Lowell School Community Relations Council
May 5, 2016 Meeting

Present: Doug Odom and Debbie Gibbs of Lowell School, and 6 members from the community.

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

Traffic management report:

Community members asked Lowell to continue to be vigilant of Lowell families parking in locations and at times prohibited by the Agreement. Also asked that Lowell remind drivers to avoid blocking public alley access when waiting at the light at 16th St.

It has been noted that Lowell's staff member to assist with parking enforcement on Kalmia Rd is sometimes missing at arrival or dismissal times. Lowell will be more diligent about finding back-up staff for that spot when the regularly-assigned personnel are not at work.

Lowell's expansion plans

With the Fraser demolition complete, Lowell's expansion plan is nearing a finishing point where construction will be done for a longer period of time. One community household raised a concern that the Fraser site is planned to be used as a play area for children beginning this summer but there is no vegetated buffer planned for installation along the property boundary between the neighbors and the play area. Lowell agreed to look into the requirements of the 2010 zoning-approved plans for the Fraser site before using the site as a play area.

Community Relations Council business

- Upcoming Community Relations Meetings:
  - July 19, 2016
  - October 18, 2016

Other business:

Lowell announced plans to renovate the playground behind the Main building this summer. This playground is used by Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Lowell showed architectural plans, discussed the scope of work, and tentative schedule. Permits are in the process of being obtained from the District and the schedule is dependent on the timing of receiving the appropriate permits.

Kalmia Rd neighbors reminded Lowell of the construction traffic routing requirements and vehicle idling laws in the District.

Lowell School Community Relations Council
July 19, 2016 Meeting

Present: Doug Odom Lowell School, and __ members from the community.

Meeting time: 6:30 pm to pm

Traffic management report:

Summer program operations began in June and seem to be running smoothly. Lowell believes the staffing has been consistent and effective at helping keep the cars from parking on the street during arrival and dismissal.

Lowell's expansion plans

In response to the concerns about using the play area on the Fraser site without a planted area along the property line between Lowell and neighbors, Lowell re-visited the plan and submitted a minor modification request to zoning to clarify the use of the site with the addition of a planted area at the edge of the property and slightly smaller play area than was originally planned.

This revised plan was approved by Zoning at the July 11th meeting and Lowell is proceeding to perform the work to execute the plan. The intent is to have the play area ready for use by the time school opens in September.

Community Relations Council business

- Upcoming Community Relations Meetings:
  - October 18, 2016

Other business:

Lowell's plan to renovate the back playground have been held up due to the normally lengthy permitting process that involves various DC agencies that review applications. The timeline to complete has slipped by 4 to 6 weeks depending on the contractor's ability to re-schedule and accelerate work. The tentative start date is the week of August 1st.

Doug Odom announced that he will be leaving Lowell School in August to pursue other opportunities. A new person has been selected and is expected to begin work late August.

Community Relations Council
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 18, 2016

Location: Lowell School, 1640 Kalmia Road NW
Parkside Building, Library

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Attendees:
Debbie Gibbs (Lowell School)
Chris Ginter (Lowell School)
Joe McQueeney (Lowell School)
Joyce Batipps
Sharon Giles
Columbus Giles
Fred Lipschultz

Discussion:

Traffic on 17th Street

Wendell Hughes (by e-mail prior to meeting) requested Lowell to reinforce the following to its parents: (1) not to block his driveway on 17th Street when queuing up in the afternoon; and (2) when the line has formed on 17th Street and stretches around to Kalmia Road, there is to be no left turn from Kalmia onto 17th Street to wait for an opening in the line. Other neighbors impacted by the 17th Street traffic also expressed their concerns, including speeding on 17th Street and the left turn from Kalmia onto 17th Street. Joe McQueeney stated that the staff member posted along 17th Street per the Neighborhood Cooperation Agreement would address these issues with drivers as a reminder. Chris Ginter stated that a letter will be sent to all parents to reiterate the specifics of the Agreement. All agreed that traffic in the neighborhood can be unsafe, especially at times of peak use by Lowell drivers and by commuters to and across the bridge. Various attempts to obtain additional signage and traffic calming measures have been launched previously and all agreed that we endorse any such measures in the future.

