

Master Planning Council (MPC)

MEETING NOTES - May 20, 2009

Office of the Architect for the University

Summary: Sustainability Project Competition, Grounds Improvement Fund and Health System Area Plan

Meeting Agenda

- Presentation on Sustainability Project Competition, by Andrew Greene, UVA
- Update on the 2009 Ground Improvement Fund (GIF) by Helen Wilson, UVA
- Overview and update on the Health System Area Plan by David Neuman, AIA, and Julia Monteith, AICP, UVA

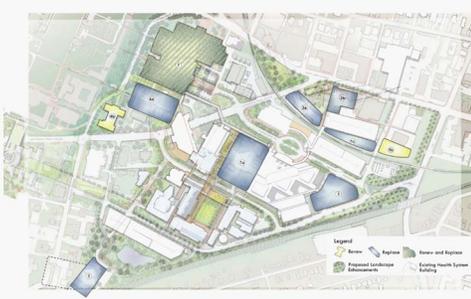
Presentation Summaries

Sustainability Project Competition

In April, the President's Committee on Sustainability sponsored a competition for students to showcase their work on sustainability related projects. The competition was open to undergraduate and graduate work. Students were required to create a single poster that highlighted their project. The posters were displayed in the Dome Room of the Rotunda on April 24th. In all, there were 24 poster submissions that represented the work of 75 students. About 75% of the submissions were undergraduate projects and 25% were graduate projects. The projects themselves ranged from local to state to national to international in scope, though most (60%) of the projects were local.

Projects were judged by a committee of impartial UVA faculty and staff. There were three winners based on the cumulative scoring of the judges. The first winning project was submitted by a group of Commerce School students who are organizing and researching the creation of a Bike Share program on Grounds. Dubbed 'UVA Bike', the students are advocating a system modeled on the bike share system that is in place in Montreal, Canada. This system consists of a number of Bike and Rack Systems placed around Grounds. Bikes are 'checked-out' using either a credit card (for non-members) or a bike-share card (for members) and the user is charged for the time that they have the bike checked-out. In addition to researching the system, the students also did a thorough analysis of the cost and funding options for the system.

The second winning project was submitted by a group of Architecture and Engineering students and presented their ongoing work on the development and construction of a floating education and environmental field station. Dubbed the Learning Barge, this project is an innovative student project that demonstrates the 'three E's' of sustainability: Environmental resource management and education, the edification of equitable social communities and greater economic efficiency. The Learning Barge project is a collaboration between students of the School of Architecture and Engineering and the Portsmouth-based nonprofit organization, the Elizabeth River Project (ERP).



MPC Members

David J. Neuman, FAIA
Architect for the University

Arthur Garson, Jr
Executive Vice President and Provost

L. Cameron Howell
Assistant to the President

Ed Howell
Vice President and CEO, UVA. Health System

Pat Lampkin
Vice President for Student Affairs

Craig K. Littlepage
Director of Athletic Programs

Yoke San L. Reynolds
VP and Chief Financial Officer

Colette Sheehy
Vice President for Management & Budget

Karen Van Lengen
Dean, School of Architecture

Meredith Jung-En Woo
Dean's Council Representative

Ex-officio

Wayne Cilimberg
Director of Planning, Albemarle County

Bill Edgerton
Albemarle County Planning Commission

Genevieve Keller
Chair, Charlottesville Planning Commission

Judy Maretta
Director of Space and Real Estate Management

Julia Monteith, AICP
Sr. Land Use Planner, Office of the Architect

Donald E. Sundgren
Chief Facilities Officer

Jim Tolbert
Director of NDS, City of Charlottesville

Rebecca White
Director of Parking & Transportation

Ida Lee Wootten
Director of Community Relations

Student Members

David M. Hondula
Graduate Representative

Steven P. Reilly
Undergraduate Representative

The Learning Barge will provide interactive K-12 and adult education about how the river and human activities are inextricably linked. The Learning Barge will move to different areas of the Elizabeth River to highlight different themes such as tidal estuary ecosystems, wetland and oyster restoration, sediment and remediation efforts, and the Elizabeth River's economic and transportation significance as a major port.

In addition to teaching sustainable concepts, the barge has been designed and is being constructed to include a multitude of sustainable features including solar and wind power generation capabilities and rainwater harvesting. The Learning Barge will be completed this summer and has a goal of accommodating 19,000 visits from students and adults annually.

