



Master Planning Council (MPC)

MEETING NOTES: Monday, September 19th, 2005

OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Summary: MPC Meeting

MPC Attendees

David J. Neuman, FAIA
Architect for the University

Julia Monteith, AICP
Senior Land Use Planner, Office of the Architect

Karen Van Lengen
Dean, School of Architecture

Richard Minturn
Senior Academic Facility Planner, Provost's Office

Craig K. Littlepage
Director of Athletic Programs

Rebecca White
Director of Parking & Transportation

Patricia M. Lampkin
VP for Student Affairs

Casey Williams
School of Architecture

Rick Rice
Chief Facilities Officer

Mary Joy Scala
Neighborhood Planner, City of Charlottesville

Colette Sheehy
VP for Management & Budget

Bill Edgerton
Albemarle County Planning Commission

L. Cameron Howell
Assistant to the President

Nick Carter
Chief Operating Officer, UVA. Health System

Yoke San L. Reynolds
VP and Chief Financial Officer

Cheri Lewis
Chair, City of Charlottesville Planning Commission

Andrew Greene
GIS Planner, Office of the Architect

Questions Posed to Members of the Council

1. How often do you visit The Corner and for what purpose?
 2. What would be the most important improvement you would suggest for The Corner?
 3. Do you think The Corner has improved or declined in the last five years?
 4. How do students you know perceive The Corner?
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Responses from the MPC Groups

Question 1: How often do you visit The Corner and for what purpose?

- 6-10 times a year, to visit with colleagues over lunch or to meet with out-of-town alumni friends
- Once a month, for dinner – it is too far from my office for more frequent visits
- Once a week for Sunday morning breakfast at the College Inn and visits to Ragged Mountain, Plan 9 and other specific shops
- Once a day for a lunch conversation because it is the closest option for the Architecture School and a good place for walking
- Twice a day for coffee or lunch, rarely for dinner
- Visit for the Wi-Fi Access or to use the Bank

Question 2: What would be the most important improvement you would suggest for The Corner?

- A Transit Hub
- Pedestrian safety at crossings, they have been improved but University Avenue is still a barrier; improve on and off street lighting
- Make traffic one-way, or take cars off University Avenue is still a barrier; improve on and off-street parking
- More diverse shops: dry cleaners, grocery and drugstore
- Build up the zoning level – add more depth to the existing buildings



- Improve the aesthetics of the buildings and add a central plaza space in addition to improving Clark Park
- More mixed uses with additional residential along The Corner

Question 3: Do you think the Corner has improved or declined in the last five years?

- Improved, as a result of the sidewalk, Bodo's, and coffee options
- Declined in the dominance of restaurants over other retailers
- Declined, the loss of the UVA lot on Wertland hurts The Corner
- Improved in terms of restaurants
- Declined in late night atmosphere and traffic, it has become a "cruising" spot

Question 4: How do students you know perceive The Corner?

- A student center, especially late night
- Student surveys suggest more students visit The Corner than Newcomb
- A tradition for UVA students, food options are better than "cafeteria" Newcomb
- For Undergrads as a drinking destination as grad students go downtown
- There is a perception of The Corner as a place for white students
- As an undergraduate "hang-out", but more students are discovering and visiting the downtown mall

Summary:

The Corner Workshop

Highlights from The Workshop

Held at St. Paul's Memorial Church, October 22, 2005

The Corner Workshop was well attended by a broad group of participants including Neighborhood representatives, Corner Merchants, and University staff and students. Following the introduction, workshop participants formed four Focus Groups based on the themes of Transportation, Parking & Service, Student Housing, Neighborhoods and Student Life & Security. Facilitator's for each group queried the participants with the questions noted below. A summary of results is currently being developed by the Office of the Architect, and a follow-up meeting with the participants is planned for January 2006.

1. What are the most positive and functional aspects of The Corner?
2. What are the missed opportunities that could be improved?
3. In your view, how does The Corner compare with similar student-oriented areas adjacent to other Universities or Colleges?
4. What changes would you like to see the a)University b)City c)Private Sector make to improve the problems they observe in the current situation?