

UAF Master Planning Committee Thursday, July 20, 2006; 9 – 11 a.m. Chancellor's Conference Room; Signers' Hall Room 330	No agenda available
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Master Planning Committee Meeting

July 20, 2006

Notes

Members present: C. Bennett, D. Horner, I. Olson, A. Ringstad, H. Nielsen, D. Braddock, L. Anderson, L. Hopkins, G. Newman, J. Hayes

Guests: C. Ward and J. Campbell, Design and Construction; M. Musick, CCHRC

1) Welcome and Introductions

D. Horner chaired the meeting in R. Caulfield's absence.

2) Subcommittee reports

Campus Landscape and Outdoor Art:

Deb Horner gave an update on activities of CLOA. At the last meeting (7/13), Ed Foster gave an update on landscape efforts on campus. The grounds crew has been busy implementing some of the changes recommended in the flower bed inventory. Efforts are also underway to replace many of the winter kill perennials around campus. Ed noted that this was one of the hardest winter kill years ever. On the tree inventory front, Bob Wheeler has been continuing his efforts to inventory Lower Campus and West Ridge trees. Weather and schedules have prevented any further work on the parking lot inventory. CLOA will work with the Anthropology Dept. to develop a landscape plan for the Rainey cabin.

Circulation and Parking

C. Bennett informed the group that the C&P has not met since the last MPC meeting. L. Anderson inquired as to the status of borough bus service to campus. L. Hopkins informed members that the borough will have a booth at the fair explaining all of the options for the bus service throughout the borough.

North Campus

L. Hopkins indicated that the NCS has had two meetings since the last MPC meeting. Their work is focusing on defining walking trails. A public forum in mid-September on the various options will be held. NCS will evaluate what they think are the best options and update MPC at either the August or September meeting, prior to the public forum. NCS is also planning to make a recommendation on shoreline impacts on Ballaine Lake. Annual trail maintenance efforts are being undertaken during the summer months.

3) Facilities Services Update

There was no update regarding Facilities Services activities on campus. Instead, Cindy Ward, Contract Manager, and Jenny Campbell, Senior Project Manager, DDC, gave an update on the rural campus master plans.

The process began about one year ago and was funded with year-end monies. Interior-Aleutians has the largest service area of the five campuses; Ft. Yukon is the best facility among I-A's campuses

Generally, facilities are very rustic at many of the campuses, and there are significant challenges at most locations. Hundreds of square miles comprise the service area of each campus, and there is a need to improve teleconferencing at almost every location. Bristol Bay is in the best shape overall. The campus is currently undergoing construction. Despite being in comparatively good shape, there is still a problem with delivering the services to the area, given its size.

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Lee Haugen joined us by audioconference to talk about the Northwest Campus plan. She said she was delighted to have a plan up and running but is somewhat aghast at the level of facilities and planning challenges at the campus. The plan is the only thing that allows for her to do "visioning."

G. Newman pointed out that the plans would be good to use to educate the legislature on the needs at the campuses. The cost benefit of doing the projects should be pointed out to them. The plans will serve to make everyone more sensitive to the needs facing the rural campuses.

L. Haugen mentioned that the BoR had looked at the building when they were there at a recent meeting. There was concern that the buildings are very poorly insulated. She wanted to know how the projects get rated and how she can make it happen. C. Ward indicated that the project is on the overall capital improvement plan but is not high on the list.

The NW Campus plan is a great tool to use in lobbying the legislature. L. Hopkins suggested that the plans be used with local politicians as well, particularly in forging new, or enhancing existing, partnerships. Members expressed surprise at the number of local partnerships that exist at the rural campuses. L. Haugen indicated that the master plan helped to open the door for the consortium library effort.

L. Haugen signed off after about 20 minutes of conversation; C. Ward and J. Campbell continued the presentation on the remaining campuses. Members were unanimous in their endorsement of the plans, indicating that reading the plans was a real eye opener for them. G. Newman suggested that in our recommendation to the Chancellor for approval of the plans that we ask that the energy related projects be targeted. The spin-offs of improving energy efficiency at all of the campuses cannot be stressed too much. J. Hayes stated that he felt the UA Momentum advertising campaign is missing the boat by not advertising what we have available at the rural campuses – we need to quit treating them like stepchildren.

4) Research and Development area

Dr. Jim Collins, Professor of Business Administration, gave a presentation on the concept of research parks titled, “Accelerators, Research Parks, the University, and the Private Sector: A Tale of What Can Be.” D. Horner had requested the presentation, as Collins is now the university liaison with FEDC. He also provided copies of the “Business Plan for the Development and Operation of Alaska Technology Business Accelerator.” The presentation looked at the broad aspects of a business incubator, including some facts and figures about other universities that have gone this route. He also talked specifically about the situation at UAF and with FEDC. Although there has never been any discussion on the part of MPC about not supporting a business incubator, members needed to know the current lay of the land prior to considering the plat plans for the area. Dr. Collins’ presentation was very helpful in putting the current situation into context.

Unfortunately, there was not adequate time to consider the plat plans. Given Dr. Collins' assurances that construction on a new building was not imminent, it was decided that the plat plans would be considered at the next meeting of the MPC in August. At that time, members should come prepared to discuss the pros and cons of each plat plan, as well as general ideas on development of the area.

5) Public Comment

Mike Musick, CCHRC, made an appeal for putting in a trail to the CCHRC from Thompson Drive. Currently, the only pedestrian route to the center is to go over the ARR bridge on Fairbanks St., walk to the entrance to the R&D area, and go up the road to CCHRC. This is not necessarily the most direct route for students who are working there. Mike has been working with Ed Foster to determine an appropriate location. CCHRC will pay for the construction of the trail. There was no objection to creating a trail, but Mike was advised to come up with the options and make another presentation to the group. It is possible that a special meeting may need to be called in order to consider this issue.

6) Other

There were no other items.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15. The next meeting will be on August 17, 2006, unless a special meeting is held to consider construction of a trail to CCHRC.