



November 20, 2013

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Christine Taylor Thompson, Planning Associate
Campus Planning and Real Estate

Subject: **Record** of the November 18, 2013 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Carole Daly (Chair), Sue Eveland, Hilary Gerdes, George Hecht, Fritz Gearhart, Alicia Going, Michael Hahn, Richelle Krotts, Katy Lenn, David Levin, Gregg Lobisser, Ron Lovinger, Bill Sherman, Chris Ramey, Ed Teague, Rob Thallon

Staff: Christine Taylor Thompson (Campus Planning and Real Estate)

Guests: Jane Brubaker (Campus Ops), Jon Deleonarda (SERA), Manny Garcia (pending CPC member), Dan Geiger (EMU), Larry Gilbert (Cameron McCarthy), Jill Hartz (JSMA), Diane Hoffman (EMU Craft Center), Garrick Mishaga (Campus Ops), Aaron Olsen (Cameron McCarthy), Martina Oxoby (CPRE), Eric Philps (SERA), Walker Templeton (SERA), Alex Titus (pending CPC member), Dana Winitzky (EMU), Laurie Woodward (EMU)

Agenda:

1. Tykeson "Luna" Sculpture – Siting

Background: The chair clarified that the committee's role is to review the proposed location, not the artwork. Staff reviewed applicable *Campus Plan* policies and patterns as described in the meeting mailing.

Jill Hartz from the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and member of the president's UO Public Art Committee reviewed the proposed site as described in the meeting mailing. She said the proposed site was reviewed by CPRE staff, Campus Operations staff, and the landscape architect for the Straub Hall Classroom Project. This review included an assessment of ADA regulations.

Discussion: A member expressed concern about the sculpture's proposed north-facing orientation because it would be susceptible to moss growth and face away from the green. He suggested altering the orientation to embrace the green adding that it might help to move the sculpture in the northern portion of the plaza. Staff clarified that the image of the sculpture provided in the background materials was not meant to define the orientation - only the site. The artist would determine the orientation.

A member said that, ideally, one would be able to walk around the sculpture. Jill said the artist supports this concept. Staff said the sculpture would be sited to allow space

to walk around the sculpture to the greatest degree possible without interfering with pedestrian circulation routes.

A member asked if it was possible to move the sculpture to the adjacent landscaped area versus the plaza, similar to other nearby sculptures. Jill said that alternate sites in the landscaped area were considered, but the artist specifically chose the plaza site because the circular shape of the sculpture and base relates well to the semi-circular shape of the plaza.

A member thought the plaza location was well suited. She suggested assessing a more central plaza location to enhance the sculpture's prominence. Staff and other members said another location in the plaza might be possible as long as ADA standards are met and circulation routes are not impaired.

Staff confirmed that plans were already in place to remove the existing non-standard bench as part of the approved Straub/Earl Halls Classroom Project. The proposed sculpture would require the removal of one of the four proposed new campus standard benches. The project's landscape architect would determine whether the bench should be relocated elsewhere in the plaza.

Jill stated that the round steel base works well with the artwork and would be retained. Garrick Mishaga from Campus Operations added that the steel base would be mounted on a 6" to 8" round concrete plinth to elevate the sculpture to the desired height (about 8'). If acceptable to the artist, a taller concrete base could be designed to replace the steel base.

A member said it would be important to ensure wheelchair access is not impaired. Staff said that the base (size and shape) and sculpture placement would be carefully designed to meet ADA requirements.

Action: The committee agreed unanimously that the proposed site for the Tykeson "Luna" Sculpture is consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that it be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Recommend that the artist work with CPRE staff, Campus Operations staff, and Jill Hartz from JSMA to consider ways to engage Straub Green when determining the specific orientation.
2. Recommend that the artist work with CPRE staff, Campus Operations staff, and Jill Hartz from JSMA to consider other locations within the plaza that might better engage Straub Green and give more prominence to the sculpture. This is with the understanding that circulation routes would not be impaired and other CPC conditions are addressed.
3. Provide space to walk around the sculpture to the greatest degree possible without interfering with pedestrian circulation routes and ADA standards.
4. Ensure that all ADA requirements are met. In particular, ensure that the base (size and shape) and sculpture placement are carefully designed to meet ADA requirements.

2. Erb Memorial Union Expansion and Renovation Project – Schematic Design Follow Up

Background: Staff reviewed applicable *Campus Plan* policies and patterns. She reminded the committee that the overall schematic design was previously approved; only identified follow-up items are subject to review.

Gregg Lobisser, member and User Group Chair, introduced the project. Walker Templeton from SERA Architects and Larry Gilbert from Cameron McCarthy reviewed the proposed follow-up items as described in the meeting mailing and PowerPoint presentation.

Larry said that, unless noted, all landscape features would be campus standard designs. The seat walls would be poured in place concrete walls with a concrete cap. The bike shelters and racks immediately adjacent to the building would be painted charcoal grey in color to match the building.

Discussion: In response to a member's question, Garrick Mishaga from Campus Operations explained that he did not anticipate a problem with surface freezing on the north side of the EMU. The referenced Alumni Center's sidewalks are particularly susceptible to freezing because they are built above an unheated parking garage.

