

Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
American University – School of International Service – Founders Room
7 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 7 p.m. by welcoming attendees, who then introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

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-03-04-14.pdf>.

Washington College of Law

David Dower stated that the Washington College of Law (WCL) construction is in the process of wrapping up excavation and that concrete work on the site will begin in the next couple of weeks and will last several months. He added that interior renovations at Capital Hall also are under way and that by fall, weather permitting, the structures will be complete and the facades will be added. The buildings will be closed in fully by next spring with occupancy slated for July 2015.

Dennis Paul, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, asked if anything strange was found during the excavation phase.

David Dower replied that so far nothing strange or out of the ordinary has been discovered.

Kent Slowinski, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if there are specific truck construction routes approved by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).

David Dower responded that DDOT approves a Transportation Control Plan (TCP) for projects like this and added that there are many trucks in this area traveling on approved trucking routes that do not belong to AU.

Kent Slowinski asked if DDOT is supposed to approve the truck routes and advised of an accident on Foxhall Road that was reported to him by MPD as an overloaded truck associated with the WCL project.

David Dower replied that he was not aware of an accident involving a truck from the WCL site.

Gail Hanson stated that the incident would be looked into and followed up on right away.

Alan Pollock, from the Ft. Gaines Citizens Association, stated that his experience with the construction of Nebraska Hall suggests that AU needs to monitor the actions of contractors closely.

Nan Wells, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if AU takes responsibility for its contractors.

David Dower responded that AU will look into this incident and take immediate action, if necessary.

A neighbor from Sutton Place asked if a penalty could be built into the contract of sub-contractors who violate District law.

Kent Slowinski asked if AU would agree to build such penalties into the contracts for the East Campus construction.

David Dower replied that he would consider these suggestions.

East Campus

David Dower stated that AU has submitted for building permits with the District of Columbia.

He announced that a pre-construction meeting for neighbors will be held on March 11 at 7 p.m. in Room 118 of AU's Kogod School of Business.

Additionally, he advised that one of the buffer buildings will be named the Don Myers Technology and Innovation Building in honor of the late Don Myers, Vice President and CFO at American University.

Outcomes: Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study

Karina Ricks, of Nelson\Nygaard, presented the results of AU's recent TDM study. This presentation can be viewed at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/TDM-Presentation-03-04-14-2.pdf>.

Judy Chesser, of the Tenley Neighbors Association, asked if enforcement of AU's Good Neighbor parking policy was part of the TDM study.

Karina Ricks replied that enforcement was not a part of the TDM, which focused more on incentives to influence positive behavior. She stated further that the study's recommendations will have an impact on the neighborhood by getting vehicles out of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Dan Nichols, AU's Executive Director of University Safety Programs, stated that parking enforcement activities will continue and that the TDM is an opportunity to also offer incentives that could mitigate parking problems.

Steve Selig, of Ward 3 Vision, said that there is no good way for bicyclists to get to and from campus and asked if AU and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will be working together to add cycling facilities and promote cycling.

Karina Ricks responded that the city's overall bicycle network was beyond the scope of the TDM, but that there is a focus by DDOT on a one-mile bicycle path on Nebraska Avenue between Ward and Tenley Circles. She continued that this connection is entirely in public space and would not require AU property to complete.

Jeffrey Kraskin, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked how the TDM relates to the surrounding community.

Karina Ricks replied that all of the TDM measures would help alleviate peak-hour traffic in the neighborhood, which would benefit everyone.

Jeffrey Kraskin asked about Car2Go and how the TDM study would address students parking these vehicles in the neighborhood.

Karina Ricks stated that these vehicles are a public transportation resource available to everyone and that there is no way to identify who is driving and parking the vehicles.

Gail Hanson added that this will be flagged as a concern as we move forward with the TDM recommendations.

Beth Marcus, from Sutton Place Condominiums, asked about coordination of shuttles with Sibley Hospital and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as well as the potential for changing bus routes.

Karina Ricks responded that the early coordination with DHS has slowed down largely due to the fact that their plans are currently in flux. She continued that one of the TDM recommendations is to hire a TDM coordinator at AU, who would help to coordinate with these different organizations. Finally, she stated that she met with DDOT to look at bus routes to try to achieve greater efficiency with the Metro and AU shuttles, but that there are no proposed changes. Any proposed changes would include a conversation with the surrounding neighborhood.

