

UAF Master Plan Committee (MPC) Report

April 12, 2012

By Gary Newman

The meeting notes, once available, may include further information, but the following are the salient points. <http://www.uaf.edu/mastplan/committee/meetings/agendas/2011-2012/>

West Ridge Revitalization Project

There was a presentation by Cameron Wohlford of UAF Design and Construction on the West Ridge Revitalization Project. This project is taking a approach toward building renewal and growth projects on West Ridge with an eye to guiding the extensive backlog deferred maintenance efforts in future years. From a preliminary building condition evaluation, it would appear that the GI, Irving I and II and O'Neill are more expensive to remodel than tear down and rebuild. Since there are no funds for new buildings likely, this creates a real challenge. Chancellor's Cabinet will be reviewing this report at the end of April following which it should be available to the public.

Facilities Report

Lower Campus has numerous disruptive projects scheduled for the summer, mostly focused on long needed utility upgrades – a new utilidor and sewer line replacement. See their website for the area maps showing the projects: <http://www.uaf.edu/fs/departments/design-construction/> The Nenana lot parking will be closed this summer, so the Taku lot will be filling in the space. MPC recommended that Parking Services and UAF Marketing and Communications get together to share a parking plan/strategy with the campus community. *I strongly urge Lower Campus users to take a look at the plans at the above link.*

The Sustainable Village next to the Cold Climate Housing Research Center has started, with 4 – 4 bedroom units and expected to be available for Fall 2012 occupancy.

MPC has strongly recommended a stairway to the Taku lot instead of what is called the Luge Run for safer access. A stairway similar to the stairs from the Duckering Building parking lot down to Facilities was estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$650,000. Facilities Services is seeing if funding is available.

Rural campus master plans go before the Board of Regents for a first look this month.

NASA, who contracts with the Alaska Satellite Facility, wants to upgrade the existing 10 meter antenna on top of the Elvey Building and add another 5 meter antenna. There was lots of discussion on challenges of placement. The Elvey Building has substantial seismic issues. More discussion will be ongoing amongst the involved parties before this comes back to the MPC.

Opening the pioneer road, called North Tanana Loop that goes behind the Reichardt Building and connects to West Ridge behind the Life Sciences Building to general use has been on my wish list for as long as I've been at UAF. Facilities Services recently had a geo-technical study done that they are now reviewing. This may resolve the difference of opinion as to whether the admittedly untraditional road base would be adequate over having to dig it all up and replace it. The latter of course would substantially increase the cost of improving the road for general use. Regardless, this road will be even more needed upon completion of the Life Sciences Building and can also provide a back way into the Reichardt Building.

Campus Landscaping

Bear Edson with Facilities Services will be taking over chairing this sub-committee. Discussion over finding ways to incorporate landscaping as a fiscal line item into building projects instead of relying on any leftover funds if anyway. Design and Construction now has someone on staff with substantial landscape design experience.

Classroom Painting Demonstration

Some classrooms on campus were given accented painting treatment to see if it could improve the learning environment over the existing bland painted walls. A survey indicated generally positive responses. Facilities Services will be collaborating with OIT as the latter is doing some substantive upgrades in smart classrooms this summer.

North Campus

Some trails improvements are in the mix for funding.