



January 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Eleni Tsivitz, Campus Planning
Campus Planning and Facilities Management (CPFM)

Subject: **Record** of the January 8, 2019 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Dean Livelybrooks (CPC chair), Kassy Fisher, Hilary Gerdes, Michael Harwood, Ken Kato, Krista McGuire, Kevin Reed, Amy Salmore, Christine Thompson, Chuck Triplett

Staff: Eleni Tsivitz (Campus Planning)

Guests: Rodney Bohner, Allen Hancock, Josh Kashinsky, Bill Madden, Karen Mason, Kelly McIver, Gene Mowery, Aaron Olsen, David Reesor, Bitty Roy, Larisa Varela, Ed Whitelaw

CPC Agenda:

1. City of Eugene South Bank Path Enhancement Project - Introduction

Background: The CPC chair introduced the project and Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning) described the background and intent of the project. The proposed enhancement of a portion of the South Bank path (partially running through the UO North Campus area), is a City of Eugene project planned to be constructed in the summer of 2020. The current alignment of the path is a result of the siting of the former EWEB storage yard and a master plan drafted in the late 1970s for a number of future recreation facilities in the area. Although EWEB headquarters have moved, the path alignments have remained, along with the 8-foot high chain-link fence between the path and the storage yard. This has resulted in some sharp turns in the path and subsequent development of beaten paths with gentler curves demonstrating the true desire lines through the area.

Olsen stated that the University of Oregon has an opportunity to collaborate with the city on this project and to propose elements and considerations that would be of interest to the institution. These could include:

- Key considerations from The Open Space Framework and Transportation Principles of

the *Campus Plan*;

- Key elements from the North Campus Conditional Use Permit;
- A new alignment for the path further away from the river's edge;
- The use of gateway elements and campus standard light fixtures; and
- The removal of the chain-link fence along the boundary of the storage yard

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

- The timing is somewhat challenging because the University of Oregon has not had the time to do all of the assessment that it might have wanted to do to determine the ideal location of the path in relation to an overall enhancement plan for the area. But this city project is an opportunity to realign the path and improve safety.
- The CPC chair read an email sent by a CPC member who was unable to attend this meeting. Key points were as follows:
 - The City of Eugene should consider waiting to proceed with significant changes until the CPC has evaluated the land for use as a natural area reserve, per the UO Senate Resolution of March 14, 2018.
 - If the area were used primarily as a natural area, path lighting should be kept at a minimum and it may be better not to widen the path.
 - Some changes may be uncontroversial, e.g. removal of the chain-link fence.
- Is the UO coordinating with the City of Eugene to remove the existing fill before realigning/improving the bike path?
- East of the Millrace outfall there is a desire path that has been worn into the ground with a more direct east-west connection. Consider using that to inform a proposed realignment.
- It would be wise to keep the bike path outside the 100-foot setback.
- Despite the former industrial uses of the storage yard, some of the land may now fit the legal description of vernal pools. Wildflowers exist there that do not exist elsewhere and because of the protection afforded by the chain-link fence there are ground-nesting bird living in the area.
- LED lights have negative effects on adjacent wildlife.
- The existing path is a relic from forty years ago. There is an opportunity now to improve what has not been working.
- Consider recommending planting native vegetation on either side of the path to buffer ecological areas from the lighting along the path.
- A guest to the committee expressed his disappointment in the UO's handling of this project. The university could have an ecological impact far exceeding what is being done at the moment, particularly because it has a comparative economic advantage. *(Note: It was unclear if the guest was referring to the South Bank Enhancement project.)*
- The area of the river near the Millrace outfall is used in the spring and summer for active recreation. Consider providing a footpath in that location to allow those activities to continue and clearly define a preferred route.

- Undesirable activity also occurs along the river banks, especially during the spring and summer months. Consider ways to deter this activity.
- Consider permeable paving.

