

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 5th, 2023
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 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 February 2023; Office Campus Conduct Presentation

Justin Bernstine, Associate Dean of Students, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as relevant to off-campus student conduct from February 2, 2023 through September 1st, 2023. There were 20 reports of disruptive off-camping behavior, 15 reports from single family homes and 5 reports from regarding apartment or condo communities. 16 Reports involved complaints of noise, large gatherings and alcohol, two reports for safety concerns surrounding occupancy and two reports involved concerns for parking.

Shelly Repp, of the Tenleytown Neighbors Association, asked if all the reports have all been resolved.

Justin confirmed that they have.

Tricia Duncan, ANC 3D Commissioner, inquired about properties with fences falling and how it is not on the students, but on the landlord. She wondered if there is a way neighbors can assist the students in asking the landlord for maintenance. Stated that she doesn't want the students to be kicked out since there has been no trouble with them but there has been significant wear.

Justin stated that neighbors can direct the students to the Dean's office, and they can direct the students on how to contact the landlord.

Tricia added that she does not know if the students care and mentioned a concern about safety.

Don asked if rental properties require business licenses.

Justin indicated that he doesn't know.

Cory Peterson, AVP of Community and Government Relations, confirmed that all rental properties in DC need a business license. Neighbors Can use the Dean of student's office or get the DC department of buildings involved who can call the property owner.

Don asked if the outside is in disarray, what does it look like on the inside. That gets into safety of the students as well.

Tricia replied that she is sure it is a mess.

Judith asked if there are any repeat offenders.

Justin answered that four properties with two repeat offenses, totaling eight reports.

Bruce Klein, Fort Gaines resident, inquired about the number of off campus sorority and fraternity houses.

Justin indicated that he is unsure and will have to check with the office of fraternity and sorority life and get back to Bruce.

Tim stated that neighbors can go on the DC Tax and property website and report the property.

Tricia replied that for all she knew they might not know the fence was down.

Tim added that it is a way to at least attempt to contact the property owner.

Community Relations Update

Cory Peterson, AVP for Community and Government Relations, introduced Gwen Coleman, AU's new Director for Community Relations and they gave several updates related to community relations including the creation of a NextDoor account, a new newsletter look, and the AUNP Orientation Sessions. They also updated the group on upcoming community programs such as the Fall Moonlight Arboretum tour and Campus Plan commitments.

Dennis Paul, AU Park resident, asked where the movies will be located.

Gwen answered that they will be at the Amphitheater.

Dennis then asked about what if it rains.

Gwen replied that there will be a rain date.

Shelly inquired about Gwen's background.

Gwen replied that she worked at Georgetown University in the Office of Neighborhood Life.

Beth Deal welcomed Gwen to American University.

Construction Update

Cory Peterson next gave updates on construction items around AU. This included information on the Meltzer Center for Athletic Performance and Sports Center Annex and the Jacobs Field Sound Barrier.

Betsy White, co-chair of the Engagement and Communication working group, asked if this construction has anything to do with all these scooters.

Cory turned to transportation experts to answer.

Josh Finver, TDM Director for AU, answered that AU has developed a partnership with SPIN. Only scooters can be staged and corralled on campus. It helps keep them out of walking ways. There are locking laws that are supposed to keep them off campus. We can contact the companies and they enforce.

Don asked Betsy if there were any areas in particular that she had been seeing the scooters.

Betsy replied that she has been seeing them all over, sometimes in the sidewalk sometimes in the street.

Tricia inquired if someone has a Lime bike does it work on campus.

Josh responded that there is a geo fence, but that won't shut down the bikes once they pass it.

Tricia then requested clarity on if there are a bunch of Lime bikes, it's not because they stopped working and students left them.

Josh confirmed yes and that anytime they see the Lime bikes they call Lime. He stated that with the partnership there are incentives to use SPIN and there are corrals for students to use and they are incentives to corral them in the designated areas.

Tricia asked if SPIN has bikes too.

Josh answered that they do, but that isn't part of the partnership since they did not want to compete with Capital Bike Share.

Tim inquired about the facilities planning and the alternate route to be used during construction.

Cory stated that he will get back to you on the construction routes.

Don asked Josh if neighbors should call your office for you to have a record of complaints or to call the companies directly.

Josh responded that they are happy to receive complaints, but it might be more beneficial to call the companies directly for them to see number of complaints.

Judith inquired about bike leashing. She knows that they must be leashed but doesn't ever see them leashed. Judith also asked if the city is doing anything about them.

Josh replied that if they violate terms of service they can be banned or suspended by the company but did not know if DC is taking any action about it.

Tricia responded that users can be charged a significant fee and provides an example of how people will be fined 10-20 dollars when they don't leash.

Shelly inquired if so can the scooters be locked.

Tricia stated that they can be locked as well.

Dennis brought up that he has noticed that the scooters are parked on University Ave on the neighbors side of the street. He stated that he has called the companies but when they come, the scooters are no longer there.

Josh stated that American University does have corrals with SPIN where students are encouraged to park their scooters.

