



May 14, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Clare Kurth, Campus Planning
Campus Planning and Facilities Management (CPFM)

Subject: **Record** of the April 29, 2025, Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Bob Choquette (Chair), Eric Alexander, Deborah Butler, Janell Cottam, Cheyenne Dickenson, Jamie Dillon, Ihab Elzeyadi, Emily Eng, Belle Esbeck, Michael Griffel, Mike Harwood, Norma Kehdi, Taliek Lopez-DuBoff, Taylor McHolm, Janet Rose, Daniel Rosenberg, Rachel Withers

CPC Staff: Clare Kurth (Campus Planning)

Guests: Colin Brennan (CPFM), Mogan Clemmer (Student), Amber Geiger (Student), Aris Hall (UO Black Cultural Center), Sasha Love (Daily Emerald), Dak Steinback (Student), Matt Roberts (Communications), Liz Thorstenson (Campus Planning)

CPC Agenda

1. Grove Community Garden Relocation Project – Meeting One

The purpose of this agenda item was to hold Meeting One for the Grove Community Garden Relocation Project.

As part of Meeting One (further described in the *Campus Plan* on page 27) the committee was asked to complete the following tasks:

- Site Selection - Review the proposed site and make a site recommendation.
- Key Principles and Patterns - Identify key principles, patterns, and other relevant campus design issues from the Campus Plan.
- Other Campus-wide Opportunities - Identify potential opportunities to address campus-wide needs within the subject area or opportunities to cooperate with nearby development efforts.

CPC Staff reviewed relevant *Campus Plan* principles.

Taylor McHolm (Student Sustainability Center (SSC)) provided an overview of the Grove Community Garden program, program purpose, student roles and history, adjacent uses to recommended Site E, and program compatibility with existing and proposed future uses.

Liz Thorstenson (Campus Planning) reviewed Campus Planning requirements, project goals, site selection process and criteria, the recommended site, timeline, and next steps.

Discussion:

The following is a summary of questions and comments from committee members and guests with clarification comments from Emily Eng (Campus Planning), McHolm, and Thorstenson:

Regarding recommended Site E:

- Members: Support recommended Site E for the Grove Community Garden Relocation.
- Member: Site E looks to be the least potentially disruptive of the evaluated sites. Consider how potential future plans for Villard Street middle housing could be integrated with the Grove Community Garden in this location.
- Member: What effect will future construction on the parking lot north of Site E have on the site's programmatic functions, E.g., access to solar and air? Consider ways to minimize future construction and building design impacts of potential development at this location.
 - Eng: This site is planned for a future residence hall per the East Campus Area Plan. There is no specified timeline or design for that project. When a construction project happens in the future UO will work with contractors to mitigate impacts.
 - Thorstenson: Future construction will go through the standard campus review process, including CPC review.
- Member: What occupies the house north of the Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) at 1617 Moss Street?
 - Thorstenson: The house is occupied by student housing.
- Member: How will the Grove Community Garden support existing housing in this area?
 - McHolm: The opportunity to support some of the adjacent local housing and build community will contribute to the existing strong relationship the program has with University Housing. This location will allow the students' programmatic goal of being able to increase food production and further support the food drop in the area.
- Member: Are there any concerns regarding universal access to the site when considering the terrain and the nature of outdoor spaces (E.g. slopes, path materials, and path width)?

- Thorstenson: The topography of the site is mostly flat with a gentle slope; there are no anticipated accessibility concerns. Accessibility will be considered with the design of the space.
- McHolm: There is intermittent noise from an exterior fan at Global Scholars Hall; this may potentially be mitigated with screening.

Regarding the Grove Community Garden:

- Member: What mechanisms are in place to delay or prevent future relocation?
 - Eng: There is no 100% guarantee that the Grove Community Garden won't be relocated in the future. However, this location is very unlikely to be impacted. This area is partially designated open space, which requires justification to change, and this site is well suited as open space.
- Member: What built elements will be required for this project and will they be within the designated open space area?
 - McHolm: Two garden sheds, irrigation, garden bed fencing, a composting area, and a gathering space for education (which will be more programmatic than built).
 - Thorstenson: Built elements will be located outside the designated open space area and screened to minimize visual impact.
- Member: What is envisioned for the corridor east of Site E? (between Villard Alley and Villard Street)
 - Eng: The area is planned for future middle housing (E.g. graduate townhomes, middle housing options, and associated parking and open spaces) along the Villard Street corridor as outlined in the East Campus Area Plan.
- Guest: What will the Moss Street Children's Center (MSCC) access path look like?
 - Thorstenson: The pathway design will be refined along with other design details as the project progresses. There is currently a gate in this location that provides access for MSCC occupants to the existing field for use during fire drills.
- Guest: Will the project include plans for vehicle, bike, and scooter parking?
 - McHolm: The considerations related to vehicle access is for service vehicles unloading materials. There are bike and scooter racks available at the adjacent resident halls.
 - Guest: The adjacent parking lots allow most parking permit holders to park nearby. There is also street parking available on nearby Moss and Villard Streets.
- Guest: Are there plans to expand the garden space, or would the garden space be the

same as it currently is?

- Thorstenson: The square footage of the site would be a like for like replacement. There are no plans to expand the square footage beyond the current amount.
- Guest: Are there plans to involve the MSCC in the Grove Community Garden program?
 - McHolm: The MSCC is currently involved. The children visit the current location for gardening classes. The MSCC also allows use of their kitchen facilities by the Grove Community after childcare hours. The close proximity of the two uses will be mutually beneficial. The program also works with cultural groups on campus to create an inclusive community environment.

Action: With 13 in favor, the committee agreed that the proposed Site E, *Campus Plan* principles and patterns, and other campus-wide opportunities for the **Grove Community Garden Relocation Project** are consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that it be approved.