John Wheeler, of Ward 3 Vision, stated that Metro will not change a bus route without a public hearing.

Tom Smith asked if the Zoning Order requires AU to build a bike path along Nebraska Avenue between Ward and Tenley Circles.

Linda Argo replied that it was included as a DDOT recommendation, but it was not included in the final Order.

Tom Smith asked what data were used as baselines in making the TDM recommendations.

Karina Ricks responded that the base data came from two surveys done by AU, one in 2012 and another in 2013 and that they correlate well.

Tom Smith asked how these numbers compare to those in the AU campus plan.

Karina Ricks said that they are similar.

Matthew Frumin, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, offered that ANCs 3D and 3E might jointly pass a resolution in support of the Nebraska Avenue bicycle path.

Hazel Edwards, of the Ft. Gaines Citizens Association, asked if the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) population was a part of the TDM study, as there are daily parkers in the Ft. Gaines neighborhood associated with OLLI.

Dan Nichols replied that he did not believe so, but that this would be included as a consideration moving forward.

Hazel Edwards advised that there is a steady stream of pedestrian traffic on Nebraska Avenue between Ward and Tenley Circles and asked if there were any plans to make this connection safer by improving lighting.

Karina Ricks replied that this is primarily public space and off of AU property, but that action and letters from the local ANCs could make a difference in spurring DDOT to make safety improvements like lighting.

Student Conduct: Summary of Incidents since December 3 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, five complaints have been received regarding five single-family properties. She added that all involved student organizations and that staff and advisors from Fraternity and Sorority Life and Athletics were engaged in problem resolution.

One complaint over winter break involved friends visiting a student off campus. Another occurred in January when students returned from break, two took place during fraternity recruitment which resulted in conduct charges, and one occurred the first week of March.

She continued that the Dean of Students' annual spring letter will go out next week reminding students of their responsibilities in the neighborhood as the weather improves.

Bill Krebs, of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if spring break will fall over St. Patrick's Day, to which Michelle Espinosa replied no.

Gail Hanson added that AU does special reminders to students around Halloween and St. Patrick's Day as well.

Chuck Elkins, a neighbor from the 4500 b/o Lowell Street, NW, raised a question regarding perceived differences in AU's expectations for students who live on and off campus, citing the university's Good Neighbor Guidelines and Residence Hall Regulations.

Gail Hanson advised Chuck Elkins to look closely at AU's Student Conduct Code, which is applicable to students whether they live on campus or off. Additionally, she pointed out that any violation of District law also is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Michelle Espinosa agreed to meet with Chuck Elkins to review the Conduct Code and its applicability to students living off campus.

Jeffrey Kraskin asked if AU's on-campus alcohol policy also applies to places like the Berkshire Apartments.

Gail Hanson replied yes, students at the Berks who are in apartments leased through AU live under AU's housing rules and regulations.

Matthew Frumin, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, stated that the Conduct Code did not always apply to student conduct off campus, but that it does now. He asked if the fact that AU is a dry campus was helpful or hurtful to students and the neighborhood and stated that many universities are moving away from the dry campus model.

Gail Hanson said that AU's on-campus housing population is primarily freshmen and sophomores (under the age of 21), so there is no plan currently to change this policy.

Nan Wells stated that calling 911 and documenting any issues with student houses in the neighborhood has proven an effective way to deal with disturbances.

Betsy White, a neighbor, asked if AU will house more students on campus once East Campus is complete.

Gail Hanson replied that even this year AU is housing more students on campus and that East Campus' completion in 2016 will bring even more students into campus housing.

Kent Slowinski asked about possible fraternity activities in Battery-Kemble Park.

Dan Nichols advised that AU Public Safety has been in contact with the U.S. Park Police on this issue, as they are the agency with jurisdiction. They advised that they have increased patrols around the park.

John Wheeler stated that he has lived near two group houses for more than sixteen years and never had a problem. He continued that it is a very small percentage of off-campus students

causing problems for the neighborhood and that he has seen a positive change during the last two years in how AU responds to and handles these issues.

Michelle Espinosa said that she will have an annual report to present at the next CLC meeting.

