

# EAC Townhall Meeting – February 24, 2009 – Minutes

Residents: approx. 20

President	Treasurer	CEC	PC	SPIRC	SC	Publicity	IO	HM/RLA
Julie Valastyan	Andreia Rosa	David Liu	Mary Hackel	Eric Homer		Shay Maymon	Peter Schmitt	Ayida Mthembu
Scott Valastyan		Kali Drake	Ben Hackel			Keren Miller	Susanne Seitingner	Jason McKnight

Special guests: Karen Nilsson, Assistant to the Dean of Student Life (KN), Dennis Collins, Director of Housing (DC)

## 1. Security Updates from Visiting Guests (KN & DC)

- The emergency telephone has been ordered and received by IS&T. It will be installed within one week.
- Card systems have been upgraded...housing brought the card system to campus....
- Security cameras have been installed in the lobby and in the back hallway by the dumpster. The two cameras will be monitored by Nightwatch in Senior House (12am-8am) as well as the Nightwatch supervisors (4pm-12am). The Nightwatch report is presented to the HM and others in housing and student life.
- The back door by the dumpsters now has a card reader and the door is alarmed.
- The lighting in the alley by the parking lots has been brightened.
- Housing has been working closely with MIT Campus Police to implement these safety measures.

## 2. Question for Visiting Guests

- Where will the emergency phone be located? DC: The phone will be placed on the building façade to the left of the entrance when facing the building.
- How long will the budget cuts remain in place? KN: The Institute has lost approximately 30% of its endowment as a result of the downturn. Carla will face a 5% budget decrease every year for the next three years. The big-ticket improvements are on hold until more funds become available. The phasing will be:
  - Phase I: new heating system (completed, \$3.5 million)
  - Phase II: double-pane windows
  - Phase III: central AC by connecting Eastgate to the new Sloan building'
- How does Housing determine priorities for improvements? KN & DC: The first priority is always life and safety such as fire-alarms and sprinkler systems. Other items are a balancing act across all buildings. Quality of life projects (such as the Penthouse lounge improvements) have received more and more attention.
- What percentage of the budget is allocated to each dormitory? KN: It depends on the age of the building because the older buildings require bigger investments. It also depends on the differences between graduate and undergraduate students' needs.

- Does Eastgate now have a good level of security? KN: Historically, Eastgate has been seen to be a secure building located in a secure neighborhood. In the past, there has never been a front desk in Eastgate nor was it planned when the building was constructed. DC's security measures will certainly contribute to a safer building. And it has been noted that the front desk is very important to building residents.

In addition, Eastgate now has a HM which also presents a significant cost and should contribute to making the voice of residents heard. Ayida is a very senior HM having been at East Campus and Green Hall in the past where she gained experience with graduates and undergraduates. Now the only building without a HM is Westgate where Jason McKnight, RLA, has been active.

- Which entrance should parents picking up their children at the daycare center use? KN & DC: Parents should be using the exterior entrance. RLA: Some parents (4-5) with many children have temporary access cards.
- What are the formal channels for communicating with Housing? KN: The HM and work with GSC committees can open direct channels to Housing and Student life. For example, the decision to place a HM in the building was the result of a GSC presentation on family life approximately 3-4 years ago. Carla is the best person to notify about physical and maintenance issues.

### **3. Upcoming Events**

- Residents should check the Eastgate website events page.
- Ice-Skating Party on March 2, 2009 (Spouses & Partners and SPIRC)
- Weekly Learn-to-Knit classes will continue (SPIRC)

### **4. Construction Updates (RLA)**

- The construction projects for the Sloan building and Dewey Library are on time.
- Library: There will be noise on Friday, February 27, 2009. And then the project should be quiet until the end of March. The Plaza work will start again in mid-March.
- Sloan: The building is on schedule which means that the parking lot will return in June. The building envelope is almost completed and should reduce noise levels. There will continue to be work on weekends (starting 9am) and during the week (starting 7am). If the construction is noisy outside those times or there are trucks idling residents should email RLA.
- There is a waitlist for east campus parking permits which RLA will manage. When the new lot opens it will be important to monitor it and ensure that there are no non-Eastgate cars parking there.
- The Hermann garage and the new Sloan building will have secure bike storage areas with key card access points. Eastgate residents will be allowed to leave their bikes there.
- Signage alongside Eastgate will be improved to clearly mark the firelane. During the day, Carla is vigilant about keeping traffic moving. If cars are parked for extended periods of time residents should contact MIT Police who enforce parking on campus.
- Recycling should return in June 2009. Recycling canisters may be placed in each trash room in the building.