

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

December 11, 2003

Notes

Members Present:

Rick Caulfield (chair), Deb Horner (vice-chair), Joe Hayes, Pamela Davis, Andy Angiak, Ian Olson, Lydia Andersen, Brett Biebuyck, Katie Murra, Kathleen Schedler, Luke Hopkins

Guests:

Greg Crier, John Davies, Jack Hebert, Stan Justice, Don Lokken, Gary Newman

Introductions and Announcements

The chair noted the continuing work of subcommittees on circulation and parking and the North Campus Area. The ad hoc subcommittee on landscaping also continues to meet but will transform into the already-approved subcommittee on campus landscaping and outdoor artwork early in the spring semester.

The MPC is now considering recommendations to the Chancellor based on the circulation and parking study. These will be finalized at the January 8, 2004 meeting. We expect a public open forum to be held about both the landscaping and North Campus Area plans in late January-early February followed by formal presentations of each to the MPC shortly thereafter.

The chair noted positive additions to the campus in the form of new prototype signs and campus maps and holiday lights on the Gruening Building. MPC members expressed appreciation for these improvements.

Information Presentation by Facilities Services - Kathleen Schedler

Regents' approval of the new Central Animal Facility (CAF) is now secured. Funding is coming largely from the recent general obligation bond. The facility will be located north of the UA Museum where warehouses currently stand. Questions about size and design are still being addressed but the expectation is that construction will begin in summer 2004.

Discussions continue about design and funding for a new public policy building that would include housing materials from offices of Sen. F. Murkowski and Rep. Young. A consultant is exploring possible co-habitation of this proposed building with other uses. The MPC previously identified the Ballaine parking lot site as a possible building location.

Construction continues on the UA Museum addition. The shell should be enclosed in January 2004, allowing interior work to move ahead. A Canadian TV crew is visiting this week to film for a documentary on construction in cold climates. Work also continues in finishing up the utilidor and lab improvements in the O'Neill Building.

Work continues in the West Ridge Research Building (WRRB). Completion is expected in April 2004. A question has come up about interior artwork for the building and there is discussion about reconstituting a committee for interior artwork in this and other campus buildings. It will be important to involve building users in that discussion.

Attention is being given to ways of improving access and signage on the north side of IARC, the GI, O'Neill, and Irving buildings given increased parking in the area.

Discussion continues about planned construction at the Lena Point facility for SFOS in Juneau. The recent GO bond provided \$9 million for the project, with NOAA as a partner. Site work is expected to begin in summer 2004.

Facility expansion continues at the Bristol Bay Campus in Dillingham. The addition there should be completed in January 2004.

Comments are invited about the prototype signs and campus maps. Based on these comments, additional signs will be developed for the campus.

Opportunity for Public Comments (3 minutes each)

Gary Newman inquired about the process and timeline for landscaping along Koyukuk Drive, which is part of the broader landscaping study now underway.

John Davies inquired about the status of proposals for bike paths along Yankovitch and Miller roads. Some planning has been completed for this project and they are believed to be on the state's STIP list. The chair offered to inquire further about this project, which the MPC has supported through the master plan.

Katie Murra expressed a concern about there being no sidewalk between Irving and the UA Museum. Kathleen Schedler noted construction in the area but said that the issue is being addressed. Katie also expressed concern about the current parking configuration behind IARC. The roadway on the northern edge of the parking lot is narrow and often congested.

Katie Murra also inquired about trails planning for the North Campus area. Graduate students on West Ridge often have dogs that need to be walked during the day. The current ♠pooch loop♠ is often icy and there may be a need for an additional trail or improvements to the existing trail. She also suggested consideration of a skijour trail in the area.

Presentation/Update about Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) -

Jack Hebert and John Davies

CCHRC staff are working actively with Facilities Services and the VC for Administrative Services to move design and construction ahead. The site for the CCHRC is on university property south of the ARR tracks and west of Fairbanks Street. A pioneer road now exists into the site, and the plan is to begin construction in April 2004. The building should be completed in one year. Funding is from USDA Rural Development and other sources.

Circulation and Parking Plan Recommendations

MPC members discussed at length recommendations from the Circulation and Parking Subcommittee. The MPC anticipates completing its review of these recommendations and forwarding them to the Chancellor in January 2004.

Discussion focused on parking management recommendations and issues of funding. Most MPC members agreed that our task is to make broad recommendations but that detailed questions about funding and implementation must be left to staff.

A major question is whether the MPC would support the CPS study's recommendation to shift from reserved gold spaces to a system of reserved lots. The pros and cons of this were discussed, including concern that current gold decal holders may not be willing to buy a permit for access to a lot rather than a specified space. The major advantage of reserved lots is in greater efficiency in use of empty spaces. In some situations currently, many gold spaces are empty when general parking needs are great.

The MPC voted on the question of whether to endorse the concept of reserved (premium) lots as recommended in the CPS study. Joe Hayes made the motion for purposes of discussion. Ian Olson seconded it. Members favored endorsing premium lots by a vote of six in favor, five against, with no abstentions.

Other issues discussed include strengthening recommendations about needs of commuter students, including recommendations about shuttle buses and their design in MPC recommendations.

Adjourn

NEXT SCHEDULED MPC MEETING: JANUARY 8, 2004