

Graduate & Family Housing (GFH) Advisory Committee | MINUTES

Meeting date | Time 2/21/2024 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: *The Exchange & Zoom*

Type of meeting: GFH advisory Committee	Attendees:
Co-Chairs: Willie Lee II Charles Soulen	In Person: Leadbetter, Kristin Salas, Michael Veridiano, Anna Sievert, David Lee II, Willie
Note taker: Madeline Makings	Zoom: Theus, Daniela Jimenez, Diana Nyongesa, Cynthia Tinoco, Carolyn Guzman, Leticia

MEETING MINUTES:

Welcome

Welcome to all attendees!

- Review of some questions received
- Introduce members of the Graduate & Family Housing Advisory Committee
- Introduce GFH Staff Members

- Topics:

○ **Mesa Redevelopment**

- Kristin spoke about the redevelopment of Mesa being rescheduled
- Provided in Chat/document (endorsement letter) from GPSA and Grad Students
- Due to seismic parameters, Mesa will need to be removed by 2030
 - State funding:
 - Postponed/no state funding right now
 - Project is on hold/no movement at this time
 - Part of endorsement letter/include graduate student body feedback
 - No construction plans at the moment and we will let you know
 - Happy to take any questions/reach out to Chip or Kristin or GPSA rep

○ **Central Mesa Landscaping**

- As you are aware the eucalyptus trees were removed in Central and South Mesa last year
 - They were removed due to past incidents of damaged/crushed vehicles and damage to apartments
- University, without advance warning, decided to remove all eucalyptus trees in the community
- GFH are looking at adding more grassy areas
- Bringing new grass/milkweed plants to help facilitate monarch migration
- Looking at dog park/ongoing discussion/possible community gardens

○ **Most recent development of gym door buzzers**

- Reasoning for installing the buzzers as necessary
- ACs have their limitations

- When doors are open, the ACs work really hard to also cool the outside
- Maintenance has repaired the AC units many times/costly and time intensive
- Round and round problem of broken AC due to propping the doors open
- Sending reminder emails, posting signage, information on why the doors should not be left open/unfortunately did not work
- After consideration/least evasive tactic to help and try and keep the doors closed
- Tried various different methods that were not successful
- **Open Floor for Questions:**
 - Clarissa:
 - Q: is it possible for students who live with dependents who are not affiliated able to reserve the community rooms? Exchange mtg rooms, for example.
 - A: Daniela, we are working towards having open access, currently running the pilot program that just started, to get resident feedback, probably you may not run into this issue soon. Contact our office and we can try to work something out for you.
 - Anna Lopez:
 - Q: is there a timeline for fixing concrete sidewalks at SM/CM?
 - A: Chip- I will add to the GFHAC agenda for our bi-weekly meetings. Question to Anna for update. Anna shared she will follow up with Maintenance.
 - Unidentified attendee:
 - Q: Loss of funding for Mesa redevelopment, does this eliminate the increase the two year limit?
 - A: Willie- There is currently a hope with additional spaces in UG community, we would be able to reallocate the Rita residences back to GFH residents.
 - Address questions received via QR Code:
 - Can there be more dumbbells in the gyms?
 - Chip stated that the gyms are run by campus recreation and we can put in a request
 - Also, I can put into GFHAC agenda so we can consistently follow up with this and other issues.
 - Willie added that campus rec recommends that type of equipment that we get. We have been trying to reallocate some equipment from other areas and adding more pieces which I can follow up on.
 - Questions from Chat:
 - Anna Lopez: Can we turn community rooms like 9264 into child friendly spaces?
 - A: Anna, not sure if we get a lot of request for child friendly spaces as a lot of the residents use the space as study rooms. I will certainly look into it.
 - Q: if my roommate has SHORE, can I also stay for that timeframe being their roommate?
 - A: Chip- no, SHORE only applies to the recipient
 - A: Daniela -shared that the SHORE program is an invite not from our dept, it is led by the grad division and not GFH.
 - Q: Are there housing vouchers and assistance?
 - A: Chip-short term one-time assistance grants that you can apply for through Basic Needs. Looking into possibly offering this on amore longer term. Ex. Over specified period vs one-time disbursement
 - Q: Chip- can we key fobs vs key cards.
 - A: Chip- Unfortunately there is already key card system in place, very expensive to replace.
 - A: Kristin-added security when having a subsequent code with keycard vs key fob.
 - Q: Sreevatsank Kadaveru at OMS-regarding electricity, why do some communities include this in rent and others don't. Is it a meter thing?
 - A: Answer unknown and will be looked into.

- Q: unidentified attendee commented that international students are not allowed to participate in CalFresh, etc.
 - A: Chip-maybe check ISPO? Will follow up with Basic Needs, maybe send a reminder email to international students on what is available to them. Chip will follow up.
 - A: Kristin-confirmed through ISPO, Basic Needs, Food Network to help save money on groceries
 - Another attendee confirmed via chat that the above sources are available to international students
- Q: How are changes in rent prices communicated?
 - A: Willie, rent is in effect for 1 year and goes up annually. HDH leadership committed to a 3% increase every year. Notices are normally sent out in April which goes in effect on July 1st.
- Q: Toni- will student contract account for this rent increase of 3%?
 - A: Chip-check into Basic Needs, other options, but this would be your first stop. We will send out more Basic Needs information and talk more about this in GFHAC.
- Anna Lopez: it would be great to have the wood chips removed from the playground areas.
 - Chip-looking to use as much of the wood chips as quickly as possible. Trying to remove from stored areas quickly as they are unsightly. Any GMs have something to add?
 - Anna, working with landscaping to make it a priority to remove from the playground areas.
- Anna Lopez: holes around CM are a hazard
 - Chip-Yes, we can keep an eye on that and we can walk the area(s) again.
- Q: Laura Uriba- can we adjust the thermostat on the study rooms?
 - A: Michael- unfortunately they are set by the maintenance team...same in our office.
 - A: Willie-shared that maintenance recently lowered the t-stats in the gyms per the sustainability dept guidelines. Also, looking into sun shades and/or other means to help with the conditioned air in those areas.
 - Chip- UCSD has a surplus store. Relatively cheap furniture.
 - Willie- added into chat link to surplus sales

- **Final remarks:**

- Reminder: GFHAC is a public forum
- Willie added link to GFHAC page in GFH website which includes bylaws, meeting dates, times, etc.
- Provided his contact email which was posted in the Chat and also mentioned go to website
- Chip will reach out to Basic Needs, Re regarding more weights, look at mesa regarding pits and holes, the woodchips, keep up our efforts on landscaping and provide updates on anything information for the redevelopment.
- Chip has stated that this is coming to a close from the original concerns of the flags and the dangerous nature of the intersection by the market.

Final remarks:

- Meeting Adjourned at 7pm