Lowell School Community Relations Council
May 25, 2011 Meeting

Present: Doug Odom of Lowell School and 3 members from the community.

Meeting time: 8:45 am to 9:25 am

Traffic management report:

Lowell has not received any written notices of violations from the community to date.

Lowell received one phone call from a Jonquil St resident reporting that the outside speaker from the burglar alarm system causes a disturbance when the alarm is set off. Lowell disabled both exterior burglar alarm speakers after determining they were not critical to the function of raising an alarm.

Lowell notified registered neighbors by email of several events that may have impacted parking.

Lowell is reviewing a draft of the Safe Routes to School plan that was developed with DDOT. Lowell is the first independent school in DC to tackle this effort.

Lowell is launching daily bus services with one route as scheduled in the fall 2011. The service will be provided by a 3rd party under contract with Lowell.

It was noted by at least one neighbor that traffic back-ups on Kalmia Rd have improved in the mornings this year and the safety of the afternoon carpool line has also improved with the addition of off-duty police officers helping to manage the traffic.

Lowell's expansion plans

Lowell has launched its fundraising campaign to support the expansion project and still expects to begin construction on the first phase by summer 2013.

Community Relations Council business

Upcoming events:

Last day of school and family picnic on June 10th

Summer camp opens on June 20th and closes on July 29th

Future meeting schedule: It was recommended by the attendees that we hold meetings in the evenings so that neighbors who work during the day can attend the meetings. During the winter months when it is dark outside, neighbors are encouraged to carpool or walk together for safety concerns. It was also recommended to set the meeting schedule well in advance so everyone can plan accordingly.

Other business:

Lowell School Community Relations Council
July 19, 2011 Meeting

Present: Doug Odom, Debbie Gibbs and Joe McQueeney of Lowell School, ANC 4A commissioners Kennedy and Toliver, and 5 members from the community.

Meeting time: 6:30 pm to 7:25 pm

Traffic management report:

Lowell received 2 phone calls and a few emails from two Kalmia Rd residents reporting safety and parking concerns related to summer camp activities. Further communications were sent to summer camp families, additional camp staff members were posted on the street during drop-off and pick-up times and the off duty police were reinstated for the remainder of camp. This practice will become the standard for summer camp from this point forward.

Lowell received the final Safe Routes to School plan that was developed with DDOT. Lowell is the first independent school in DC to complete this effort. The plan will be published on the school website.

Lowell is launching daily bus services with one route as scheduled in the fall 2011. The service will be provided by a 3rd party under contract with Lowell.

A member of the community suggested having the police officer occasionally located at the Kalmia and 17th intersection to prevent improper left turns.

A community member suggested placing a stop sign at the Lowell's driveway exit to remind drivers to stop before proceeding on to Kalmia.

The community members present would still like to see some traffic calming measures to help slow traffic down throughout the neighborhood in general.

Lowell's expansion plans

Lowell is in its fundraising phase to support the expansion project and still expects to begin construction on the first phase by summer 2013.

An application to designate the Lowell campus as a historic landmark has been filed with the DC Historic Preservation Office. Lowell does not support this landmark effort and expects a Historic Preservation Review Board hearing to occur in September. Neighbors who wish to support Lowell can contact Doug Odom for information on how to do so.

Two members of the community present at the meeting support the landmark designation. ANC representatives Kennedy and Toliver agreed that Lowell should present its position to the ANC at its September meeting.

Community Relations Council business

Upcoming events:

- Summer camp closes on July 29th
- Welcome back to school open house on September 6th from 8-10 am
- First day of school is September 7th

Other business:

Community Relations Council meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 school-year is as follows: (all meetings at 6:30 pm in Marjorie Webster House)

Tuesday, October 18th 2011
Tuesday, January 24th 2012
Tuesday, April 17th 2012

Lowell School Community Relations Council
October 18, 2011 Meeting

Present: Doug Odom, and Joe McQueeney of Lowell School, and four members from the community.

Meeting time: 6:30 pm to 6:55 pm

Traffic management report:

School opened on September 7th 2011.

Lowell's Safe Routes to School team has met and outlined several items to take action on. We participated in International Walk to School Day on October 5th. We will host a bicycle rodeo at the Fall Bazaar with a sample road course and bike safety instruction. We would like to form a team of community members and Lowell parents to try to make headway on DDOT issues like the crosswalk and the 17th and Kalmia intersection.

Lowell launched daily bus services with one route at the beginning of the year. Morning ridership is very strong; afternoons starting to catch on but the numerous after-school activities are keeping some families from using it in the afternoons.

One community member asked if Lowell can help direct traffic occasionally at the Kalmia and 17th St. intersection to help prevent confusion about the correct traffic pattern due to poor signage.

Lowell's expansion plans

Lowell is just beginning the architectural work for phase 1, Parkside, of the expansion project. We plan to be ready to file for a building permit in about a year with the target remaining to start construction in June 2013.

Lowell will continue to evaluate the timing of each part of the expansion project to make sure we are ready for each phase as the resources become available.

The Historic Preservation Review Board held a hearing in September and rendered a decision to designate the Lowell campus a DC historic district. The HPRB also voted to designate Fraser and Parkside as 'non-contributing' elements of the designation. The final written decision has not yet been issued by DC's preservation office.

Community Relations Council business

Upcoming events:

- 30th Annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday October 22nd from 11 am to 3 pm
- Admissions tours take place mostly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the admissions season from now through January.
- Current parent open house on November 11th 8:30 to 10:30 am

Other business:

Community Relations Council meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 school-year is as follows: (all meetings at 6:30 pm in Marjorie Webster House)

Tuesday, January 24th 2012
Tuesday, April 17th 2012