

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZONING COMMISSION

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PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Case No. 03-02A

Thursday,
February 25, 2010

Hearing Room 220 South
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

The Public Hearing of Case No.
03-02A by the District of Columbia Zoning
Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Office
of Zoning Hearing Room at 441 4th Street,
N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001, Anthony J.
Hood, Chairman, presiding.

ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

ANTHONY J. HOOD, Chairman
WILLIAM WARREN KEATING, Vice Chairman
PETER MAY, Commissioner
KONRAD SCHLATER, Commissioner
MICHAEL J. TURNBULL, Commissioner (AOC)

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. Transcript
EXHIBIT NO. null

OFFICE OF ZONING STAFF PRESENT:

SHARON S. SCHELLIN, Secretary

OFFICE OF PLANNING STAFF PRESENT:

JOEL LAWSON
STEPHEN MORDFIN

The transcript constitutes the minutes from the Public Hearing held on February 25, 2010.

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:37 p.m.

CHAIRMAN HOOD: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is a Public Hearing of the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia, for Thursday, February 25, 2010. My name is Anthony Hood. Joining me are Vice Chairman Keating, Commissioner Schlater, Commissioner May, and Commissioner Turnbull. We're also joined by the Office of Zoning Staff, Ms. Sharon Schellin. Also by the Office of Planning under the leadership of Mr. Lawson.

This proceeding is being recorded by a court reporter and is also web cast live.

Accordingly, we must ask you to refrain from any disruptive noises or actions in the hearing room.

The subject of this evening's hearing is Zoning Commission Case Number 03-02A. This is a request by Gallaudet University for special exception relief,

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1 pursuant to 210 and 3104.1 of the Zoning
2 Regulations. Notice of today's hearing was
3 published in D.C. Register on December 25,
4 2009, and copies of the announcement are
5 available to my left on the wall near the
6 door.

7 The hearing will be conducted in
8 accordance with provisions of 11 DCMR 3117, as
9 follows: preliminary matters, Applicant's
10 case, report of the Office of Planning, report
11 of other Government agencies, report of ANC
12 Neighborhood Commission 5B, also 6A and 6C
13 about the campus, organizations in persons in
14 support, organizations and persons in
15 opposition, rebuttal, and closing by the
16 Applicant. The following time constraints
17 will be maintained in this meeting. The
18 Applicant will be standing on the record, I
19 believe. If not, Mr. Collins will let us know
20 when we get to him. Organizations, five
21 minutes, and individuals three minutes. The
22 Commission intends to adhere to the time

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1 limits as strictly as possible, in order to
2 hear the case in a reasonable period of time.

3 All persons appearing before the Commission
4 are to fill out two witness cards. These
5 cards are located to my left on the table near
6 the door. Upon coming forward to speak to the
7 Commission, please give both cards to the
8 reporter sitting to my right, before taking a
9 seat at the table. When presenting
10 information to the Commission, please turn on
11 and speak into the microphone, first stating
12 your name and home address. When you are
13 finished speaking, please turn your microphone
14 off so that your microphone is no longer
15 picking up sound or background noise.

16 The decision of the Commission in
17 this case must be based exclusively on the
18 public record. And, to avoid any appearance
19 to the contrary, the Commission requests that
20 persons present not engage the members of the
21 Commission in conversation during any recess
22 or at any time.

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1 Please turn off all beepers and
2 cell phones at this time, so as not to disrupt
3 these proceedings. Would all individuals
4 wishing to testify, please rise and take the
5 oath. Ms. Schellin, would you please
6 administer the oath?

7 MS. SCHELLIN: Yes.

8 (Whereupon, witnesses were sworn
9 in.)

10 CHAIRMAN HOOD: At this time, the
11 Commission will consider any preliminary
12 matters. Does the Staff have any preliminary
13 matters?

14 MS. SCHELLIN: No, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Mr. Collins,
16 what is your pleasure?

17 MR. COLLINS: My pleasure, sir, is
18 to stand on the record, except that I also
19 want to make some introductions.

20 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. You can do
21 that.

22 MR. COLLINS: My name is

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1 Christopher Collins with Holland & Knight.
2 With me, tonight, here to answer questions are
3 Mr. Hansel Bauman, who is the Director of
4 Campus Planning and Design for Gallaudet
5 University, and Mr. Alick Dearie who is with
6 Ayers/Saint/Gross Architects. Also from the
7 University are Paul Kelley, the Vice
8 President, Fred Weiner, Executive Director of
9 Program Developments, and Robert Sirvage,
10 Design Research Specialist with Gallaudet.
11 And have I left anyone else out? Okay.