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

- The city's baseline approach to the improvements would be to reconstruct the path in its current alignment and to provide lighting in order to bring the path to current city standards.
- The CUP allows for the bike path to go within the 100-foot or 200-foot conservation setback, although it could also be located elsewhere within the CUP area.
- If a new path is constructed, the existing path could be removed completely and restored to match surrounding areas. Alternatively the base rock of the existing path could be left in place and could become a pedestrian path.
- The current city standard for multi-use paths is a 12-foot wide, lit, concrete path.
- Runoff from the existing path currently flows into the surrounded landscape, which essentially acts as a vegetated filter strip.
- A bridge across the Millrace outfall was considered within the city's original scoping for the project. However, this would require more significant research and design work because this area is likely a high priority for laying the banks back in the future. Building a bridge now would be high cost and high impact project and is unlikely to be changed once in place.
- This could be an opportunity to find lighting solutions that provide the best balance between providing a safe, lit path for humans and a good environment for ecology.

Action: No formal action was requested.

2. City of Eugene Franklin Boulevard Design Project - Introduction

Background: Larisa Varela (City of Eugene) introduced the project, discussed the goals of the project, and its extents (as presented). She mentioned the design for Franklin Boulevard that was included in the Walnut Station Specific Area Plan as one option to consider, although that study was more limited in area and planning parameters have changed since then which could have an effect on the proposed design of the boulevard.

Opportunities identified for the project include:

- Providing a good gateway to the city
- Planting additional trees and a more interesting landscape along the corridor
- Acknowledging and accommodating UO growth
- Ensuring the safety of people who live along Franklin
- Encouraging the feeling of driving through campus instead of past campus

Challenges identified include:

- Walking and biking along Franklin and crossing Franklin
- Aligning with Vision Zero Eugene (particularly given the crash history on Franklin)
- Connecting walking and biking routes to the Ruth Bascom River Path
- Connecting bike routes to the Laurel Hill Valley Neighborhood and to the Alder Street Bikeway
- Accommodating increased capacity for the EMX which is near capacity currently on this segment. There is currently no two-way dedicated EMX corridor through Franklin Boulevard

Varela described the outreach that has been planned for the project and encouraged members of the university community to attend. She invited suggestions for any additional UO stakeholder groups or interested parties for the city to engage with directly. The City of Eugene has been working with UO Communications to inform the campus community about the project.

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

- LiveMove is a likely stakeholder group with active and engaged faculty.
- Departments in the sciences are likely to be interested parties as they will be crossing Franklin frequently in the future as the Knight Campus develops. Consider tabling events in the Price Science Commons or in Willamette atrium.
- Pay particular attention to issues of accessibility because it is a critical concern when crossing Franklin Boulevard.
- The bike path along Franklin Boulevard and the bike path along the river should be thought about in tandem. Biking safely across Franklin Boulevard is challenging currently.

Action: No formal action was requested.

3. Classroom and Faculty Office Building (CFOB) - Meeting One (continued)

Background: CPC staff introduced this agenda item and reminded the committee that they had previously reviewed elements of Meeting One on April 6, 2018 (user group representation) and on October 30, 2018 (site approval). At this meeting, staff presented key principles and patterns from the Campus Plan, as well as campus planning requirements (per the PowerPoint presentation). She also stated that the Classroom and Faculty Office Building Project will be working together with the 13th Avenue Study to ensure the compatibility of the designs being developed by both project teams.

Gene Mowery (CPFM) said that the project is in the conceptual design phase. The CFOB user group has reviewed all of the *Campus Plan* patterns and principles presented and has developed a number of project specific patterns which include Indoor/Outdoor Connections, Porous Building, Building as a Teacher, Biophilic Design Principles, Resilience

and Future Climate, and Strategic Use of Glass.

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

- Take the opportunity to add another element of topography to the campus heart through this project to build on the energy and interest that is created by the different levels that exist there currently.
- Add new trees to the landscaped areas to help define the heart of campus.
- In the record for this meeting, include all the conditions that were part of the previously-held site selection approval meeting and the first Meeting One.
- The balance between the size of the building footprint and its height will have to be carefully considered. Ensure that there is an understanding of how much shadow the proposed building will cast on surrounding areas.
- Determine if the trees on the west side of University Street that could be preserved.

Action: The committee agreed unanimously that the proposed principles, patterns and campus planning requirements are consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that they be approved with the understanding that the comments above are considered and previously-established conditions are addressed.

Please contact this office if you have questions.