

URI Master Plan Review Team Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Alumni Center Board Room

Present: John Sears, Rick Rhodes, Jerry Sidio, Dave Lavallee, Joe Paradise, Sheleen Clarke, Paul DePace, Cynthia Yemma Faria, Will Green, Vin Murray, Ann Morrissey, Tom Frisbie-Fulton, Christina Valentino, Dave Lamb

Absent:

Additional Attendees: Diane Soule

Motions and Approvals

1. Main Street

The overall concept was reintroduced noting that the estimated budget for the project is \$6 million which includes stormwater management, bus turn around and removal of Baird Hill Road. Presently there is only \$250K earmarked for the project. At best, the project is 5 years for construction to begin. Utility upgrades will cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million before any other improvements can begin. A suggestion was made to possibly start with the traffic circle first.

Discussion points: The question was raised if the diagonal pathway through the proposed Memorial Union amphitheater would limit the functionality of the space. CP&D to review with MU staff.

Vote to approve schematic design with plans developed to 50% plus utility improvements and phased plan. **Motion** made by Jerry Sidio. **Approved** unanimously.

2. Palegic Fish Laboratory (formerly Green Fin)

Originally the building had been designed as temporary and was reintroduced as a permanent structure (20+ years.) The question was asked if there is any associated parking. Since it's not considered an inhabited building, there is no dedicated parking.

Vote to approve design plan, siting and architecture. **Motion** made and **Approved** unanimously.

2. Fine Arts Center Parking Lot

A new plan was prepared to reduce drainage problems creating larger rain gardens to handle sheet flow. In addition the parking has been designed to allow areas to be sectioned off as needed for changing uses. The question was raised as to the elimination of the sidewalk along Flagg Road and if that had been vetted.

Vote to approve new layout. **Motion** made by Jerry Sideo. **Approved** unanimously.

3. Bike Path

A letter of support for the project has been given to RIDOT from the elementary school and the Town of South Kingstown. A brief overview was presented of the proposed path from South County Bike Path to the athletic fields north of Flagg Road.

Vote to approve alignment. **Approved** unanimously.

Discussion Items

4. Campus Hardscape Design Standards

The need to present a cohesive design palette for hardscape elements was reintroduced, particularly standardizing black painted elements i.e. small utilities, bollards, light standards, etc. Larger utilities would be evaluated on a case by case basis in regard to paint color. Fencing was discussed and the need stressed for a simpler selection palette. Examples of building signage, yard signs and street signs were presented.

Discussion points: It was suggested that sheds also be included in the standards. The question was raised if fraternities and sororities are subject to the design standards as well.

5. Gateway Welcome Center

An update was presented on the progress of the plan. Two options were presented. Goals for the project include:

- Capturing the URI visitor experience and making a better impression
- Campus tour origination point
- Providing meeting space for up to 140 people as well as smaller groups
- Provide displays on URI history

Discussion points: The question was raised if there are any historical considerations associated with Option 1 and if the footprint for Option 1 is too large for the site. These points will be considered once the A/E is hired; CP&D will bring schematic designs to the MPRT later this year.

6. Memorial Union Master Plan

The revised floor plans and perspective renderings were introduced. Presently the project is not funded and anticipated costs are in the \$70M range which includes soft and construction costs. The business plan suggests raising Student fees to \$600/semester which would make it impractical. Comparisons of student fees were presented for similar schools.

Discussion points: Are there any commercial/retail spaces being considered to generate income?

6. New Electrical Substation

Site location previously approved. Committee was shown images of proposed screening and responded favorably; no vote taken for aesthetic approval. CP&D will report status after cost estimates received.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.