UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

December 30, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee (CPC)

From: Christine Taylor Thompson, Planning Associate
University Planning

Subject: **Record of the December 7, 2006 CPC Meeting**

Attending: Gregg Lobisser (Chair), Michael Fifield, Amy Freauf, Douglas Kennett, Dennis Munroe, Steve Pickett, Chris Ramey, Dale Smith, Rob Thallon

Guests: Vince Babkirk (Facilities Services), Jane Brubaker (Facilities Services), Allen Gidley (Housing), Tim King (Facilities Services), Ken Li (IDCA), Charlene Lindsay (Facilities Services), Michael Marx (IDCA), Steve McBride (Athletics), Ed Vranizan (IDCA)

Staff: Christine Thompson (University Planning)

Agenda:
Hayward Field Wind Deflectors – Preliminary Review and Discussion

1. Hayward Field Wind Deflectors – Preliminary Review and Discussion

Background: Staff reviewed the preliminary applicable *Campus Plan* policies and patterns:

- Policy 2: Open-space Framework, Designated Open Spaces (p.p. 23-27) - 15th Avenue is a designated open space and a primary pedestrian pathway. Also, signage and lighting policies may apply depending upon the proposed design.
- Policy 5: Replacement of Displaced Uses (p. 39) - parking.
- Policy 7: Architectural Style and Historic Preservation (p. 43) - architectural style, context, and scale.
- Policy 10: Sustainable Development (p. 49).
- Policy 11: Patterns (p.p. 51-68) - in particular those related to character, context, and scale.
- Policy 12: Design Area Special Conditions for Area F, Athletics and Recreation (pg.103, Uses) and Area E: Student Services and Academics (pg 101-102, 15th Avenue Axis).

Steve McBride, Athletics, indicated that the proposed wind deflectors represent a permanent Hayward Field improvement in addition to the previously reviewed exterior lights. Both projects originate from plans to prepare for the 2008 Olympic Trials. It was not evident until just recently that this project would be possible—it

arose from a new funding opportunity.

Ed Vranizan of ICD Architects said the goal of the project is to deflect winds that have been a long time concern (i.e., spring/summer north winds). An in-depth review verified that the project was viable.

Michael Marx reviewed possible design solutions taking into consideration that a majority of the track exceeds desired wind speed. They looked at the following possible solutions:

1. 70′ continuous wall on the north side
2. 70′ wall created with 30′ wide panels with 30′ breaks on the north side
3. 70′ panels on both the north and south sides of the track

Although #3 is most effective at reducing wind on the track, it is twice as expensive (and not twice as effective), and wind deflectors on the south side would interfere with future track expansion plans. Also, the proposed south side temporary seating for the Olympic Trails would alleviate the wind problem. Therefore, a decision was made to pursue #2 because it deflects wind more than #1.

A detailed analysis of #2 was conducted to determine the ideal shape, rotation, location, height, and angle of the proposed panels with the understanding that height would be one of the bigger issues from a campus planning perspective. The existing scale of structures in the area is 40′-60′. Studies indicate that 70′-tall panels are ideal, although 60′ panels could work if properly angled. In addition, the airfoil shape appears to improve performance. The focus is on long distance track events, which means that reducing wind on the entire track is important.

Proposed design options took into consideration campus planning issues and related opportunities and requirements including:

- 15th Avenue Axis and Agate intersection--opportunity to strengthen the 15th Avenue Axis and Agate intersection and pedestrian activity;
- Location in the center of campus--opportunity to link to the campus, specifically adjacent residence halls and areas of activity;
- Strong tree canopy on Agate, in the plaza, and in the Humpy Lumpy--opportunity to link these together
- Adjacent uses--need to project sunlight and views
- Existing uses--need to address removal of 4-5 parking spaces
- Quality--use quality materials and good design, particularly at street level

After studying many ideas, four concepts were studied in greater detail. Michael described the four concepts (using a PowerPoint presentation and drawings):

1. airfoil panels,
2. vertical panels,
3. hybrid panels (a combination of the airfoil and vertical panel design), and
4. sail panels.

The vertical and hybrid designs performed the best with an ultimate preference for the vertical panels. Two vertical panels—one larger (30′ x 70′) and one smaller with graphics potential (perhaps temporary advertisement for an event)—would

be supported by pylons 3′ in diameter. The panels would be at least 15′ from the ground and spaced 30′ apart allowing views under and between panels. The panels could be turned to a perpendicular position during non-event times to further minimize visual impacts. The support pylons would be located in parking islands so as not to block the pedestrian walkway. Canopies above the walkway and seating areas at the pylon bases are proposed to define the pedestrian axis. The design may include low-scale lighting at the base and artistic lighting at the upper level. Steel elliptical pylons appear to function and meet design needs the best.

Discussion: In response to a member's question, the consultants said it is not possible to make use of the previously approved light poles—the locations are fixed. However, the proposed wind panels will draw attention away from the poles and help create a coordinated design out of the vertical elements in the area.

Members made the following comments:

- Ensure the proposed panels are integrated into the Powell Plaza design. The consultants said two pylons would be located in the plaza area. The proposed locations ensure that pedestrian paths are not blocked. Large sub-surface pylon footings will require the entire plaza paving to be rebuilt. This means there is an opportunity to change the paving design if desired—the current plan is to rebuild the paving as is. Tim King, Facilities Services, said a major storm and sewer line passes through the proposed footing area.
- Make sure the panels do not look like signs—the more the deflectors are like landscape features rather than signs the better.
- Consider using fabric panels to allow for panel removal. The consultants said they researched ways to use fabric panels, but they were not viable due to limited durability, difficultly adjusting them accurately, and storage concerns.
- Use solid material rather than fabric to avoid banner/sign effect.
- Ensure the panels do not interfere with trees. Mimic trees to the extent possible (e.g., allowing views and light through the panels). The consultants said the intent is to use the panels to enhance the tree canopy effect.
- Ensure the panels can withstand high winds.
- Address views from the north side of 15th Avenue.
- Support preference for the vertical panel concept because it is not as imposing as other concepts; they create a balanced streetscape with the trees on the north side.
- Incorporate green landscape features to tie in with campus character.
- Ability to see through is important. Support operable concept to help address adjacent residence hall occupants' needs for light and views. Need to determine best way to minimize impact.
- If graphics are considered, look at ways to ensure the graphics can be removed.
- Proposed varied pole and panel sizes are a good way to address compatibility (e.g., smaller near the east grandstand) and create a softer effect.
- Consider modifying the top of the screen shape to soften the effect.
- Support effort to create good design--might be able to link further to artistic ideas.

- Help address safety issues in the area, if any. Maintain transparency, prevent dark corners, and enhance the use of 15th Avenue as a night-lit corridor.
- Pay greatest attention to how the panels link to existing gateway elements (and secondarily the historic character of the East Hayward Grandstand). The consultants indicated that they considered ways, for example through the use of compatible wood details, brick seating, and paving patterns. A member added that small wooden elements might not be the best approach.

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

Please contact this office if you have questions.

cc. Vince Babkirk, Facilities Services
Jane Brubaker, Facilities Services
Bob Beals, Athletics
Allen Gidley, Housing
Jim Horstrup, Law School (Building Manager)
Tim King, Facilities Services
Ken Li, IDCA
Charlene Lindsay, Facilities Services
Michael Marx, IDCA
Steve McBride, Athletics
Steve Nystrom, Eugene Planning
Mike Reilly, Athletics
Nancy Wright, Housing
Ed Vranizan, IDCA