

American University Neighborhood Partnership

Facilities Planning Working Group

Zoom | 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 1 2021

Draft Notes

Disclaimer: This summary is based on notes taken by Justice & Sustainability Associates staff, is a draft only and not an official document of the AU Neighborhood Partnership

Working Group Co-Chairs (2) Jerry Gallucci (Wesley Heights resident), David Dower (AU)

Attendees (7) Natalie Ambrose (Wesley Heights), Diane Dragaud (Fort Gaines), Timothy Talley (Wesley Heights) Courtney Stoner (AU) , Jessica Herzstein (Spring Valley), William Clarkson (Spring Valley Neighborhood Association), Ruth Knouse (Westover Place)

Invited Participants (3) Maria Barry (AU), Sherry Rutherford (AU), Ed Fisher (AU),

JSA Attendees (2) Brian Schwartz (Facilitator), Josh Babb (Notetaker)

Next Meeting: TBD

Highlights	
Key Discussion Points <i>(based on agenda sequence or themed)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Welcome, Review Agenda and Introductions● 3244 Nebraska Ave. Project Update● Jacobs Field Soundwall Project Update● Adjourn
Action Items <i>(bulleted list)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● N/A

Discussion Recap

Welcome and Introductions

- Brian: Let's get started, I know everyone's time is valuable, my name is Brian Schwartz, I'm a senior associate at JSA and glad to be helping with facilitation tonight.
- David: Welcome everyone, I know it's been a while since we last met. Looking forward to the meeting and thanks to everyone for taking their time to be here today.
- Jerry: It was an interesting start to the year. We were able to work together to have a real exchange, what went in front of the Zoning Commission was eventually approved. As the Facilities group I know we were core to the whole campus planning process. I think that's something to be proud of.

Project Updates: 3244 Nebraska Ave

- David: Finally moving forward on construction, as a little bit of background this property on Nebraska Ave was a gift to us by Ms. Weimann. AU is doing a renovation as well as an addition. The addition is a conservatory and two-car garage.
 - The first floor will largely be for activities the President might have such as entertaining.
 - Have been working on the renovation for about a month now, clearing the site but will be saving all mature trees. AU is currently doing a roof replacement, luckily there wasn't a ton of rot.
 - AU has also gutted a lot of the interior, the layout of the building will mostly remain the same though.
- Tim Talley: Is AU planning to keep the circular driveway as it is? Are there any planned circulation changes?
 - David: We will not be doing any circulation changes; we've designed a smaller parking court in the front which can accommodate a 12-person dinner. The intent there would be valet parking and having cars being shuttled back and forth for any larger event.
- Tim: How many spaces will it fit when completed?
 - David: We are creating a two-car garage, the parking court will be able to fit 8-10 cars depending on how they are parked.
- Tim: Has AU reached out to Sen. Diane Feinstein; did she respond? Has AU considered purchasing her property?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: AU did reach out to Diane Feinstein earlier this year in regards to the renovation. At this time AU has not considered purchasing her property, that's something that would need to be run through the new CFO. ● William: Did AU reach out to notify other neighbors near the property of their planned construction? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: I will have to double check and get back to you. ● Tim: It was recently disclosed that the Army Corp of Engineers would be continuing their remediation for another two years. Can AU confirm that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: I will reach out to Dan Nichols, who is our lead on that issue, and can update you by the CLC meeting on Tuesday. ○ Tim: Just to confirm that the Army Corp is going to continue with their mediation process. ○ Ed: Got it. ● Tim: During the last campus plan in 2011 Senator Feinstein held a reception at her home for the Campus Plan as it relates to the neighborhood.
<p>Jacobs Field Sound Wall Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David: No work will be done until the order gets written and sent down from the Zoning Commission, then AU will proceed in earnest. ● William: Are there plans or designs drawn up yet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David: No, what we have done is do some sound monitoring from field hockey events this fall. If we follow the expected plan conditions, we are expecting to complete the wall within 12 months of the order being written. ● William: Great, if you can just be sure to provide an update on the designs and the costs when you have info on them. I know a lot of colleges have been impacted from COVID in terms of fundraising. ● Jessica: I'm interested in AU's finances if they want to share them. I would also be interested in the cost of the renovation around 3244 Nebraska Ave. although I consider that somewhat private to the University. ● William: I was referencing that because the estimated cost was spoken to in the Zoning Commission document. ● Natalie: Have there been any formal discussion with Wesley about their proposed dorm? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: AU has not had any formal discussions with Wesley about their campus plan. We are focused on AU's 2021 Campus Plan, AU is aware of what they are proposing. If Wesley's plan does get approved AU would have to change the character of the discussions with them. We do understand that their hope is mainly that AU students will occupy this building. ● Ed: Wesley has not formally submitted anything to the ANC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jerry: Looking at 2022, it seems AU is poised to work on the Sound Wall. What else is likely AU gets to first beyond the wall? I'm speaking to any of the projects but specifically any student housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: As a result of the order the wall must be the first thing we do. That may also include some improvement to the athletic field. AU is also raising funds for a new Center for Athletic Performance (CAP). I do not think AU will get close to building student housing in 2022. ● Jerry: Any ideas of which sites a dorm would be on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: Sites 2 and 4, which are in the same general vicinity near the proposed CAP. ● Tim: The president of Wesley presented at the ANC 3D meeting, they have laid out their meeting schedule on the website. They are going before the Zoning Commission before the End of the Year. Shouldn't they present before the CLC? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed: Just to clarify Wesley has their own CLC meeting. It is fully separate from AU. ● William: Elizabeth Pemmerl recently posted a message on Next-door which gives info on the Wesley CLC meeting on Dec. 16th. They have also released a draft campus plan application, which I have a lot of concerns about. ● Tim: Wesley does kind of seem like the elephant in the room. Think it's important this group understands the impact of this proposed building and AU gives us full transparency on what those impacts could be. ● Jerry: On Wesley, if they did build this and AU students went their voluntarily that might mean less need to house students on AU's campus. I don't think it's necessarily bad if Wesley decides to do this. ● David: Thanks to everyone for attending.
Meeting Chat	N/A
Handouts	