Dennis inquired what the neighbors and community members can do electronically to get them off their properties and was curious if AU can reach out to SPIN.

Josh confirmed that he can ask Spin to see what options there are for the community.

Dennis asked when AU is going to affect traffic with construction on Meltzer center.

Cory responded AU hopes to be breaking ground in the spring.

Don asked Cory if he could compile some information about the information regarding the scooters and bikes.

Josh responded that some of this information is available on AU's website.

Don stated there is a need for more information about scooters and bikes.

Bruce stated the last thing we heard in Fort Gaines, there was going to be a garden over near the parking center, and asked if AU had any more details.

Cory responded he knows it is going to be near Nebraska and Katzen, but unsure of exact details.

Bruce stated he had a concern that it was going to be noisy.

Don stated AU will look into it and get back to you.

Shelly asked what AU is doing with the old chemistry building.

Cory stated they will have to get back to Shelly.

Dennis stated he thought in the campus building plan that it would be transferred to dorms for AU students.

Seth Grossman responded that there are no plans that he knows of regarding that.

Tricia asked where AU is in the general contractor's selection for Meltzer.

Jonathan said Davis Construction had been chosen.

Construction Management Plan:

- *No questions*

Jacobs field sound barrier

- *No questions*

Summer projects update:

Chuck Elkins asked if AU had informed people who live near the site of the updates.

Cory Peterson replied AU had contact Natalie, Tim and some additional neighbors on Rockwood.

Shelly asked will that land ever be used for anything specific.

Cory replied he thinks it will become a reclaimed green space.

Don asked where people can find more information about the progress of the Army Corps project.

Cory stated the project website has not been updated.

Tim stated that this project has been going on for 10 years. There used to be updates on the CLC website. I think it was supposed to be completed in 2018. Has been an ongoing issue. Has contaminated soil and plastic. There were bioweapons on campus at one point.

Transportation Update

Josh Finver reported out on tickets issued in the neighborhood from August 23rd, 2022, through August 22nd, 2023, there were a total of 367 tickets issued for the year.

Bruce Klein stated this is something that AU does very well. Neighbors have called in and AU responds very quickly.

New Business and Neighborhood Items

Shelly Repp stated he understands that enrollment is not a topic for this meeting he asked if AU was roughly within the limit and if Chinese-student enrollment is up or down.

Cory stated AU is on target to meet their housing requirements, he will have to follow up on the Chinese-national enrollment numbers will get back to you.

Tim questioned if there is any communication between AU and the Wesley Seminary leadership on their proposed campus plan.

Cory stated Wesley has falsely claimed that AU has not responded to their requests, he also stated each institution has a separate campus plan to support their respective campus goals.

Tim asked if there had been no communication between AU and Wesley's campus plans.

Cory stated not recently.

Dennis asked if AU had ever had these conversations with Wesley.

Cory responded there was one conversation initially between the two presidents, but nothing recently.

Tricia asked if neighbors could assume that AU is following what they plan on doing and knows what Wesley is doing.

Cory stated that yes, AU is aware of their plans.

Good of the Order

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th, 2023, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Dennis asked if AU could get a sound system for the next meeting, it can be hard to hear.

Don apologized for the room set up for the meeting, stating the space had to be prepared for another event occurring soon.

Tim stated he gets an email from Josh when there is a CLC meeting. He asked who gets these notifications, is it through selective emails and is it possible that 99% that neighbors don't know about it. He wondered if there could be a notice placed next door.

Cory stated AU has a list of over 1000 people for their newsletter.

Tim asked if it was possible that the list was old.

Cory responded that this goes back to Gwen's update and refreshing the newsletter and cultivating contacts.

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees*Community:*

Tricia Duncan, ANC 3D Commissioner
 Bruce Klein, Fort Gaines Citizens Association
 Svetlana
 Dr Jacob, Nearby neighbor
 Betsy White, Engagement and Communications Co-Chair
 Shelly Repp, Welsey Height Citizens Association
 Tim Talley, Wesley Heights Resident
 Rita McWilliams, Wesley Heighes neighbor
 Dennis Paul, AU Park Neighbor
 Georgianna Paul, AU Park Neighbor
 Chuck Elkins, ANC 3D Commissioner
 Teresa Guzman, Facilities Planning member
 Karina Young, Embassy Park neighbor
 Judith Kopperud, Engagement and Communications member
 Tricia Duncan, ANC 3D Commissioner

American University Staff:

Justin Bernstine, Associate Dean of Students
 Beth Deal, AVP for Community and Internal Communications
 Cory Peterson, AVP of Community and Government Relations
 Seth Grossman, Chief of Staff
 Sherry Rutherford, Campus Plan Consultant
 Gwen Coleman, Director of Community Relations
 Phil Morse, AVP University Police Services and Emergency Management
 Josh Finver, Assistant Director for TDM
 Brendan McNickle, Project Manager

JSA Staff:

Don Edwards
 Katie Smith
 Breanne Kroehler