

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Ward 8 Advisory Team Meeting

February 28, 2018
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Ward 8 Advisory Team Members

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Update on the plan to close DC General Family Shelter
3. Good Neighbor Agreement update
4. Community engagement moving forward
5. Construction progress update
6. Construction employment opportunities
7. Summary and next steps

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Community Co-Chair Henderson called the meeting to order and led introductions.

2. Update on the Plan to Close DC General

The Department of Human Services (DHS) shared an update on the Mayor's plan to close DC General Family Shelter. In January, Mayor Bowser announced that DC General Family Shelter will be closed in 2018. Deconstruction will begin this spring on several vacant buildings on the campus as DHS begins to draw down their use of the old hospital as a family shelter. Once the building is vacant and families have transitioned into permanent housing or other shelter options, the building will be deconstructed by the Department of General Services (DGS).

3. Good Neighbor Agreement

DHS staff shared an update on the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA), and shared a revised version of the GNA that incorporates feedback collected from the Advisory Team at a

workshop in December. DHS also shared the timeline moving forward for finalizing the document. Advisory Team members will review the GNA one last time to ensure that their feedback was accurately captured, and will provide any final feedback on the document via email by March 14th, 2018.

The Advisory Team also decided to undertake a collaborative process with DHS to allow community members to provide input on the name of the building. More details will be provided to the Advisory Team for how community members can provide feedback.

4. Community engagement moving forward

The Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) shared that in response to feedback from the Advisory Team, MOCRS are planning several upcoming community engagement events in conjunction with Short-term Family Housing. A community walk will be scheduled for April near the Short-term Family Housing site, and a resource fair near the site will also be scheduled. The Advisory Team provided feedback that the resource fair should be held within walking distance of the Short-term Family Housing site.

5. Construction progress updates

Greer Gillis, Director of the Department of General Services (DGS), shared that the Advisory Team, the ANC, and residents have the full commitment of DGS to ensure that construction in their neighborhood is undertaken in collaboration with community partners.

Marcus Brummer, DGS's project manager for the site, shared a construction update. Concrete pouring is about to begin on site. After concrete slabs are poured, utility rough ins will begin. In the spring, the steel for the first floor podium will be installed, and modular installation will begin on site. In the summer, retaining walls will be poured, and curbs will be installed. In the fall, exterior finishes will be completed, landscaping and hardscaping will take place, and playground and basketball court will be installed.

DGS staff shared an update on modular deliveries. Modular units will be delivered on large trucks, and DGS is working with DDOT on a traffic control plan. Prior to any street closures, DGS will ensure that the ANC, the Advisory Team, and immediate neighbors are informed of dates and times of any closures.

DGS staff also shared an update on rodent abatement on the site. DGS is staking pre-emptive steps by abating the site this week, and will share a confirmation with the ANC and Advisory Team after the work has been completed. DGS will be doing ongoing abatement throughout the construction process.

Question: If nearby buildings are affected by rodent activity, what will DGS's response be?
Answer: DGS has committed to increasing abatement activities as needed if nearby buildings or residences are affected.

DGS also shared that the Construction Management Guidelines, which were finalized with feedback from the Advisory Team, ensure that the ANC is given advance notification of any changes on the construction schedule. DGS staff shared that the next monthly construction update will be released in several weeks. The Advisory Team, the ANC, and neighbors will continue to receive these updates on a monthly basis. DGS asked for help from the Advisory Team in identifying additional individuals who should be receiving monthly construction updates.

Director Gillis shared that the District has an ongoing commitment to Southeast Children's Fund to ensure their smooth transition back to their permanent space once their time in swing space at Ferebee Hope Recreation Center is complete.

Question: Where will program staff park?

Answer: There is a designated parking area near the front of the building. The alley will be widened towards the site to accommodate this parking area. There will be approximately 12 spaces on the site.

6. Construction employment opportunities

DGS restated their commitment to upholding first source hiring on this construction site and to providing information about employment opportunities on the Short-term Family Housing construction site. As part of this commitment, DGS's contractors for the site attended the African American Prosperity + Jobs Fair to advertise employment opportunities on the site and collected resumes from residents. Additional positions are available on this site, and DGS's contractor MCN Build shared details with the Advisory Team on how residents can apply for these construction jobs.