

**URI Master Plan Review Team
Minutes of Meeting**

Thursday, May 14, 2015 1:00PM – 2:00PM
Alumni Center Board Room

Present: Ryan Carrillo, Linda Acciaro, Jerry Sidio, Brian Maynard, Rick Rhodes, Vern Wyman, John Sears, Steve Baker, Vincent Murray, Will Green, Kip McMahan

Absent: Christina Valentino, Dave Palazzetti, Paul DePace, Ann Morrissey

Support: Sharon Blackmar, Marsha Garcia, Sheleen Clark, Diane Soule, Dave Lavallee

Call to Order

Ryan Carrillo, opened the meeting with a welcome and the intention of future meetings to start on time and the duration to be one hour. Christopher “Kip” McMahan, the new Director of Campus Planning and Design, was introduced and welcomed as a member of the MPRT. The restructured committee membership was acknowledged and welcomed, including the new faculty appointment of Brian Maynard who will co-chair the Campus Tree Advisory subcommittee of the MPRT. Introductions were made around the table and a sign in she was circulated to confirm members present and proper email addresses for future announcements.

First item of business: Approvals.

1. Campus Signage Exception Requests

At the March 11, 2015 meeting, a vote was taken on three exception requests: Public Safety, Couple and Family Counseling and Behavioral Change Research Center. The vote on the Public Safety exception request resulted in a unanimous approval, and the Couple and Family Counseling and Behavioral Change Research Center requests resulted in a close vote and a tie. After an analysis of membership, the two latter are coming back to the MPRT for review and final vote. Since the two centers maintain confidential relationships with the general public and the URI community, the MPRT questions the significance of identifying a place that one would want to be kept confidential for purposes of way-finding and advertisement.

A. Couple and Family Counseling Center:

The purpose of the request is for navigation (ease of locating) and advertisement. The MPRT confirmed that the Couple and Family Counseling Center is located in the Transition Center on Lower College Road, which is clearly identified on street signage as the Transition Center. Anyone attending this location would know that the center is located within the Transition Center.

B. Behavioral Change Research Center:

The purpose of the request is for navigation (ease of locating) and advertisement. For the BCRC, one of the key concerns expressed is the potential student foot traffic that would traverse through the center of the Chafee building looking for the academic classrooms and administrative areas of the building. Parking is provided by the Center with gate passes for clients to have access to the Chafee lot (presently, the Fine Arts lot is being used).

There have been two exceptions granted in the past – one for Health Services located in the Potter Building and one for Admissions located in Newman Hall. The MPRT recommended denying these requests and they were overturned by then President Robert L. Carothers. Another, temporary and now discontinued, included the LGBTQ Center in Adams Hall, requested due to a non-resident function within a residence hall.

The question of where the future of way-finding is going was posed and what kind of costs would be incurred with the sign design changes. Ryan Carrillo reviewed the design aspects of the signs, both yard signs and building mounted signs. For both, minimal cost was involved with the building mounted signs.

In the past it has been recommended not to identify departments on exterior signage. There are no criteria to granting exceptions; rather, it is a judgement call followed by a recommendation to the President.

For both, improved URI way-finding will be helpful. Those improvements on interactive campus maps and campus and building directories would provide the necessary assistance any client or visitor may require.

A motion was made by Stephen Baker to deny additional signage on the yard and exterior signage at the Transition Center for the Couple and Family Counseling Center, and it was seconded by Brian Maynard. It was approved unanimously by the MPRT members.

A motion was made by Brian Maynard at the start of the discussion of the BCRC request to deny the request and it was seconded by Stephen Baker. After discussion captured in the foregoing minutes, Brian Maynard withdrew his motion and the matter moved to vote.

A motion was made by Rick Rhodes to approve the request of the Behavioral Change Research Center in the Chafee Building as it is different from the Couple and Family Counseling Center request in that it is broader in scope by attempting to reduce student foot traffic through the Center. One vote for the request, all other votes opposed, the Motion does not pass.

2. Flagg Road RIDOT Repaving Project Configuration

This project is in the final plan stage for reconstruction. Flagg Road will be repaved from Plains Road to North Road. Lanes will be reduced to 11'. There will be no north side parking on the road but south side parking will remain from Plains Road to Butterfield Road, with no other south side parking. In addition, there will be bike lanes on the north and south sides. There will be a continuous sidewalk for the full length of the road on the south side starting at Plains Road up to the Fine Arts parking lot where it will cross the road and continue to North Road on the north side. This is appealing to joggers, bikers for recreation purposes and is welcoming for access to North Road properties. Continuous curbing will run along the entire north side of Flagg Road.

The Fine Arts parking lot will have a new entry point and the lot will push to the north, eliminating street parking at that east end to improve driver and pedestrian visibility. Additional landscape enhancement / improvements are being made to walkways leading to the Fine Arts lot.

The snow dumping area at the northeast end of Flagg Road was identified. A request for appropriate / improved lighting along the walkways at the east end on the north side was recommended for safety.

A Motion was made to approve the plans with additional lighting on the eastern walkway to the north of the road; the Motion passes unanimously.

3. Hardscape Standards Update

- A. World's Fair Bench. This item has been on the MPRT Agenda for two years for approval. It is in period with the Quadrangle design – a “heritage” style bench for the heritage area in the academic core. The present benches will be moved to the residential areas. When originally proposed to the MPRT, the cost was \$640.00 for each 6’ bench. They are less expensive than what was paid for the current benches and easy to maintain. The material is an IPE wood from the rain forest, a durable species. It is important to obtain a sustainable wood and certification would be required for this IPE species. That could see a change in the cost per bench. It is also important that the wood not be painted.

With no further discussion, a Motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of the World Fair Bench for the Heritage area of the campus providing that a sustainable or certified species of wood is used. The Motion passed unanimously.

Information and Discussion

At the next meeting, we will continue with additional Hardscape Standards Updates. Additionally, you will receive the Fraternity Circle Master Plan for your review. Please study it and be prepared for discussion, approval and funding options at the next meeting.

(From May 11, 2015) Fraternity Circle Neighborhood Master Plan: The committee viewed proposed redesign plans and listened to the goals of the plans. There are two phases, some are necessary, such as the utilities and infrastructure, and some are desired improvements, such as amenity spaces. Sidewalks and walkways will be in alignment with any building renovation or new construction, including wastewater runoff. The Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) is looking for ways to fund the debt, including private gifts. The IFC is fully on board with the improvements and supports the project moving forward – it funded the development of the Master Plan we are reviewing. The images and goals are shared with the committee in the attached Exhibit B.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:58AM.

NOTE:

Future meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of every other month. Please reserve the 2nd Thursday of every other month on your calendar from 1:00 to 2:00 PM for this meeting.

2015 - July 9th 1-2PM

2015 - September 10th 1-2PM

2015 - November 12th 1-2PM

2016 - January 14th 1-2PM

2016 - March 10th 1-2PM

2016 – May 12th 1-2PM

2016 – July 14th 1-2PM