12 The -- I just want the record to
13 reflect that the specific changes that we are
14 asking for in the campus plan are shown in
15 Exhibit 23, which is our pre-hearing
16 statement, at page 5, and Exhibit D. That
17 lists the requested amendments to the campus
18 plan. Our pre-hearing statement, Exhibit 23,
19 also lays out how the application meets the
20 requirements of Section 210 and 3104 of the
21 Zoning Regulations.

22 We do have support from six

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1 organizations, the Gallaudet Community
2 Relations Council, ANC-5B, ANC-6A, ANC-6C, the
3 H Street CDC, and Council Member Harry Thomas
4 Jr. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Thank you, very
6 much, Mr. Collins. And we appreciate all
7 those introductions. Let me turn to my
8 colleagues. I will tell you, not to prohibit
9 us from asking any questions, but I think the
10 record was complete and I want to acknowledge
11 the great work that the Gallaudet University
12 seems to have done in my tenure here, because
13 we've never really had any opposition. It's
14 always full of support. And it shows the
15 great effort that Gallaudet University is
16 doing in the community. And keep up the great
17 work.

18 But let me go to my colleagues and
19 see if there is any questions? Not seeing
20 any, Mr. Collins, I think you can hold your
21 seat. Let's go to the report of the Office of
22 Planning. Oh, let me do this first. Do we

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1 have any representatives from ANC-5B, 6A, or
2 6C here? Okay. Because, if not, there was
3 time for cross examination. Not seeing any,
4 let's go to the Office of Planning.

5 MR. MORDFIN: Good evening. I'm
6 Stephen Mordfin with the Office of Planning.
7 And the Office of Planning stands on the
8 record in this case and is available for any
9 questions the Board may have.

10 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Thank you, very
11 much, Mr. Mordfin. Again, the report was very
12 well done. And again, it looks like a lot of
13 work was put into just making sure everybody
14 was in agreement with what was taking place.
15 Any questions of Mr. Mordfin, colleagues? Not
16 seeing any, Mr. Collins, do you have any cross
17 examination?

18 MR. COLLINS: Not at all, sir.

19 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Again, is anyone
20 here from ANC-5B, 6A, and 6C? Not seeing
21 anyone. Thank you, very much, Mr. Mordfin.
22 Report of other Government agencies? I'll

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1 just move right on. Let me just go right into
2 the support letters, because I think that's --
3 and that's already been cited and noted.
4 Colleagues, we have Exhibit 20, and Exhibit
5 26, Exhibit 27, Exhibit 29, and Exhibit 21.
6 And I think I'm missing the one from Council
7 Member Thomas. But anyway, there were six.

8 MR. COLLINS: That was Exhibit 29,
9 I think.

10 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, 29. I'm
11 missing one. Okay. We've got Gallaudet
12 Community Relations, Advisory Neighborhood 5B,
13 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C, Advisory
14 Neighborhood -- oh, Council Member Thomas, and
15 H Street CDC. Now, which one am I missing? I
16 am missing 6A, Chairperson Robinson. So I
17 know that's in the record. Exhibit 25. Thank
18 you, Ms. Schellin. So we have a number of
19 letters in support. Do we have any
20 organizations or persons here in support that
21 would like to testify? Do we have any
22 organizations or persons in opposition that

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1 would like to testify? Mr. Collins, do you
2 have any closing remarks?

3 MR. COLLINS: I simply wish to
4 thank you for your time. This project is on a
5 fast track and we would appreciate your -- a
6 decision and the issuance of a written order
7 at the earliest possible time. And we are
8 prepared to submit a draft order
9 electronically tomorrow morning.

10 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Colleagues,
11 I think, as Mr. Collins said, it seems like
12 it's on a fast track because this hearing has
13 definitely been on a fast track. So what I
14 would like to do, I would move approval of
15 Zoning Commission Case Number 03-02A, for
16 campus plan amendment, and a special exception
17 for further processing for Gallaudet
18 University, and I ask for a second.

19 COMMISSIONER MAY: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Moved and properly
21 seconded. Any further discussion? No further
22 discussion? All those in favor, aye?

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1 ALL: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Not hearing any
3 opposition, Ms. Schellin, would you record the
4 vote?

5 MS. SCHELLIN: Yes. Staff records
6 the vote five to zero to zero to approve
7 Zoning Commission Case Number 03-02A,
8 Commissioner Hood moving, Commissioner May
9 seconding, Commissioners Schlater, Keating,
10 and Turnbull in support.

11 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Ms.
12 Schellin, do we have anything else before us?

13 MS. SCHELLIN: No, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Again, I
15 want to applaud the community, the Gallaudet
16 University, and everyone that had a part to
17 play. If you wanted us to be here longer
18 tonight, come back. Because some nights we
19 are here a lot longer. So, with that, this
20 hearing is adjourned.

21 (Whereupon, the Public Hearing was
22 adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.)

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