

UDC CAMPUS MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY KICK-OFF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: Building 38, Windows Lounge

Date: 02.18.20

I. Introduce Project team and University Mission

Avis Russell of UDC introduced the Project team and Stephen Varga of Cozen O'Connor discussed the University's mission and equity imperative goals.

II. Background and Discussion of Campus Master Plan Process

Stephen Varga relayed the Campus Master Plan zoning requirements and noted that the current Campus Master Plan would expire at the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Varga then discussed the expected calendar of milestones to occur this year, including solicitation of both internal feedback from students, faculty, and staff; and external feedback from the public.

Mr. Varga explained that only the portion of Van Ness Campus within its boundaries can be addressed in the filing to the Zoning Commission.

III. Goals and Expectations for Public's Role in Process

Mr. Varga noted that the public's input is critical to helping the University and the consulting team develop a vision to address the University's future needs.

Erik Thompson of UDC discussed the University's six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Project team committed to communicating with the surrounding community and Forest Hills Connection throughout the process.

IV. Public Information Gathering Exercise – SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis was conducted where the participants were asked to identify the University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as viewed through their eyes.

The following represents a summary of the findings:

Strengths

Workforce development

Public Historically Black Urban Focused Land-Grant University

Serves many different constituencies within DC

Location

Metro access

Open to public

New student center
Farmer's market
Theatre

Weaknesses

Underfunded
Wayfinding
Lack of school spirit
Lack of communication with community/inadequate information on website regarding notice
Signage
Maintenance of existing buildings
Financial stewardship

Opportunities

Add greenery
Better communication with community
Advertise cultural and sports opportunities to community
Improve signage
Improve wayfinding on campus

Threats

Homeless along Connecticut Ave. NW
Empty feeling on campus
Underutilized retail space

V. Next Steps

The public was encouraged to fill out a survey on the campus master plan website beginning Monday, February 24th.

A series of additional community meetings was announced:

- March 3rd – reveal results of stakeholder surveys
- April 7th – reveal recommendations
- May 5th – present transportation findings
- June 2nd – present final recommendations

All public inquiries about the Campus Master Planning process should be directed to Juanita Gray of UDC at Juanita.gray@udc.edu.