

## **Howard University Campus Plan Task Force**

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

17 November 2010

6:30 p.m.

#### **Attendees**

Sylvia Robinson, Exec. Director, Emergence Community Arts Collective (ECAC),  
Georgia Avenue Community Development Task Force

Tony Norman, Pleasant Plains Civic Association, Chair ANC 1B Design Committee

Derrek Niec-Williams, Assistant Project Manager, Brailsford and Dunlavy

Maybelle Taylor Bennett, Director, Howard University Community Association

#### **Meeting Highlights**

The meeting focused on the broad guidelines established by the University's Operations Committee. These guidelines will be used as a framework within which the campus master plan will be developed. Brailsford and Dunlavy facilitated a gap analysis exercise that looked at where the University is currently versus where it wanted to go with regard to four major issue areas:

- educational outcomes;
- enrollment management;
- campus community/institutional value; and
- financial performance.

From this analysis was developed the Strategic Asset Value Story. Both the analysis and the story are enclosed for your review.

Several issues surfaced as it related to the kinds of elements that should be included in the plan. Among them were:

- the need to develop more social activities on campus that will keep students who want and need social activities, from roaming the streets of the neighborhoods at night and having loud parties in the surrounding communities. The student activity center at the University of Maryland was cited as an example of a lively wholesome setting that is open from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight, where students come together over structured and informal recreational activities.
- the need to develop recreational facilities where the public and the University community can come together.
- the need for continuing communication with the community about the activities that are open to the public on campus, for example a streaming neon marquis that announces special events on the side of a prominent building

- the need for coordination with the University's electronic media that will allow the public to "tune-in" to current news of events and activities of interest to the community.

There was concern that GADGET has lost its Executive Director, A.K. Adams, who was just beginning to be well-known in the community, and was a key player in the Georgia Avenue Community Development Task Force. The community was informed that the School of Business had always envisioned GADGET as a student-run entity; however, the community sees that as a flawed approach to providing assistance to businesses.

Businesses and community residents require a certain amount of time to build trust in people, and need the predictability and track record that go along with that. The transient nature of students, and their lack of expertise undermine the ability of GADGET to reach its maximum effectiveness. It was suggested that a letter be written to this effect to the Dean of the School of Business.

The point was raised that there are emerging points of convergence between the community's goals and objectives and those of the University. To the extent that this is so, the potential for building consensus exists. Examples of such points of convergence include:

- the need for affordable housing. President Ribeau cited this need in his discussion of the difficulty he may face in recruiting new faculty for whom housing in the area will be too expensive. The neighborhood has long been an advocate for affordable housing so that area residents are not displaced by the new housing and commercial development that is coming to the neighborhood.
- the need for recreational facilities that can be used by the public as well as recreational facilities that are reserved for the exclusive use of the students.
- a lively, pedestrian-friendly, high quality and affordable retail oriented Georgia Avenue that celebrates the history of the area and is animated with the presence of area residents and visitors as well as members of the Howard University family.
- clean, safe public spaces throughout the community on and off of campus.
- better integration of the town and gown communities, overall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.