing positive, adding that folks who are exposed must also get tested. AU does have in-house contact tracing.

Tim asked Dan Nichols for a status update on the remediation going on around the former public safety building nearby Nebraska and Rockwood Ave.

Dan stated that during the course of remediation, the Army Corps had identified a debris field they needed further investigation. That discovery came at the end of the Army Corp contract, and they needed to re-issue one to start the process. He added this will likely start in the Spring of 2022.

Good of the Order

The next AU CLC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8th 2022 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Other Upcoming CLC Meeting Dates:

June 14, 2022 (President's Town Hall)

September 13, 2022

December 6, 2022

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Attendees

Community:

Natalie Ambrose, Wesley Heights resident
 Syedah Asghar, AU Student
 Myra Barron, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 William Clarkson, Spring Valley Neighborhood Association
 Anthony Ciccone, Fort Gaines Citizens Association
 Alma Gates, Neighbors for a Livable Community
 Jeremy Del Moral, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
 Diane Dragaud, Wesley Heights resident
 Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
 Jessica Herzstein, Wesley Heights resident
 Troy Kravitz, neighbor
 Denise Liebowitz, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 Tony Long, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
 Giorgianna Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
 Elizabeth Pemmerl, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
 Shelly Repp, Tenleytown Neighbors Association
 Douglas Saunders, Westover Place Homeowners Association
 Josie Scholz, resident
 Timothy Talley, Wesley Heights resident
 Carol Wells, Westover Place Homeowners Association
 John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
 Betsy White, Wesley Heights resident

American University Staff:

Sharon Alston, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Enrollment
 Fanta Aw, VP of Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence
 Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations
 Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communication Officer
 Jeff Brown, Dean of Students
 Brontè Burleigh-Jones AU Chief Financial Officer
 David Dower, AVP of Planning and Project Management
 Ed Fisher, AVP of Community and Government Relations

Seth Grossman, VP, People and External Affairs

JSA Staff:

Joshua Babb, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC

Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC

Brian Schwartz, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC