



March 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Liz Thorstenson, Campus Planning  
Campus Planning and Facilities Management (CPFM)

Subject: **Record** of the March 5, 2021 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Dean Livelybrooks (chair), Hilary Gerdes, Michael Harwood, Ken Kato, Moira Kiltie, Kevin Reed, Juliae Riva, Daniel Rosenberg, Philip Speranza, Christine Thompson, Chuck Triplett, Laurie Woodward

CPC Staff: Liz Thorstenson (Campus Planning)

Guests: Emily Eng (Campus Planning), Justin Grissom (Burns & McDonnell), Kyle Harshbarger (COD), Jeff Madsen (CPFM), Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning), Matt Roberts (University Advancement), Jon Schwartz (Burns & McDonnell), Jenna Shope (CPFM)

**CPC Agenda**

The CPC chair gave a brief update regarding the CPC Preferred Meeting Times Survey circulated to members prior to this meeting. Member completion of the survey is appreciated. The CPC scheduling analysis includes three efforts underway: 1.) The CPC Preferred Meeting Times Survey, 2.) Classroom utilization data analysis, and 3.) Analysis of past CPC meeting records of attendance over the past five years.

CPC staff shared that future Zoom meeting recordings after this meeting will be audio recorded only, not including video recording, to be sensitive and considerate of individuals navigating Zoom. Recordings are for internal record keeping purposes.

**1. Thermal Energy Storage Tank Project – Addition to the Chilled Water Plant: Meeting One**

Background: The purpose of this agenda item was to hold Meeting One for the Thermal Energy Storage (TES) Tank Project – Addition to the Chilled Water Plant.

As part of Meeting One (further described in the *Campus Plan* on page 19), the committee was asked to complete the following tasks:

- User Group - Review the proposed user group representation and provide comments to the CPC chair, who appoints group members (refer to page 12 of the *Campus Plan* for more information about user groups).
- Key Principles and Patterns - Identify key principles, patterns, and other appropriate campus design issues from the *Campus Plan*. Review the proposed addition location.
- Other Campus-wide Opportunities - Identify potential opportunities to address campus-wide needs within the subject area or opportunities to cooperate with other nearby development efforts.

CPC staff shared additional details of the *Campus Plan* principles and patterns applicable to this project.

Jeff Madsen (CPFM) gave an overview of the project as described in the CPC mailing, and provided some additional details. The full scope of project will incorporate smaller projects including: adding cooling towers to the existing chilled water plant as well as control system and efficiency upgrades for the plant. The overall size of the TES tank will not exceed the existing chilled water plant size.

The final location of the tank will consider the existing fire lane location, be located as far north as possible from the Millrace Natural Area, and be as close as possible to the chilled water plant to decrease the amount of piping needed. Existing functions and temporary structures will be moved west of the proposed site location. Connection points for the tank will be on the second floor area of the chiller plant. The project will use the lower grade elevation of the proposed site to place the TES tank lower, and to visually decrease / minimize the height of the tank.

Emily Eng (Campus Planning), reviewed the suggested modified user group, proposed key campus planning requirements, and key *Campus Plan* principles and patterns.

#### Discussion:

The following is a summary of questions and comments from committee members:

- Considering the future of North Campus, is this project located out of the way of any future campus development?
- Anything to the west of Onyx St. was identified as remaining in functional use for the CPFM complex.
- Is there consideration for pedestrian access along the north bank of the Millrace?
- Because this is a facilities complex, a pedestrian route along the Millrace is not identified. Regulations about access exist near the central power station, preventing free access. The area is fenced.

- Will this project improve cost efficiency and address the possible future challenge of intermittency of solar energy use as it becomes more available?
- Is it possible to plant more trees to screen views of the project?
- Consider the value of being transparent about utility buildings being a part of campus. However, make utility buildings visually acceptable, such as through finish choice. Appreciation for this project in terms of sustainability and maintenance for the university.

In response to questions and comments from committee members and guests, Madsen, Schwartz, and Eng provided the following clarifications:

- The TES tank gives full flexibility for when and how to use the chillers at any time during the day. Advantages for future unknowns of possible intermittent solar energy power.
- Will consider ways to mitigate visual impact through potentially planting more trees, or vegetative screening. Will explore opportunities for trees north of the tracks.

Action: With 12 in favor, the committee unanimously agreed that the Thermal Energy Storage Tank Project – Addition to the Chilled Water Plant proposed location, Project User Group and *Campus Plan* Requirements are consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that they be approved.