



November 27, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Emily Eng, Campus Planning  
Campus Planning and Facilities Management (CPFM)

Subject: **Record** of the November 22, 2019 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Ken Kato (chair), George Evans, Emily Fenster, Kassy Fisher,  
Hilary Gerdes, Michael Harwood, Shawn Kahl, Diana Libuda, Dean Livelybrooks,  
Christine Thompson, Laurie Woodward

Staff: Emily Eng (Campus Planning)

Guests: Aaron Olsen, Luke Helm, Kevin Farthing, Sam Alig, Martina Oxoby, Jane Brubaker,  
John Anderson, David Reesor, Matt Roberts

**CPC Agenda:**

**1. New University Parking Lot - Site Selection (Continued from November 5, 2019)**

Background: The CPC reviewed this site selection proposal on November 5, 2019. This New University Parking Lot is a project initiated by Transportation Services to construct 75-120 new parking spaces to increase capacity for university permit holders and allow for greater flexibility in transportation operations. Ideally the new parking spaces will be available for use in the fall of 2020. At the November 5 meeting, there was quite a bit of discussion about the recommended site (Site A, former ODOT site) because it was mentioned in the May 31, 2019 CPC meeting regarding the Recreation Field Location Options Study (On-Campus Site E). The committee agreed with eight members in favor and one abstention to delay action until a future meeting. At that time, the committee indicated they would like to see the parking site selection information concurrently with any relevant information from the Recreation Field Location Options Study.

CPC staff introduced the agenda item and David Reesor (Transportation Services) gave a brief overview of Transportation Services' mission to "provide access, mobility, and parking services in support of the campus." Since 2011, there has been about a 20% decrease in the campus parking supply and a cumulative increase of about 66% in parking demand. Reesor

noted that while Transportation Services is working to decrease some of the demand for parking by providing transportation options, it must still address current parking deficits and meet the needs of those who need and choose to drive to campus. Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning) gave an abbreviated overview of his presentation from November 5 along with the additional relevant information from the Recreation Field Location Options Study, which demonstrated that constructing a parking lot at the former ODOT site will not preclude the possibility of considering Site E for recreation fields in the future.

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

- One member asked if a proposal to locate a recreation field at the former ODOT site would consider the fact that the UOPD building and parking are located on it.
- A member asked if it was feasible to locate the larger size field (which would accommodate the full range of field sports offered at UO) at the former ODOT site.
- A member asked what storage uses exist at the former ODOT site.
- A member noted that a new parking lot at Site C (off Columbia Alley, east of Agate Hall) would cause more vehicle traffic in an area that is already heavily congested. Another member noted that Sites A and B provide direct or closer access to Franklin Boulevard, making them easier to "get in and out" by vehicle and more suitable as parking lots from a neighborhood perspective.
- A member noted that the Columbia Garage is closed to general parking for 87 days out of the year because of events at the Matt Knight Arena. Currently, the Romania lot serves as overflow for various uses during events. Site A would serve this need best considering the spaces at Romania may go away in the future.
- Laurie Woodward (EMU Director) withdrew her previous statement at the November 5 meeting regarding Student Life's hesitancy about the former ODOT site as an option for a future recreation field. After she and Michael Griffel (Housing Director) further discussed the issue with the PE and Rec Department, they determined that the former ODOT site is not preferred by Student Life because it is not proximate to other fields.
- A member felt that the former ODOT site is a logical site for a recreation field. The member supported the proposed parking lot with the understanding that it would not impinge on the possibility of a future recreation field, especially as land becomes more scarce. The member felt that having multiple fields in one location may not be a choice in the future.
- A member indicated that a future field project would be subject to the standard site selection process.
- A guest noted that the owners of the private residences adjacent to the former ODOT site are not interested in selling. Therefore, accommodating more than one field at the former ODOT site may not be an option.
- A member asked what the university was planning to do with 901 Franklin (Site B) in the future.
- A guest noted to let him know in advance if there will need to be access from 15th Ave. In addition, members noted that the proposed parking lot project should consider impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, the park and the area during events when

considering entrances to the parking lot. Therefore, carefully consider access points to the new parking lot to minimize impacts on the surrounding area.

- A member asked about the condition of the pedestrian/bike path on the property that connects 15th Avenue to Franklin Boulevard and suggested that the project consider improving it. A guest who is a student and resident of Laurel Hill Valley noted that he has heard others say they are afraid to use the path. Therefore, evaluate how to address the existing pedestrian and bicycle path.

In response to questions from committee members and guests, Olsen and Reesor provided the following clarifications:

- A proposal to locate a recreation field at the former ODOT site would have to consider the fact that the UOPD building is located on it, along with all the other uses (i.e., parking, storage, etc...).
- It is feasible to locate a larger size field within the property lines of the former ODOT site. However, the feasibility would need to be studied in further detail if there was an actual project.
- Losing parking at Romania in the future is a potential consideration, but the proposed parking lot would be providing for current needs and deficits.
- Regarding existing storage, there is a range of outdoor storage and storage within accessory buildings on the former ODOT property.
- Regarding plans for 901 Franklin, the property may be developed with a building in the future, but for now it will continue to be used for parking. The Framework Vision Project identified the property as important for future service vehicle access to the Campus Planning and Facilities Management area.
- There is currently no known easement for the pedestrian and bicycle path on the property; however, the project should discuss any proposed changes to the path with the City.

Action: With 11 in favor, the committee agreed unanimously to recommend to the president that Site A (former ODOT site) be approved as the site for the New University Parking Lot.