



February 6, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Christine Taylor Thompson, Planning Associate  
University Planning

Subject: **Record** of the January 23, 2008 Campus Planning Committee Meeting,

Attending: Carole Daly (Chair), Darin Dehle, Tom Driscoll, Ally Frueauf, Gregg Lobisser, Chicora Martin, Andrzej Proskurowski, Chris Ramey, Dale Smith, Rob Thallon

Staff: Christine Taylor Thompson (University Planning)

Guests: John Bramwell (Robertson Sherwood Architects), Jon Erlandson (MNCH), Patty Krier (MNCH), Carl Sherwood (Robertson Sherwood Architects), Dorene Steggell (University Planning)

**Agenda:**

- **Museum of Natural and Cultural History Curation Facility Expansion Project - Schematic Design**
- **Diversity Campus Plan Amendment – Initial Discussion**

**1. Museum of Natural and Cultural History Curation Facility Expansion Project - Schematic Design**

Background: Staff reviewed the related *Campus Plan* patterns and policies as described in the meeting mailing.

Jon Erlandson, user group chair introduced the project. He explained that the museum, which has been in existence since about 1935, serves as the state-mandated repository for archaeological collections. The proposed addition will provide much needed storage space. It will help consolidate the museum's facilities, which are scattered throughout eleven different buildings. The project will be completed in two phases. The committee is being asked to review phase one, which is federally funded through ODOT.

Jon said the project architects were selected because they best met the required qualifications. However, another interviewed architect, Otto Poticha, presented some innovative ideas during the architect selection process that merited further exploration. Therefore, he was hired as a consultant to assist with the early schematic design phase, which resulted in the addition of a "grand hall" between the existing and new spaces.

Carl Sherwood presented the schematic design as described in the meeting mailing. The proposed design is the result of a progression of a series of conceptual designs developed

over the past five or six years. It is designed to meet *Campus Plan* policies and patterns such as those addressing a family of entrances, enhancing 15th Avenue, and accommodating future expansion.

The Open-space Framework policies were the primary drivers in establishing the addition's siting. Preservation and enhancement of the Glen Starlin Courtyard and the East Campus Green led to expansion primarily to the east. The existing pedestrian path along the building's eastern edge is redirected to the Glen Starlin Courtyard path. This helps direct attention to the courtyard and main entrance. In addition, doubling the length of the façade along 15th Avenue enhances the museum's visibility. The expansion will require the relocation of one basketball court. A replacement site has not been identified, but funds have been allocated. No new staff will be hired; therefore, no new parking is required. In the future, however, it may be wise to add bike parking. Fire access requirements will require some minor modifications through the existing parking lot, but no spaces will be lost.

Carl reviewed the proposed floor plan. The grand hall provides needed circulation and a place for museum and curation staff to interact. It brings together two distinct functions. In addition, the grand hall allows for a physical separation between two construction types and creates space for underground utility lines, including the existing communications vault.

The proposed elevations are designed to respect the iconic characteristics of the existing building, which are unique to campus. The new addition respects the scale and design of the existing building but does not emulate it. The grand hall entry is reminiscent of the existing main entrance but smaller. The eave lines match but different materials are used. The different finishes on the different elevations, two types of metal siding and stucco, are designed to work together to create a complex of forms. Ideally the vault will be wrapped by future additions; therefore, stucco is proposed since it works well both as an exterior and interior finish.

Sustainable design was a key factor in the design process. The building will meet SEED requirements. The vault's strict climate control and lighting restrictions made it difficult to address day lighting and natural ventilation. However, the grand hall will help balance out the vault's limitations. Photovoltaic panels on the roof address the new 1.5% for solar energy technology requirement.

Future expansion phases will serve the museum's needs well into the future. A southern expansion would help define the East Campus Green. As the green develops, service access would be from 15th Avenue. Eastern expansion would remove one more basketball court.

Three trees along the building's northern edge will be removed to clean up the overgrown area to enhance the museum's presence along 15th Avenue and address bug infestation problems.

Discussion: A member said the proposal does not adequately reroute pedestrians coming from the south to the Glen Starlin courtyard path. More thought should be given to developing a series of paths from the south that accommodate primary paths of travel that deter cut-through traffic.

A member said the new staff-only 15th Avenue entry is too prominent. Its location, roof design, and use of new materials makes it stand out like a primary entrance. Carl said the proposed setback and landscaping were designed to de-emphasize the 15th Avenue entrance.

In response to a member's question, Carl said no service parking would be needed on 15th Avenue. The proposed 15th Avenue service entrance would have very low use until future phases. The south side entrance is the primary service access.

A member questioned whether the project adequately considered the CPC's earlier suggestions to move the primary entrance to 15th Avenue and add a second story. This would enhance the museum's presence and make maximum use of the development site. The proposed single-story massing appears out of scale when compared to adjacent buildings, and the main entrance has not been enhanced. The grand hall entrance appears to provide an opportunity to move the main entrance. John said this idea was discussed at great length. Unfortunately, it would require a complete reconfiguration of the entire building. In the future, however, it might be a possibility. Carl added that landscaping was thinned to open the main entrance view from 15th Avenue. The need for site repair to further enhance the courtyard entrance is recognized, but this is outside of the project scope. He added that storage functions are not suitable for a second story. Future expansion of labs may provide an opportunity for a second story. A guest added that the current connection between the main entry and the native garden creates a very effective entry.

