Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
October 11, 2022, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

- Lauren Wheeler
- Sharon Giles
- Wendell Hughes
- Tanay Tatum-Edwards
- Travis Edwards
- Chris Ginter (Lowell)
- Laurice Redhead
- Oliver Sockwell
- Cynthia Francisco (Lowell)
- Cynthiana Lightfoot

Old Business

- Kalmia Creek project. Lauren Wheeler from Natural Resources Design shared information about the creek project honoring the memory of Cathy Creech (17th & Holly resident; Lowell parent and Trustee). Lauren is the designer and builder for the project and brings vast experience in sustainable landscape design, in creating outdoor spaces for children, and in providing wildlife habitat.
    - Lauren shared information about the intent, design, and scope of the project.
    - Equipment and materials will be staged in the back parking lot by Marjorie Webster House.
    - Construction is estimated to take about 2 weeks and will be phased to minimize impact on the campus and Lowell's programs.
    - To a question about identifying signage, Lowell replied that there will be signage but the signage may be introduced as part of a larger signage endeavor on campus rather than as part of this project.

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
    - Lowell held summer camp in a largely typical manner,
        - Lots of outdoor offerings, indoor offerings, and off-campus offerings.
        - We continued to test everyone on campus weekly.
        - Masks were required indoors as circumstances dictated.
        - Carpool line pickup and drop-off times remained staggered.
        - Aquatics operated on a scaled-back-but growing basis.
    - Lowell's academic program resumed on September 7
        - 338 students and 63 teachers
        - Students from age 3 through 8th grade
        - Three new members of our leadership team joined in July. Leadership team grew from 10 to 11 with the addition of an Assistant Head of School.
        - Lowell hosted a welcome picnic immediately after school opened.
        - Before-care, after-care, bus transportation, and after-school athletics are all fully operational.
            - Before-care is completely optional. Many opt in each day.
            - About 1/3 of students are enrolled in aftercare.
            - 44 students are enrolled for morning bus transportation.
            - Athletics seasons for cross country and soccer have begun.
        - Aquatics has returned as part of our academic program
        - Classrooms and other indoor spaces are allowing increased contact among occupants

- Masks were worn for the first two weeks of school and testing continues weekly, with on-campus PCR testing being an option for those who choose it.
- No advances have been made relating to the Fraser Field site.
- DDOT has not reached out to Lowell on the matter of traffic calming.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- We have toggled back to a single carpool drop off window and reduced the number of drop off points.
  - On-campus, morning carpool has been as efficient as ever.
  - Bottlenecks at 16th/Kalmia and at the bridge have caused significant local traffic.
  - Before-care and bus transportation are real factors in morning commuting efficiencies.
- Afternoon pick up has been quite efficient since getting past the first few days of school.
  - After-school activities and the bus divert over half of students away from the carpool line on some days.
- Lowell will circulate communication to parents about traffic rules. Topics that neighbors identified for it include
  - Blocking of neighborhood driveways.
  - Blocking alleys
  - Speeding through alleys
  - Making u-turns in the street or using driveways
  - Obeying stop signs

New Business

- A question arose about the social trail connecting 17th Street to the park trail system in Rock Creek Park. Along the social trail is a 'bridge' made primarily of pallets and scrap wood. Lowell does not maintain either the trail or the 'bridge'. The Park service does not recognize the social trail as being part of their system nor do they maintain it or the 'bridge'.
- A neighbor request regarding communication from Lowell: When posting to the neighborhood Listserv, please also email the CRC group email list.

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Upcoming dates of interest

Fall Bazaar	October 29 (rain date 11/5)
Thanksgiving break	November 22 -27
Book fair	November 2-4
Winter break	December 16-January 2
New student application deadline	January 9
Spring break	March 24-April 2

Upcoming meeting dates

- January 10, 2023
- April 11, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- October 10, 2023