

March 16, 2009: Community Brainstorming Meeting
Notes of concerns and suggestions

Additional comments have been added that were not presented at the meeting of March 16, 2009.

Concerns

1. Has there been an environmental assessment of this policy?
2. Fire safety and evacuation – people can't get out of their neighborhood because the gate is closed.
3. 25 more minutes to walk around the campus with gate closed-disabled resident
4. Students smoking on the property line
5. Can't get to the bus to UMD because of the fence barrier-significant increase in travel time
6. Fence at Scarborough will make me drive to MC-Rockville so much longer
7. Added distance from my home to campus- have to walk through Scarborough Square since gate closed
8. Breaks between classes too short to reach smoking areas
9. Can't get to work on time with the gate closed
10. Impact on neighborhood from no smoking on campus
11. Not a driver- need public transportation –bus stops on campus
12. Pro health policy is reducing walking
13. Second hand smoke on campus was not that big a problem
14. Family uses facilities on campus, child walks to school through campus so the blocking of access is a big burden- solution is disproportionate- a questionable payback
15. Closing of the fence has had a negative impact on our property values
16. The areas Montgomery College has indicated for smoking creates potential danger
17. Make sure access is not through private property
18. Policy is creating a choke point with more second hand smoke
19. Possible conflict between closing fence and other legal requirements: as an example, encouraging bikes, healthy activity, climate action plan
20. Safety issues from closed fence (no way to get emergency evacuation)
21. Since closing of fence student smokers have moved up to other residential areas (NW boundary of college) – pine trees make this dangerous for smoking
22. Just now hearing security reasons about fence closing when never heard this before
23. Admirable for college to aim for smoke free campus but they've made their problem our problem- it's not enforceable
24. On Princeton Pl we now have serious safety issue- its more than smoking now
25. Child with developmental disability has had to change walking pattern- has been major change, cant walk herself anymore
26. How to keep the communications open after tonight
27. Security issue created by blocked fence

28. Property values on Princeton place negatively impacted from open gate.
29. College Garden residents experienced loss of property values since gate closed.
30. Community has felt left out
31. ADA Compliance
32. It looks like a prison

Suggestions

1. Can a smoking area be put on city owned land within the school fence?
2. Have an environmental impact study of the policy
3. Open the gate
4. Keep the campus open near Scarborough Square
5. Make a more severe infraction if smoking on a property line
6. Open the gate and allow smoking on campus
7. Lengthen breaks between classes
8. Location of MC-Rockville blocks access to town center- needs to provide reasonable access for bikes, pedestrians.
9. Make smoking areas on campus- use for education re smoking
10. Find an alternative smoking site in north part of campus
11. Accommodate public transportation users
12. Create Smoking area in Anderson park
13. Move the access pt away from the cul-de-saq, see where a better place would be- do study-research accessibility for all
14. Smoking area is between parking area 9 and the perimeter fence would be preferable
15. Rockville to conduct a needs assessment of residents of College Gardens and Plymouth Woods and – learn access needs, what for- data collection.
16. Create smoking area near parking area 9 – it's way out of the way- would achieve goal of having people avoid 2d hand smoke without closing fence/access
17. State willing to work with community to find ways to turn the college into a model for providing walking, etc.
18. Include Scarborough Sq in any data collection re access needs
19. Provide a shuttle for the smokers
20. Want audit of the grant money
21. MC refund \$ to students who cant walk to school, don't have a car, or want to stay green
22. Return to former policy while they work on a better solution since have until 2010
23. Getting rid of smokers on Princeton Place would alleviate cars, noise, etc-
24. Impact Study on the growth of the college and safety issues before opening the fence.
25. Reopen existing or close by
26. City build gazebo in Anderson park
27. Get information from police about Princeton Place security issues
28. Have community representatives working with MC and city reps who will be working between now and April 6
29. Have Board of Trustees represented at Apr 6 meeting