In response to a member's question, Carl confirmed that the basketball court amenities are alternate bid items. A member said that all existing basketball court amenities that would be removed as a result of this project such as bike parking, a drinking fountain, and seating must be replaced. He added that the new block walls east of the building should match the existing walls.

In response to a member's question, Carl said the proposed landscaping along 15th Avenue would be an extension of the native garden. A member said the landscape plan (including tree replacement requirements) especially along 15th Avenue needs to be clarified.

A member said it is important to ensure that the basketball court is replaced as part of this project. However, it will require input from a broader group to define alternatives. Another member suggested that the CPC ask the UO (under the direction of Frances Dyke and Robin Holmes) to form a task force of key parties (e.g., PE and Recreation, Housing, DPS, CPC) to identify alternatives for replacing the basketball court within the context of the future of the larger basketball court area. The task force would present recommendations to the CPC.

A member said cor-ten steel siding is not an appropriate siding material. It was used only once on campus many years ago and it required replacement. Perhaps the material has since been improved, but it seems likely that there are better choices that are proven to be long lasting and compatible with the building's design and overall campus character. The product should be good versus unique. This may result in savings that could be applied towards landscaping improvements. Carl said cor-ten was selected because it has a great texture and look, however, there is no product warranty. The newer version is thicker and the proposed used would be minimal as a rain screen, not as the primary method of keeping water out. Other alternate materials such as terra cotta were considered. Wood siding is not proposed due to bug infestation concerns.

A member emphasized the need for a more visible main entrance, which may mean moving it to a new location. One should not be constrained by the existing front entrance that was built prior to the Knight Law Center. The proposal does not appear to address this need. With limited project funds, the proposed design should ensure, at a minimum, that it does not preclude future options for a new entrance.

Jon said the design process has been very effective. Enthusiasm for the project led to additional funds making it likely that future improvements will move forward.

Action: The subcommittee agreed unanimously that the schematic design for the Museum of Natural and Cultural History Curation Expansion Project is consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that it be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Consider revising pedestrian circulation to more effectively reroute pedestrians to the Glen Starlin Courtyard path from the south. Develop a series of paths from the south that accommodate primary paths of travel and discourage cut-through paths.
2. Consider building and landscape design modifications to de-emphasize the new staff-only 15th Avenue entrance.
3. Consider moving the primary entrance to 15th Avenue and adding a second story. If this is not possible, ensure that the design does not preclude the opportunity to do so in the future.
4. Replace all existing basketball court amenities that were removed as a result of this project.
5. Clarify the landscape plan (including tree replacement requirements) especially along 15th Avenue.
6. Ensure that the new block walls east of the building match the existing walls.
7. Ensure that the basketball court is replaced as part of this project by forming a task force (under the direction of Frances Dyke and Robin Holmes) of key parties (e.g., PE and Recreation, Housing, DPS, CPC) to identify alternatives for replacing the basketball court within the context of the future of the larger basketball court area. The task force's recommendation(s) would be presented to the CPC.
8. Strongly consider alternates to cor-ten steel siding. Ensure that the selected material is long lasting and compatible with the building's design and overall campus character.

## **2. Diversity *Campus Plan* Amendment – Initial Discussion**

Background: Staff briefly introduced the concept of better addressing the issue of diversity within the *Campus Plan*, perhaps as a new pattern. She explained that this initial conversation was to determine whether to pursue the idea and, if so, to gather suggestions about how to move forward. She used the policies and patterns of universal design as an example of how the issues of diversity could be integrated into the *Campus Plan*. The overall goal is to make the campus welcoming to all.

She said the DPIT subcommittee had an initial conversation about the subject. Subcommittee members expressed support to move forward.

Discussion: A member said that the campus planning process should recognize a growing culture of change on campus. Members supported moving forward.

Staff suggested setting up a meeting with a few CPC representatives and key staff engaged in issues of diversity on campus as a next step.

Action: No formal action was required. The committee's comments will be taken into consideration as the concept moves forward.

### **3. User Group Updates**

The chair and user group CPC representatives provided brief project updates.

Please contact this office if you have questions.

cc. Vince Babbirk, Facilities Services  
John Barofsky, Fairmount Neighbors  
Gordon Bettles, Many Nations Longhouse (Building Manager)  
George Bleekman, Facilities Services  
Ken Boegli, DPS  
John Bramwell, Robertson Sherwood Architects  
Jane Brubaker, Facilities Services  
Chris Cullinan, Human Resources  
Jon Erlandson, Anthropology (User Group Chair)  
Lisa Gardner, Eugene Planning Division  
Carla Gary, OIED  
Terri Harding, Eugene Planning  
Jim Horstrup, Law School (Building Manager)  
Roger Kerrigan, Facilities Services  
Tim King, Facilities Services  
Patty Krier, MNCH  
Greg Rikhoff, Community Relations  
Gordon Sayre, English (University Senate)  
Dorene Steggell, University Planning  
Nancy Wright, Housing (Building Manager)