The final project that won highlighted the work of a PhD Student in Civil and Environmental Engineering that is researching ways to minimize, mitigate and reuse waste water generated and the Virginia Department of Transportation's 300+ salt storage facilities. The research effort involves extensive collection and testing of water samples and modeling of saltwater to characterize and quantify the runoff from the VDOT facilities. Development of waste minimization, treatment and reuse options for the reuse of the runoff is also being researched. The research has shown that implementing the methods for managing the salt storage facility runoff could reduce runoff volumes by 50% and result in significant cost savings. In the upcoming year, several salt storage facilities will be retrofitted with the recommended technologies and monitored to evaluate their effectiveness.

Funding for the competition was provided by the Vice President for Research, the Vice President for Student Affairs, Facilities Management, and the Office of the Architect. Monetary prizes were awarded to the winners in the form of a PTAO to support ongoing implementation of the projects.

Going forward, it is hoped that the project competition can become a Fall and Spring event where project concepts would be voted on in the Fall and then the implementations could be evaluated in the Spring. It would also be beneficial to create different award categories so that project comparisons can be more uniform. Finally, exploring additional funding options for the sustainability competition is important. One possible source could be instituting a 'Green Fund' included in student fees.

Ground Improvement Fund (GIF)

The Office of the Architect provided an overview of the Ground Improvement Fund (GIF). As background, GIF is financed by a 1.5% Assessment to capital projects in the Academic Division, Medical Center and College at Wise not to exceed \$500,000. In its first year GIF apportioned \$1,000,000 for projects including improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities, lighting, site furnishing, plantings and public art. Projects are recommended annually by Executive Review Committee for approval by President Casteen. Projects are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Eliminates/prevents an existing health, environmental or safety hazard
- Satisfy an academic or auxiliary program need
- Reduces total capital and operating expenses
- Supports campus planning objectives
- Provides renewal of a deteriorating infrastructure asset
- Enhances the aesthetic quality of the public domain, including the addition of public art

2009-2010 projects have been selected from 50 project submittals. It is expected that more funding than last year will be approved to support the GIF projects chosen. The exact amount of funding should be known by the end of May and is expected to be in the range of 2 to 3 million dollars. Highlighted projects for 2009-2010 include:

- A terrace for public art at the Bayly Art Museum
- A plaza and enhanced accessibility at the UVA Chapel
- Improvements to the turn around area on Hospital Drive
- Replacement of lighting in the Pavillion Alleys
- Implementation of portions of the Arts Common Masterplan
- Safety Improvements to the Newcomb Avenue/University Avenue intersection.
- A study that addresses streambank erosion and the siting of a pedestrian bridge across Meadow Creek at the Lambeth Housing complex.

- Installation of LED in-ground crosswalk lights on Leonard Sandridge Drive and on Massie Road.

Health System Area Plan

David Neuman and Julia Monteith provided an overview and update on the Health System Area Plan (HSAP), which the Office of the Architect is developing for the UVA Health System. A previous plan for the Health System was created in 2004, but it was much more of a siting plan for approved and known projects, rather than an overall master plan. Most of the projects that were sited in the 2004 plan have been built, or are in the process of being built, so there is a need to plan for the next phase of development in the Health System. Compounding this need was a desire to create a plan that aligns with the principles of the 2008 Grounds Plan that was recently completed. Specifically, the Health System Area Plan contains seven main objectives. The top three of these objectives are to 1) enhance visitor and daily user experience 2) improve safety and pedestrian, bike and vehicle circulation within the Health System and 3) implement a unifying design concept for the district. The planned improvements to Lee Street are a good illustration of a project that will help to achieve these objectives.

The 2004 plan identified specific projects and specific locations for their development. Conversely, the Health System Area Plan identifies sites that are potential redevelopment opportunities, but does not suggest a definite use for these areas; this approach aligns with the process established in the Grounds Plan. This approach allows for added flexibility for the Health System as future needs arise, but gives them a framework for potential sites.

The Health System consists of three primary zones focused on Academic, Research and Patient Care respectively. There are three planned major entryways into the Health System. The HSAP is heavily focused on tying these zones together through the creation of a greenbelt around the Health System area. The greenbelt concept would extend to the entryways and provide a means to clearly define these entrances through landscape enhancements. In addition to the greenbelt, a number of greenspace improvements are proposed for the area within the Health System. These include parks, walkways and streetscape enhancements. Much work has been done so far to develop the concepts for these greenspaces and entryways including a series of sketches produced by landscape architect Bill Johnson. Additional portions of the HSAP focus on wayfinding and interior circulation. When finished, the HSAP will provide a framework that will guide development at the Health System for the next 10 to 20 years and result in a greener, more cohesive complex that is easier to navigate and provides an environment that is more conducive to health and healing.

The plan has been developed with close coordination of the Health System and has been well received. The Medical Center Operating Board and the Board of Visitors will be presented the plan for their review in early June, 2009.