A member expressed appreciation for the greatly improved landscape design. However, he was still concerned about three elements. First, the proposed design does not establish a pedestrian connection between Straub Green and the EMU Green. The two open spaces are separated by a remnant section of Onyx Street asphalt. Second, the proposed design does not do enough to reinforce north/south pedestrian connections across 13th Avenue. Third, the proposed design does not shift the 13th Avenue turn-around further east, an essential action required in order to establish a pedestrian and bike zone in the center of campus. Larry explained that the project's limited budget precludes additional open-space enhancements to fully resolve these issues. However, the project incorporates many related improvements. For example, in the Onyx Street area the new plaza at the northern terminus of street will greatly enlarge the pedestrian zone. In the 13th Avenue area, the existing service area will be removed completely. Also, the new north-facing building entrances and sidewalks intentionally align with primary north/south campus routes. Larry agreed that the stated concerns are important design elements to resolve in the future.

Other members agreed that the three missing design elements are essential to creating a pedestrian and bike zone in the center of campus. These items have been mentioned throughout the design process. While it is understood that individual projects likely would not fund all identified open-space improvements, this does not diminish their importance. If the three missing design elements are not implemented as part of the EMU project, it is likely that they will not be realized for many years. A member suggested that the committee request support from UO Central Administration to implement the relocation of the 13th Avenue turn-around if it is not successfully incorporated into the EMU's project scope.

Larry clarified that the proposed Craft Center courtyard concrete base wall would have minimal visual impact. It would vary in height to accommodate the change in elevation, but it would not exceed 3 feet.

In response to a member's question, Larry said that the current bike circulation routes through the project site would not be altered; the EMU and surrounding open spaces currently are a pedestrian-only zone. Another member added that the intent is to do a better job implementing the existing pedestrian-only zone by removing bike parking from the center and replacing it with convenient bike parking at the edges of the zone. Larry said 13th Avenue would improve for bicyclists because truck traffic would diminish. However, trucks would still use Onyx Street and University Street to access the main EMU service area.

A member questioned whether the proposed circular pathway design for the new EMU Green would impede the desire to travel diagonally through the open space.

In response to a member's question, Larry and staff said that combined bike/service facilities have not caused problems elsewhere on campus. This solution helps address service needs in an efficient way with minimal visual impact on open spaces.

A member suggested reducing the size of the south parking lot to address the desire for an enhanced pedestrian-friendly environment. Larry and EMU staff said the number of parking spaces retained in the south lot is considered the minimum number required to meet the EMU's conference facility needs. This takes into account the significant number of nearby parking spaces that will be removed as part of the EMU and Straub Hall projects as discussed at prior meetings.

A Design Team member confirmed that the noise from Craft Center exhaust hood units would be minimal and would not interfere with adjacent open-space uses.

Action: The committee agreed unanimously to recommend to the president that the Schematic Design for the Erb Memorial Union Expansion and Renovation Project Follow Up Items be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Establish a pedestrian connection between Straub Green and the EMU Green by replacing the remnant section of Onyx Street asphalt with pedestrian-friendly design elements, if at all possible.
2. Incorporate design elements to reinforce pedestrian connections across 13th Avenue (as recently discussed during Meeting One for the Allan Price Science Commons and Research Library Project), if at all possible.
3. Relocate the 13th Avenue turn-around further east to establish a pedestrian and bike zone, if at all possible. If it is not possible to incorporate this improvement into the EMU's Project scope, direct the CPC chair to work with staff to forward a request for UO Central Administration support.

Please contact this office if you have questions.

- cc. Vicki Arbeiter, Geological Sciences (Columbia & Volcanology Bldg Mgr)
RaDonna Aymong, Environmental Studies (Columbia Bldg Mgr)
Mike Andreasen, University Advancement
Vince Babkirk, Campus Ops
Patrick Bartlein, Geography (Columbia Bldg Mgr)
Gwen Bolden, DPS
Jane Brubaker, Campus Ops
Carolyn Burke, Eugene Planning
Linda Campbell, Linguistics (Straub Bldg Mgr)
Kathy Cashman, Geological Sciences (Volcanology Bldg Mgr)
Timothy Cohalan, EMU Craft Center
Darin Dehle, Campus Ops
Sam Dotters-Katz, ASUO
Dan Geiger, EMU
Larry Gilbert, Cameron McCarthy
Keith Gonzalez, Biology, Willamette Bldg Mgr
Terri Harding, Eugene Planning
Jill Hartz, JSMA
George Helbling, Psychology (Straub Bldg Mgr)
Terrence Heldreth, EMU Craft Center

Diane Hoffman, EMU
Dave Hubin, President's Office
Karen Hyatt, Community Relations
Natasha Koiv, SERA
Harlan Lefevre, Physics (Volcanology Bldg Mgr)
Gus Lim, Housing
Carolyn McDermed, UOPD
Garrick Mishaga, Campus Ops
Martina Oxoby, CPRE
Eric Philps, SERA
David Strom, Physics (Volcanology Bldg Mgr)
Walker Templeton, SERA
Fred Tepfer, CPRE
Dana Winitzky, EMU
Laurie Woodward, EMU