

**Master Plan Review Team
Minutes of Meeting
Friday, March 9, 2012
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Alumni Center Board Room**

Present: Linda Acciaro, Paul DePace, Tom Frisbie-Fulton, Dave Lavalley, Ann Morrissey, Vincent Murray, Rick Rhodes, Jerry Sidio, Art Tuveson, Erin West, Bob Weygand, Vern Wyman, Chip Yensan

Absent: Abu Bakr, Jeff Callahan, Ryan Carrillo, Bob Drapeau, William Green

Additional Participants: Richard Sheridan, LAR; Braden Drypolcher, Diane Soule, and Laura Sullivan, Campus Planning & Design

Discussion and Approvals

1. Student Leadership Climbing Building

The student leadership program has a challenge course in the North Woods and is proposing to add an indoor climbing building to expand their programming capacity. The University contracted Durkee, Brown, Viveiros, Werenfels to study two sites and design the building. The two sites were 1) the North Woods, approx. 180' from Old North Road, near existing parking for challenge course, and 2) an area east of Tibbit's Field. The Tibbit's field site was eliminated due to the incompatibility of a highly visible location with the user group's needs, and the higher development costs due to water and sewer requirements, and relocation of the challenge course.

The North Woods location has the following benefits: proximity to the challenge course, remote character, and lower cost (URI received a variance to allow composting toilets and hand sanitizing stations). Two potential issues are the building's height (it will be visible from Old North Road in the winter) and the need to relocate the building if the area is slated for a different use in the future. The exterior finishes will be designed so the building resembles an agricultural building.

Vote to approve the North Woods site for the Student Leadership Climbing Building: Motion was made by Ann Morrissey and seconded by Jerry Sidio. **Approved** unanimously.

2. Campus Road Renaming

The physical evolution of campus (gate changes, new roads) has resulted in roads with name changes at each intersection. This makes navigating campus confusing. The following changes are proposed:

1. The extension connecting Flagg and Plains to be a continuation of Plains Road
2. East Alumni and West Alumni – renamed Alumni Ave. and extended west to Plains Rd. curve
3. Heathman Road – renamed Butterfield Road
4. Section of Plains by the Sherman Bldg. – temporarily unnamed as it is likely to be changed as the service sector is redeveloped.

5. Baird Hill Road – renamed Campus Ave.
6. Reestablish signage designating Quarry Road and Fraternity Circle
7. Relocate Keaney Road (retain name) as part of 138 improvements

This proposal was discussed. Concerns were expressed regarding merging East and West Alumni. The importance of timing was emphasized. All changes, except Plains Road (item 1), are planned for implementation when the parking map is reissued in summer 2012. Plains Road will be officially named when the final agreement with the Town of South Kingstown is executed. Members stressed that these changes must also be made in virtual signage.

Vote to authorize Campus Road Renaming items 1 – 7, with item 2 modified to retain East and West Alumni, with West Alumni extended as noted above: Motion was made by Chip Yensan and seconded by Ann Morrissey. **Approved** unanimously.

3. Permaculture Farm(s)

Permaculture is loosely defined as “fruit and nut trees/bushes for humans and animals” or “low intensity landscaping that capitalizes on existing natural systems to produce animal habitat and human food crops” (Rick Rhodes and Richard Sheridan, respectively). Undergraduate student Tyler Desmarais has raised money for permaculture farming on campus. Two sites are proposed for permaculture.

The first site is at Peckham Farm, in the area along the feed pond. It falls under CELS, so it does not require action by the MPRT. CELS considers this a complementary use to neighboring leased turf fields and Peckham Farm. Jerry Sidio noted that the turf leases include irrigation and expressed the need for documentation prioritizing uses in case of drought.

The second site is the green space to the south the Watson House. The proposal is to designate this area for student agricultural endeavors. Chip Yensan opposes this proposal as the area south of the Watson Yard is currently used as an HRL play area. HRL recently provided funding to remove parking in that area and add a retaining wall to make it a flat play area. The proposal was withdrawn.

4. Landscape Design Standards

CP&D is compiling landscape/hardscape design standards as a continuation of efforts made subsequent to the 2000 Master Plan to establish consistent curb cuts, light fixtures, etc. The formalized landscape design standards will establish a common palate of landscape treatments that reinforce a “neighborhood feel,” a consistent image and color theme, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on regional materials. Specifications to be included in a paper and electronic booklet will cover benches, pavers, bike racks, bollards, stone walls, and other elements. Concerns regarding the quality and implementation of veneer stone walls were discussed. It was recommended that areas of campus be designated as suitable for modern-style landscape treatments in the standards.

The committee expressed support for the continued development of landscape design standards and publication of finalized standards through paper and electronic means.

5. Memorials

Dedication plaques were presented as one component of the landscape design standards. A discussion ensued regarding the need for a policy and process for handling requests for dedication plaques. To date, memorials have included trees, benches, walls, bricks, and stones. These requests are sensitive, and have been directed to a variety of departments and offices.

Jerry Sidio offered to work with the Tree Committee to identify appropriate campus trees for memorials. However, this issue encompasses more than trees. Jerry Sidio, Chip Yensan, and Richard Sheridan offered to participate in an ad hoc memorial committee. Jerry Sidio will take the lead in establishing a committee that includes representatives from the Foundation, Advancement, and the Alumni Center. The committee will revisit this issue in a future meeting.

6. Greenhouse Parking

The Campus Parking Plan presented and approved at the November 2011 meeting included a lot north of the greenhouses. That lot will require the elimination of existing CELS storage sheds. Alternative storage will be identified, as needed.

7. Fine Arts Fire Safety

Images of the pump house building were presented. Landscape screening is coming (not to include a berm, as discussed in the November 2011 meeting).

8. SADC

This project will modernize and enhance fitness and sports medicine areas used by NCAA athletes. The proposed exterior work is limited to adding a section of windows to the East Gym to create a “lantern” visible from the Keaney parking area. This alteration will provide daylight to the East Gym, which will be converted into a fitness area.

Vote to approve the window wall in the SADC: Motion was made by Chip Yensan and seconded by Ann Morrissey. **Approved** unanimously.

9. Volleyball and Basketball Courts

Volleyball and basketball courts were removed to construct Eddy Hall. The design is finalized for a replacement basketball court south of Eddy (The volleyball court has already been replaced.) and new volleyball and basketball courts south of Wiley Hall. The locations of these new facilities were previously

approved by the MPRT. This presentation is a follow up on the design layout and does not require MPRT approval.

10. Ranger Hall/Harrington School

Phase I, the first floor renovation in Ranger Hall, is in programming and schematic design. Ultimately, the Harrington School will require more space than is available in Ranger Hall. Phase II is not funded at present and ideas presented here are for informational purposes only. Ideas under discussion for Phase II include 1) adding a west wing to Ranger Hall, and 2) adding a building east of Carlotti that links to both Davis and Carlotti.

Members of the committee expressed concerns that a wing on Ranger Hall would negatively impact the symmetry of the Old Quad and noted that the Carlotti site seemed more favorable. A recommendation for this project will be formally presented to the committee once the master planning study is completed.

11. LGBTQ Center

The LGBTQ Center will be located at the present site of Ruggles House. It will be new construction, with architecture in keeping with the residential style of Upper College Road. URI is in the process of selecting an architectural firm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.