Enrollment & Housing Reports

Linda Argo reviewed AU's annual housing and enrollment reports, which were formatted in the same way as presented to the DC Zoning Commission and CLC at last year's meeting. These reports can be viewed online at <http://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/Documents.cfm> under "December 3, 2013."

Tom Smith asked what the enrollment is currently at the Washington College of Law.

Linda Argo replied 1,737, and indicated that this number will not be factored in until completion of the new WCL in 2015.

There were comments from members of the CLC related to the timing and format of these reports. Some expressed interest in seeing information for the spring semester as well. Additionally, there was interest expressed in simply being presented with raw data related to the number of students enrolled and housed on campus.

Good of the Order

December 11 AU Campus Lockdown

Tom Smith expressed ongoing concerns about the December 11 campus lockdown. He advised that the *AU Eagle* reported a 25-minute delay from the time the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) was called and when they arrived on scene.

Dan Nichols replied that there was no delay and described the event from beginning to end.

On December 11, AU Public Safety received a call about a man with a bulge under his jacket on an AU shuttle near the Kogod School of Business. AU immediately dispatched officers to meet the complainant and gather additional information.

Once a known threat was validated, AU officers canvassed the area for the subject. When the subject could not be located, a decision was made to err on the side of caution, and a campus lockdown was ordered. An order to notify MPD was given at 7:42 p.m. MPD arrived within minutes and was briefed. AU's first alert was issued at 7:55p.m., with five alerts following. Dan Nichols reminded everyone that action taking place on the ground is not reflective of the timeline in which the alerts were sent out.

AU Public Safety then tweeted a picture of the suspect and was subsequently able to identify him as an off-duty MPD officer. The entire event took just over two hours to resolve.

He went on to say that a critical analysis of the processes surrounding the event has been completed with a review of lessons learned. He also stated that MPD, DHS, and FBI all have walked through AU's campus in an effort to be better prepared for potential incidents.

Pat Kelly, AU Student Government President, said that he was in Kay Chapel during the event, heard sirens, and received all of the AU alerts. He advised that he and the students with him felt safe and informed throughout the incident.

Dan Nichols stated that *The Eagle* only knows when the AU alerts were sent out and that these alerts are not indicative of action taking place on the ground.

Tom Smith asked what time AU Public Safety received the initial call.

Dan Nichols replied that he preferred not to get into a minute-by-minute timeline and that no situation will ever present itself in the exact same way again. He repeated that AU continues to look at the situation and evaluate the response, which he felt was appropriate.

Jeffrey Kraskin stated the he did not receive an MPD alert about the incident and wondered why he had not.

Dan Nichols stated that all of AU's alerts automatically go to MPD and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). He added that there are multiple ways for community members to receive AU alerts through several social media accounts like Twitter and Facebook, in addition to HSEMA's alerts.

District Department of Transportation Upcoming Meeting on Ward Circle

Andrew Huff, AU Director of Community Relations, announced that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) soon will host a community meeting related to possible improvements at Ward Circle. Once information is available on the meeting, it will be shared with the CLC.

AU Community Audit Program

Andrew Huff announced the opening of registration for the summer semester as part of AU's Community Audit program. The program is open to 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>.

The next meeting of the CLC will take place on Tuesday, June 3 in the SIS Founders Room.

Attendees

Community:

Judy Chesser, Tenley Neighbors Association

Hazel Edwards, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association

Chuck Elkins, Neighbor

Matthew Frumin, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E

Larry Joseph, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Jeffrey Kraskin, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Bill Krebs, Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Beth Marcus, Sutton Place Condominiums
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community
Alan Pollock, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association
Roshini Ponnampuram, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association
Steve Selig, Ward 3 Vision
Kent Slowinski, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Tom Smith, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D/ Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association
Anne Sullivan, Ft. Gaines Citizens Association
Benjamin Tessler, Westover Place Homeowners Association
Jane Waldmann, Tenleytown Historical Society
Nan Wells, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
Val Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision
Betsy White, Neighbor

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
Dan Nichols, Executive Director, University Safety Programs
David Taylor, Chief of Staff to the President

American University Students:

Jake Ephros, AU Student Government
Rory Slatko, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
Pat Kelly, President, AU Student Government