

URI Master Plan Review Team
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2017
Alumni Center Board Room

Membership Present: Abigail Rider, Vern Wyman, Christopher McMahan, John Sears, Dave Palazzetti, Linda Acciardo, William Green, Ann Morrissey, Jerry Sidio, Paul DePace, John Kirby, Brian Maynard, Chelsea Siefert

Membership Absent: Steve Baker, Michael Katz, Morgan Boutmy

Support Staff Present: Ryan Carrillo, Dulcie Ilgenfritz, Marsha Garcia, Kenny Burke, Dave Lavallee

Call to Order

Vern Wyman called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. Introduction of Abigail Rider, Vice President of Administration & Finance, as the new Chair of the MPRT. An introduction of Chelsea Siefert, the new Principal Planner for the town of South Kingstown as well as John Kirby, Dean of the College of Environment and Life Science, as the new appointment for the Council of Deans.

Approvals

The minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Motion made to approve the minutes. Motion seconded; motion passed.

1. Plains Road 3 & 4 Parking Lot, Phase 1 & 2

The Transportation and Parking Master Plan has been quantifying and analyzing the University's transportation needs.

Immediate parking needs as a result of three new projects; Gateway, Brookside Apartments, and the College of Engineering. Parking spaces will be coming off line during construction including additional spaces needed for construction vehicles. 400 parking spaces are coming off of the Dairy Barn site for the fall semester.

Three phased plan to address the needs:

- Phase 1- 2017 Fall Semester- work with current resources to move around parking designations. Note that Jan of 2018 – 200 additional spaces will be removed from the Dairy Barn site. Funding has been identified for Phase 1.
- Phase 2- 2018 Spring Semester- Need 300 parking spaces for construction parking. Parking on current athletic track will allow for an additional 150 spaces. Athletics has agreed. It has been 18 years since the track was used and the surface of the track has been utilized before for parking. Landscaping and screening will be part of the parking construction.
- Phase 3- Future parking needs- Transportation & Parking Master Plan identifying needs

Communication will occur with both students and faculty regarding the parking arrangements.

April 3rd, Parking Plan will be presented to Sr. Leadership.

Approval of Phase 1 & 2 as an interim solution to address the parking needs.

Motion made by Dave Palazzetti to approve the interim parking plan. Motion seconded by Jerry Sidio; motion passed with the caveat that a landscaping plan will be presented to the committee.

2. Pedestrian Walk Gates

The committee revisited the design for the pedestrian gates. A 5 foot wide opening, production model, hinged gate was presented. The gate would be installed on Flagg Rd near the CBLS building as a prototype, working with Maintenance and Safety for the best opening mechanism. The next location would be near Taft Hall.

Motion made by Ann Morrissey to approve. Motion seconded by Will Green; motion passed.

Information and Discussion

1. 125th Anniversary

Temporary “125th” signage for the main entrance of Kingston and the other URI campuses.

Suggestion of a bench or tree to commemorate the 125th anniversary.

Two options:

- European Beech near Davis Hall to replace same species that died
- Two Star Magnolia or Centennials in front of Green Hall

2. Skateboard Signs Update

The committee viewed photos of the current “No Skateboarding” sign being utilized at Butterfield Dining to control damage being caused by skateboarding.

3. Landscape and Transportation/Parking Master Plan Update

Christopher McMahan provided an update on both the Landscape Master Plan and Transportation/Parking Master Plan. Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture (KZLA) has been working on the plan. They conducted a pop-up to engage students in the process. They have also done an inventory and analysis of pedestrian circulation, campus lighting, trees and benches with suggestions for improvement and an update to standard details. There have also been coordination meetings with the consultant for the Transportation & Parking Master Plan. The plan is taking into consideration the guiding principles of the campus landscape; the rural character of Kingston Village, steward to the environment, learning opportunities, URI’s history, enhancement of pedestrian circulation, variety of open spaces with different functions, protection of regional aquifers & bodies of water, and maintenance of important view sheds. A draft of the Landscape Master Plan will be sent to the MPRT, for review, prior to the next meeting.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) has been working on the Transportation & Parking Master Plan. They hired a helicopter to view the campus with high resolution cameras, allowing them to conduct parking counts. Emerging recommendations are to improve sense of arrival to campus, prioritize pedestrian

circulation, have a regionally connected bicycle network, enhance the transit system, implement complete streets, and develop a parking strategy. 2 million in funding was received to connect to the South Kingstown Bike Path. Shuttle service will also be a key component to outlying campuses.

The March 9, 2017 MPRT meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.