

UAF Master Planning Committee Thursday, April 17, 2003; 9 – 11 a.m. Chancellor's Conference Room; Signers' Hall Room 330	No agenda available
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Master Planning Committee Meeting

April 17, 2003

Notes

Members Present:

Rick Caulfield (chair), John Craven, Clark Milne, Rich Seifert, Pamela Davis, Joe Hayes, Gerry Plumley, Chris Bennett, Patrick Lovejoy, Terrence Cole

Guests:

Steve Titus, Shirish Patil, Gary Newman

Welcome and announcements

The chair reported briefly on the excellent work being done by the North Campus and Circulation and Parking subcommittees and expressed the MPC's appreciation for the work of subcommittee chairs and members. Both subcommittees are actively engaged in planning and soliciting public input about their respective areas of responsibility.

The chair expressed appreciation to Clark Milne for his service to the MPC as he plans to transition off of the committee. He invited suggestions of community members who could be nominated to serve on the MPC from the broader Fairbanks community.

Informational Presentation from Facilities Services

Steve Titus from Facilities Services, Division of Design and Construction (DDC), reported on ongoing projects on the Fairbanks and rural campuses. Major projects include Wood Center deferred renewal, USDA staging area, construction of West Ridge Research Building (WRRB), the West Ridge utilidor, museum

expansion, and power plant modifications. DOT continues to work on the Thompson Drive entrance to UAF.

Significant public input was received about West Ridge construction impacts from a recent informational session. That information is being shared electronically with MPC members. A second informational session will be held in the Natural Sciences Facility on April 24. While construction moves ahead, DDC continues to focus on minimizing impacts on West Ridge users, including expansion of the shuttle bus system, careful scheduling of activities (e.g. use of compacting equipment), and regular publication of information about parking and circulation. DDC has a website containing up-to-date information: <http://www.uaf.edu/pps/WestRidgeCstrn.html>

DDC shared with the MPC an illustration of preliminary alignments for Tanana Loop. No final alignment has been chosen, but this illustration will be shared with North Campus and Circulation and Parking subcommittees for planning purposes. The most likely source of funds for Tanana Loop completion is the state DOT STIP process. UAF's request to have this placed on the statewide list is now pending with DOT's statewide office. The best guess about potential funding at this stage is for design work in FY05 and construction in FY07. The estimated cost at this stage is about \$1million.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The chair noted that the MPC Executive Committee is recommending creation of an identified time in each MPC meeting for public comment on any item of relevance to the MPC's work (see agenda item below). Each speaker will have three minutes to address the MPC with any ideas, comments, or questions. A change in MPC bylaws is being proposed to formalize this method for ensuring public comment opportunities in all regularly scheduled meetings.

In keeping with the spirit of this proposed bylaw change, the chair invited any public comment. Gary Newman, a visitor from GI, expressed support for such a bylaw change to formalize this process for inviting public comment.

Recommendation from Subcommittee on Circulation and Parking (CPS)

Shirish Patil, chair of the Subcommittee on Circulation and Parking presented a recommendation from the subcommittee addressing the issue of summer visitor

parking in the vicinity of the UAF Museum. The MPC expressed its appreciation to the subcommittee for its work on this recommendation, including its proactive work with museum administration and staff.

In response, the MPC approved unanimously a recommendation to the Chancellor about summer visitor parking on West Ridge ([see attached](#)) that builds on the subcommittee's recommendation.

Shirish Patil noted that two public open houses (at Wood Center and Noel Wien Library) were held to solicit input about circulation and parking issues on campus. He also shared data from a web survey designed to gather public input about these issues. The consultant now working on the circulation and parking study intends to submit its final report in mid-June.

Process for Refining Concept Plans for Lower Campus Quad and West Ridge Plaza

The chair reported about a MPC Executive Committee plan to hold two working sessions in May to refine conceptual plans for the Lower Campus quad and West Ridge plaza, consistent with the current master plan. These working sessions will include Executive Committee members and others with expertise about these two areas. The results of these working sessions will be brought back to the full MPC for public comment and review.

With regard to the quad, construction equipment will be removed in early summer 2003. The current plan is for the contractor to return the quad to its previous design. The working session will be focused on bringing forward our best thinking about how to improve the quad area; there may be opportunities for phased improvements to the design to make it a more attractive and functional space.

Construction of the utilidor presents an opportunity to redesign the WR plaza to enhance its landscaping and attractiveness to pedestrians. The working session will focus on how to achieve the master plan's overall goals for the area while also addressing the question of parking and other needs in the area.

MPC members noted the importance of having student representation in these working sessions. Another comment highlighted the importance of considering the walkway between the Brooks and Duckering buildings included in any design

consideration. Members of the mining community are said to have an interest in the design of the walkway to commemorate UAF's history in serving the community.

Nomination of New MPC and Subcommittee Members

The chair noted the departure of several MPC and subcommittee members and the need to recommend new members to the Chancellor. He invited MPC members to bring forward new names of individuals who would bring expertise to MPC work and who are willing to serve.

Other Business

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 1, 9-11am, Chancellor's Conference Room