



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.org

Resolution Regarding American University Law School Tenley Campus Front Lawn

Whereas, ANC 3E and American University have worked closely on the planning for the Tenley Campus for over three years; and

Whereas, ANC 3E supported the proposals for the Tenley Campus before the Zoning Commission based on both the University's commitments made in the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Tenley Campus Neighbors Association ("TCNA") and the University's assurance of ongoing cooperation with ANC 3E relating to the planning for this and other projects in the ANC 3E boundaries; and

Whereas, ANC 3E has continually urged the University to endeavor in its planning to more fully integrate designs for the Tenley Campus into the Wisconsin Avenue corridor as fully as possible, taking advantage of the connection of the site both to the Metro station one block to the north and the Tenley Circle at its doorstep and to create a site that can benefit the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor generally and not only the Law School students; and

Whereas, ANC 3E has consistently asked AU to take steps to activate the lawn at the front of the law school to make it a more appealing place to congregate for both students and community members, and AU stated repeatedly that it was interested in doing so but AU has argued that HPO comments appeared to preclude it from doing so; and

Whereas, plans for the Tenley Campus were presented to the Historic Preservation Review Board on September 27, 2012, where HPRB members requested AU to work closely with HPO and the community to come up with potential alternatives to the current design that would help the front lawn better engage with the surrounding neighborhood; Yet, as of this date American University has not taken meaningful steps to achieve the goals that the ANC and other interested parties have sought that would remain consistent with the order issued by the HPRB regarding the historic designation of the Tenley Campus, and, we believe that the iteration of the lawn design presented at the April 4th meeting is unacceptable (for many of the reasons various community members expressed at that meeting, including but not limited to ADA concerns and questions of better site activation).

Now therefore be it resolved, ANC 3E urges American University to propose alternative designs (along the lines of the attached sketches) and show those to the ANC and community, that include the community amenities previously requested, including without limitation:

1. The connectivity of the lawn to Wisconsin Avenue should be improved by a wider/broader grand stairs providing access to the lawn and greater visibility of the lawn; and
2. The front lawn should be planned and designed as a natural gathering area for both AU and the local community, with appropriate design features (e.g., public sculpture, water feature, terracing or other creative use of landscaping, etc.) to create an informal amenity space; and

3. The entire perimeter wall should be flat topped and more inviting for sitting and gathering and thereby being more naturally pedestrian friendly; and
4. Additional barriers between the lawn and the sidewalk in the form of walls or fences should be designed to enhance engagement with the surrounding neighborhood; and
5. The front lawn should be tastefully lit in a manner that would provide additional hours of safe usage without detrimentally impacting neighbors; and
6. To achieve the above goals, AU should engage with appropriate professionals (e.g., landscape architects, etc.) to program and plan the lawn and surrounding spaces.

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on April 11, 2013, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 4-0-0. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Elizabeth Haile, Tom Quinn and Sam Serebin were present.

ANC 3E

By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson