

**UAF Master Planning Committee**

January 31, 2013; 9am – 11am

**Meeting Notes**

Members Present: Kara Axx, Doug Braddock, Raphaele Descoteaux, Jim Dixon, Morgan Dufseth, John George, Josh Greenberg, Deb Horner, Da-ka-xeen Mehner, Steve Murphy, Gary Newman, Ian Olson, Doug Schrage, Jonathan Shambare

Guests: Cameron Wohlford, Project Manager  
Gary Laursen, Director, Honors Program

The meeting came to order at 9:00am.

1. Introduction of New Member

John George, the new service faculty representative, was introduced to the group. He replaces Chuck Kuhns, whose term expired in December 2012. George is a fire science professor at the UAF Community and Technical College.

2. Update on Engineering Building

Design and Construction project manager Cameron Wohlford provided the committee with an update on the engineering building. The university is hoping to secure the remainder of the funding needed for the new building this legislative session, rather than try to identify funding along the way. An advocacy website will be available online in the near future.

On April 1, the section of Tanana Loop adjacent the Duckering and Bunnell Buildings will be closed to traffic and turned over to the site contractor (the section will remain closed for the entire two years of construction). The parking lot between the two buildings will be the primary construction site and will no longer be available for parking. The south Bunnell lot will remain open during construction, except during a short period when construction of a utilidor blister will shut the lot temporarily.

The pedestrian pathway (and stairs) will remain open but will be re-directed to the Cooperative Extension Service building. The path and stairs will be closed for intermittent periods of time due to construction but will remain open for the majority of the project.

In mid-April, mass excavation will take place at the site of the new engineering building. The bulk of the work will be done at night to avoid noise interference with classes in Schaible Auditorium. A large crane will be installed at the construction site.

On May 21, an additional portion of Tanana Loop, from the Duckering building to the Fine Arts complex, will be closed for sewer line replacement, estimated to last 3 weeks.

The bike path adjacent to the Taku parking lot will be widened to create a shorter path for the shuttle bus to ferry passengers from Taku to the campus core.

This project is expected to last two years and will be completed in time to coincide with the university's centennial celebrations. Schaible Auditorium will be closed for the next two summers (2013 and 2014).

3. Taku Parking Lot Proposal for Ash Dump

Jonathan Shambare presented a proposal to use the university's waste coal ash to create a monofil in the Taku parking lot. Rather than hauling away the coal ash, as is currently done, the waste ash would be used as parking lot material. The project would expand the current boundaries of the Taku lot to close to double its current size. The Taku lot neighbors designated wetlands, which would require additional permitting prior to project approval. The soil in this area is not stable enough to support structures. This proposal is still in the early stages of planning and is currently waiting assessment by Environment Health, Safety, and Risk Management at UAF.

4. Subcommittee Reports

a. North Campus

Kara Axx reported the Big Whizzy extension has a success with skiers now that there is enough snow to groom the trail. The North Campus subcommittee is working to develop accurate trail maps that easily distinguish between trail use type (i.e. skiing, walking, dog-friendly).

There will be a skijor race on the West Ridge trails on February 16. The trails will be groomed immediately following the race and there will be sufficient signage and volunteers to ensure regular trail users are aware of the race.

b. Campus Landscape

The Campus Landscape subcommittee had not met since the last MPC meeting. Jim Dixon volunteered to serve on the Campus Landscape subcommittee; his appointment is currently being reviewed by Chancellor Rogers.

c. Art on Campus

The Art on Campus subcommittee had not met since the last MPC meeting.

d. Trails Planning

The Trails Planning ad hoc committee has not met since the last MPC meeting, however, they are working on re-writing goals and objectives and will share with the committee when available. They will meet next at 10am on Feb. 13 at DDC.

5. Facilities Services Update

Jonathan Shambare provided an update on Facilities Services' projects:

- a. Septic system at the farm – will not affect pedestrian or road traffic
- b. GI rocket installation – moving closer to determining the final location of the rocket and will present to MPC sometime in the near future

- c. LED street lights – UAF is receiving funding from DOT to replace all of the current street lamps with LED lights; work planned for summer 2014
- d. Butrovich retaining wall – the wall is bulging and requires repairs; the sidewalk in front of the building will be replaced at the same time
- e. Roundabout at Dysfunction Junction – on hold for now; Cabinet has asked the design firm to look at other options for the intersection that don't necessarily include a roundabout as the roundabout option didn't actually fully fix the problems it was intended to fix.
- f. Taku stairs – also on hold pending a new design, found to be too costly.
- g. The Fine Arts Music Wing vapor barrier will be replaced during the summer of 2013. This will be done from the inside which will render much of the building unusable for summer events. The Summer Fine Arts Festival will be moving to a mix of locations including Hutchison and West Valley High Schools.
- h. The Wood Center addition, including upgrading the utilidor at the south end of the Wood Center will begin in earnest in April 2013. The emergency access to the west of Wood Center will also have to be relocated. A public-private partnership, the MPC hopes to have a presentation on the latest from Project Manager Jenny Campbell at the next MPC meeting.
- i. With the relocation of Biology to the Life Sciences (Margaret Murie) Bldg, there will be some backfill in Bunnell and some revitalization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Eielson. Short term during the summer, some Connex units may be placed in Cornerstone Plaza to facilitate this project.

#### 6. Public Comment

Dr. Gary Lausen inquired as to how the Honors House, located on Copper Lane, will be affected by this summer's construction. At present there are no plans for the Honors House to move to Wickersham Hall, and Dr. Laursen was directed to talk to the project manager, Jenny Campbell.

Brad Krick had emailed in some information and requests about integration of the trail systems on campus with the FNSB to the MPC. He noted differences with commuter vs. recreational bike use. This information was taken in by the project manager Jonathan Shambare. They have open meetings to which Brad would be welcome. Brad asked about a ski trail that goes up Tanana Loop in front of Butrovich. This trail does exist and is being slightly moved to accommodate the new Terrain Park. Brad also asked questions about updating trail maps for north campus. Karen Axx, N. Campus Manager, indicated there were new maps being prepared, color coded for easier reading and they are doing a mobile app as well to help if people on the trail want to know where they are. Finally, Brad asked about future shuttle bus use of the Taku lot-to-Tanana Loop trail, being that it was problematic during the 1 month closure for the sewer line at the new Engineering Bldg. addition. The closure will be 2 years instead of 1 month. The solution being proposed is to widen the trail so that there is clearance for trail users AND the shuttle bus. It was noted that most of this trail used to be the road into campus before Farmer's Loop was re-routed, so the road bed is in relatively good shape to accommodate that widening.

#### 7. Next Meeting

The Master Planning Committee will meet next on February 14 from 9am to 11am in Signers' Hall, Room 330.