Traffic on Kalmia Road

Sharon Giles stated to Lowell that there continues to be problems on Kalmia Road because of inadequate staffing during drop-off and pickup and continued parking by Lowell parents on Kalmia Road during prohibited times and pointed out that this is not in compliance with the Neighborhood Agreement and the Zoning Order, including paragraphs 3c, 4, and 6 of the Agreement which state:

> Lowell will not allow Drivers or delivery and pickup vehicles to park on Kalmia Road, 17th Street, Myrtle Street, or Orchid Street during drop-off and pickup periods (currently defined as 7:30 to 9:00 am and 3:00 to 4:30 pm).
>
> During the morning and afternoon peak drop-off and pickup periods, Lowell will assure that at least two staff members are posted on the sidewalk near the Kalmia Road entrance/exit and one staff member at the 17th Street entrance to enforce the Rules.

During the morning peak drop-off period, Lowell will assure a legally authorized traffic control officer is posted at the carpool exit to manage traffic leaving the school.

Debbie Gibbs said Lowell's recollection of the requirements of the Neighborhood Agreement was different than stated and that Lowell would review the requirements of the Neighborhood Agreement. Debbie Gibbs also pointed out that Kalmia Road can be a problematic travel route due to factors unrelated to Lowell such as the width of the road, commuters who are passing through the Neighborhood and the drop-off at Ethical Society. Mrs. Giles pointed out that the parked cars at issue are the ones bearing Lowell stickers, which are driven by Lowell parents who park on Kalmia and walk their children to the school. It was also noted that when Lowell parents park on Kalmia it is problematic, particularly during rush hour, because the street cannot accommodate cars parked on both sides and traffic traveling in both directions.

Columbus Giles informed Lowell that some of its students are speeding on their bikes and scooters down the sidewalk on Kalmia Road without watching out for drivers who may be backing their cars out of their driveway on Kalmia Road. The neighbor expressed concern about the possibility of not seeing the students (many of whom are unaccompanied) in time to avoid an accident. Debbie Gibbs agreed that Lowell will address this issue with its parents.

Playground Construction

Chris Ginter stated the construction of Lowell's playground behind the main building is coming along well and that he is told that the playground is on schedule to be opened when students return to campus in the new year.

Fraser Field Site

Lowell and neighbors continued to have discussions to see if an agreement could be reached regarding the play area on the Fraser Field site. This discussion picked up from a recent on-site meeting with Sharon Giles, Columbus Giles and Cynthiana Lightfoot where Lowell discussed the noise mitigation efforts it would consider – including planting additional vegetation on the northernmost portion of Lowell's property, planting vegetation on the southern side of the gravel drive, installing a sound wall on the southern side of the gravel drive, and not using a neighboring property – if the neighbors agreed to reduce the 47 ft. 4 inch barrier between the play area and neighboring properties which has been ordered by the Zoning Commission. At the October 18th meeting, Lowell's proposal to mitigate noise on the play area was limited to planting vegetation, including an additional row of vegetation, planted 8 feet apart, on the northernmost portion of Lowell's property and a row of vegetation, planted 8 feet apart, on a neighboring property. Debbie Gibbs explained that Lowell is concerned that large trees planted on the southern side of the gravel drive might not thrive in the rubble from the demolished building crushed in the soil. Mrs. Giles stated that trees, if planted and cared for properly, can grow practically anywhere, pointing out that large trees can be found growing in the middle of a mall. Lowell circulated information it acquired regarding sound walls and invited neighbors to contact the companies it had researched but did not propose to install a sound wall, stating that Lowell has been advised that a sound wall would not be effective. Some neighbors expressed surprise and concern, stating that Lowell's proposals were inconsistent with their previous discussions. Neighbors also were disinclined to accept Lowell's proposals given that they believe they would be giving up more than 20 feet of barrier ordered by the Zoning Commission in exchange for vegetation planted 8 feet apart that would take at least 15 to 20 years to reach a height where it might provide some mitigation against the extra noise brought about by having children playing closer to neighboring properties. Lowell and the neighbors were not able to reach an

agreement regarding the play area; however, they stated they would continue to explore options and engage in discussions to see if they can come to an agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.