

UAF Master Planning Committee

Meeting Notes

Monday, April 5, 2021; 9am-11am

Zoom meeting

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/97594883375>

Present: Joshua Greenberg, Donna Gardino, Nathan Belz, Cameron Wohlford, Doug Schrage, Holly Beamon, Kara Azz, Gary Newman

Guests: Katy Catron, Tracie Curry

1. Welcome and introductions

2. OHV policy –Chief Catron

UAF Police Chief Catron shared law enforcement's perspective on the current policy. Chief Carton has requested more signage to post on campus regarding OHV restrictions. Chief Carton does not see a problem with the current policy, indicating that the challenge is with enforcement. Chief Carton also recommends increasing awareness of UAF's OHV policy by publicizing beyond the UAF Cornerstone publication. UAF Police Officers do not chase people on OHVs, and confronting violators while on the trail is discouraged. Bollards could be installed at trailheads, but these tend to be ineffective as OHV users make trails around them. If photographic evidence of violations can be provided, UAF Police can attempt to identify and trespass the violators.

The committee also learned of the recent announcement from the Alaska Department of Public Safety about proposed changes on the use of ATVs and snowmobiles on roads in Alaska, which is currently open for public comment. If approved, OHV use would be permitted on roads with limits of 45 mph or less. The announcement is accessible online at:

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=201795>

The committee questions how this proposal would affect university property. The pedestrian pathways around campus on Miller Hill Road and Yankovich Road is under a maintenance agreement with DOT. To gain a better understanding of the policy's impact, the Committee will request information from the Lands Office about university ownership of roadways on campus.

The MPC chair reported that UAF Ag Farm manager does not consider OHVs use in fields a problem as long as damage to research plots does not result from that activity. The hill below the Butrovich Building was identified as a particularly hazardous area because of the hidden bike and pedestrian path that is crossed to access the hill. The risk of concealing activity on the path increases throughout the winter as snow berms accumulate and block the view.

A motion was made and seconded to change the current UAF OHV (ORV) policy from:

UAF Campus, for the purpose of this policy, “campus” is limited to the trails, sidewalks and roads owned and maintained by the University of Alaska Fairbanks.”

To: UAF Campus, for the purpose of this policy, “campus” is limited to the trails, sidewalks, roads, fields and green spaces owned or maintained by the University of Alaska Fairbanks as delineated in Appendix A of this policy.”

A follow-up motion was made and seconded to table the prior motion. This motion passed unanimously, tabling the motion for the language change to the current OHV (ORV) policy. The Committee will draft a letter to Chancellor White explaining MPC’s concern about current policy.

3. Community garden expansion—Tracie Curry

Dr. Curry presented to the MPC about the proposed expansion. There is increased demand from the community and existing gardeners for growing space. There are accessibility issues with parking so far away. There are also security issues with produce being taken from gardens, so they want to improve fencing with the expansion. The estimated cost will be about \$10,500. Timing of expansion: fencing first, then build garden beds throughout year with goal of being able to have them available next year. A long-term solution to water access is needed. The current source is a fire hydrant, and this source will adequately meet increased demand for water in the short run. A long run water needs to be identified and the community garden committee will work Facilities services to identify a long run water source. There will also be a space dedicated for “free” produce to reduce the likelihood of produce being taken from rented beds.

4. Subcommittee and additional reports

a. North Campus

Sherpa is operational again. Campus tails should be groomed soon.

b. Campus Landscape

Nothing new to report

c. Sustainability

Nothing new to report

d. Inclusivity

The sub-committee is working on signage and other measures of Native Alaska acknowledgement across campus. The UA Board of Regents has not approved Troth Yeddha’ yet, so signage cannot be posted. However, the sub-committee has requested estimates in preparation for BOR approval.

The sub-committee asks for ideas of what additional activities can be done to show UAF’s commitment in this area. The sub-committee also mentioned that the Campus Landscape Master Plan contains plantings that are not

native to Alaska. The sub-committee plans to review the list to prioritize culturally significant plants.

5. Facilities Services update.

The 2021 Construction Map is up on our website and this year we have integrated the construction map into the UAF Campus Map. The map is interactive allowing viewers to click "Construction Locations," which then identifies Orange dots highlighting the work underway for this year. The map can be accessed at <https://uaf.edu/campusmap/>

A canopy is being installed on the front of Elvey Building to prevent rainwater leaks into the electrical room below. This is viewed as a midterm solution, necessitated by budget constraints, with a 10-15 year life.

Currently focused on snow removal from latest storm. Location, colocation and relocation of Facilities on campus is still being considered. DDC is generating estimates for various department relocations and working through strategies for funding. Also, there is now a one-year agreement for GVEA to purchase 7MW from UAF Power plant.

6. Additional matters

None

7. Public comment period

No comments

8. Schedule

Next meeting is May 3rd, which will be Josh's last meeting before retiring. The committee chair will explore the opportunity to have the meeting in-person.