

<p>UAF Master Planning Committee</p> <p>Thursday, July 24, 2003; 9 – 11 a.m. Chancellor’s Conference Room; Signers’ Hall Room 330</p>	<p>No agenda available</p>
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Master Planning Committee Meeting

July 24, 2003

Notes

Members Present:

Rick Caulfield (chair), Deb Brownfield, Gerry Plumley, Chris Bennett, Pamela Davis (by telephone), Luke Hopkins, Ian Olson, Rich Seifert

Members Absent:

Kathleen Schedler, Lydia Anderson, Joe Hayes, Freda Williams, Terrence Cole, John Craven, Edie Curry

Welcome and Announcements:

The chair reported on action taken by the chancellor on three recent MPC recommendations. MPC recommendation 03-03, “Approval of Facilities Services concept plan for the UAF campus quad” was approved by the chancellor with modification to retain 22 parking spaces directly in front of Signers’ Hall and removing permanently those on the east side of the lot. MPC recommendation 03-04, “MPC bylaw change: public involvement in MPC meetings,” was approved as submitted. Similarly, MPC recommendation 03-05, “MPC endorsement of West Ridge Plaza design ‘alternative 6’,” was approved as submitted. The chair expressed appreciation for the chancellor’s support of the MPC’s work.

The chair reported on a recent meeting (7.17.03) of the MPC executive committee with the chancellor. During the meeting, the executive committee briefed the chancellor about the three recommendations noted above and answered questions about them.

The chair noted that the MPC's two standing subcommittees, circulation and parking (CPS) and the North Campus area (NCS), continue to meet. The CPS is working with consultants Kittleson and Associates in reviewing the draft study on circulation and parking. The MPC chair also received an initial draft plan for the North Campus area that will be subject to further review and public comment during the fall.

The chair also noted that he and the executive committee are working with the Office of the Chancellor to appoint new MPC members for those whose terms are finished or for slots previously unfilled.

Information Update from Facilities Services about Ongoing Design and Construction

Kathleen Schedler and Steve Titus were unavailable to make this report. However, later agenda items involved extensive discussion with Facilities Services (FS) staff about the UAF campus quad and West Ridge plaza (see below).

Mike Schuetz from FS responded to questions about reconstruction of the parking lot between Duckering and Bunnell. This lot will be closed temporarily in August to improve circulation, add handicapped parking, and enhance landscaping and sidewalks. FS has already closed the middle entrance/exit which is hazardous.

Rich Seifert suggested that consideration be given to covering the stairs from this parking lot leading to the quad. He noted persistent problems with snow and ice on these stairs. It was also suggested that consideration be given to easing pedestrian obstacles for those coming up the stairs from College Road and walking to the quad.

Update on MPC Circulation and Parking Subcommittee

CPS chair Shirish Patil introduced John Ringert and Anthony Yee from Kittleson and Associates, which is preparing the study of circulation and parking on campus. Ringert noted that their work involves documenting the existing situation with regard to C&P and preparing a plan and recommendations consistent with the overall UAF master plan. The draft plan will be available to the CPS by August 1, and a second draft will be available for MPC review on August 22. They hope to receive comments back from the MPC by August 29. A public meeting will be held in September to solicit input about the final draft.

MPC members expressed appreciation for the update and inquired about how a draft of the emerging plan could be placed on the web so that interested parties could review it. Mike Schuetz stated that he'd work to see how that could be done.

Moore Hall Antenna Placement

The MPC previously reviewed a proposal for an antenna array on Moore Hall submitted by the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD). In doing so, it raised several questions about possible frequency conflicts and issues of building access. It also discussed potential alternative sites. It asked the FNSBSD to work with FS in refining the proposal to address these questions.

At the meeting, the MPC reviewed the revised proposal that reflected broader consultation and addressed technical questions. FS now endorses the proposal fully. Consultations took place with the Division of Computing and Communications that led to use of several directional instead of wide beam antennas. This will minimize any possible frequency conflicts. The proposers also consulted with Student Services to assure them that any technical staff involved with installation and maintenance will be approved FNSBSD staff.

FNSBSD guests present at the meeting noted the mutual benefits arising from this antenna siting. MPC members had previously expressed support for the community educational mission served by this antenna array.

Following the discussion, the MPC voted unanimously to approve a motion (MPC 03-06) (Plumley; second, Olson) to recommend approval of the Moore Hall antenna placement request as presented by FS.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Gary Newman voiced support for adding small gathering areas in a redesigned campus quad that would facilitate conversation among small groups. He noted how such places could be a "lens" for amplifying sounds in conversations. He also supported having more seating space in the northwest quadrant of the lawn in a redesigned quad.

No other public comment was offered.

Recommendation about UAF Campus Quad Concept Plan

The chancellor's approval of MPC recommendation 03-03 enables FS to move ahead with the initial phase of quad reconstruction this year. This will include removal of the fountain, improving drainage, building of a circular seating area with flags, permanent removal of parking that had been unavailable during library construction, and other improvements.

Glen Kravitz gave a presentation about a new concept plan for the quad that builds upon this short-term reconstruction plan. This concept plan reflects comments from the MPC, the MPC's ad hoc committee on the quad, consultation with the chancellor and library director, and others. Major elements include adding a greenhouse/reading room to the Rasmuson Library patio, adding a sloped lawn/amphitheater, improving walkways, relocating Signers' Hall parking to the south Signers and Eielson lots (removing all parking from the quad), adding small gathering areas and landscaping, moving the Emily Ivanoff-Brown memorial flame next to Brooks Building, and adding an interpretive mining garden along the path adjacent to Brooks (see WRT graphic "UAF campus quad" dated 7.22.03).

After much discussion, the MPC voted unanimously to approve a recommendation (MPC 03-07; Davis; second, Seifert) supporting the concept as presented, with the understanding that additional public review and comment will take place and that the MPC will revisit the concept plan before any substantive design work is pursued. By approving this recommendation, the MPC anticipates that FS will be able to develop cost estimates for the elements in the concept plan that can be used in securing funding. The MPC hopes to have a polished written concept plan with graphics and cost estimates by September 1, 2003.

Other Business

The chancellor's approval of MPC 03-05 involving redesign of the West Ridge plaza enabled FS to move ahead with engineering work for a redesigned one-way road and walkways. Glen Kravitz of FS shared the latest design drawings showing location of the roadway and walkways that he expects will be in place this fall.

Discussion focused on possible refinements to the design as presented, including walkway and turnout locations, use of drop-off areas along the roadway,

measures to invite public comments about the design, and other issues. The MPC agreed that having another meeting of the ad hoc group involved in earlier planning would be helpful, particularly in thinking about short-term parking questions and signage along the one-way road. The MPC chair will seek to arrange a meeting of the ad hoc group during the week of July 28.

FS is able to help with design of public information displays about the plaza. These will show the overall concept for West Ridge (including new parking areas) and more detailed illustration of the revised roadway design. We expect to have these displays in place in early August. Members of the public can comment on the design using the existing WR construction email address.

Deb Brownfield noted that the Alaska Railroad task force continues to meet. She serves on the task force. Its work could impact the fields west of the Agricultural Experiment Station as the ARR considers a new alignment along the Parks Highway. She will keep the MPC informed about developments.

Luke Hopkins recommended setting aside a MPC meeting early in fall 2003 as a work session on goals for FY04 and for a review of upcoming capital and other projects relevant to the UAF master plan. The chair suggested that this work session could take place at our first regular meeting on September 11, 2003.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00AM