

Campus Development and Environment Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM in the St. Clair room of the Oakland Center.

Present were: Claude Baillargeon, Lizabeth Barclay, Richard Fenkel, Kelly Garnett, Anne Gilson, Jennifer Heister, Siraj Khan, Michael Long, Terry Sollsteimer, and Emily Tissot. Also present were guests: Richard Stamps, Geoffrey Upward, James Zentmeyer, and Steve Zmich.

Minutes of the October 31, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted with one correction: Section 4c was corrected to indicate that Steve Zmich, not Siraj Khan, reported regarding the path from the Human Health building.

Old Business

It was clarified that Administrative Professionals such as Terry Stollsteimer, Richard Fekel, and Siraj Khan are non-voting, ex-officio members of the CDEC.

New Student Housing and the Sheep Barn

James Zentmeyer, Director of University Housing, reported that planning regarding new student housing had been taking place since prior to his joining Oakland in 2010, and that there was a woeful need for student housing on campus. The University's first priority was for new housing for freshmen and sophomores near the existing facilities for central dining and other services. The new residence hall will be located north of the Vandenberg Hall parking lot (P5). The sheep barn is located there and has been used for needed storage such as beds, mattresses and furniture. The sheep barn is approximately 2400 square feet and is too small for adequate storage. The housing department needs more space and a new allotment of 7200 square feet is part of a design for a pole barn with multi levels. Therefore, the sheep barn will no longer be needed for storage, and is in the center of where the university would like to build the new residence hall.

Mr. Zentmeyer stated that requiring the building of a new residence hall around the sheep barn would "handcuff" the designers.

Mr. Geoffrey Upward, Executive Director of Meadowbrook Hall, indicated that his staff had applied for inclusion of Meadowbrook Hall as a National Historical Landmark through the National Park Service. He indicated that Meadowbrook

Hall was interested in the sheep barn being moved to the Meadowbrook Hall grounds should such be feasible. Currently there are plans for the Meadowbrook Hall Visitor Center and Dodge Museum to be relocated to the area in the garages and stables. The hall needs storage space to remove items currently stored in the garages and stables. It is interested in the sheep barn for storage, but the present location of the sheep barn is too far away to make storage practical. The sheep barn is compatible to the other structures in the immediate area of Meadowbrook Hall. In the event that the sheep barn is not moved to Meadowbrook Hall the hall will still need a structure to empty out the garages and stables. The cost of moving the sheep barn versus building a new storage facility is at issue. Mr. Upward believes that the sheep barn would be an excellent addition to the Meadowbrook Hall complex. Mr. Upward stated that if the university decides to move the sheep barn, he would like it to be moved to the area adjacent to Meadowbrook Hall as it would be interpreted to be part of the farm – one of the original buildings.

Professor Richard Stamps indicated that he believed the sheep barn should be kept in its current (original) location. He suggested that it might be used as a coffeehouse by removing the existing second floor and giving it a cathedral ceiling. He stated that it would be “criminal” to tear it down; that there would be a lack of any sense of history; and that it would make Oakland a “strip mall University.” He indicated that OU should save the exterior and do what it wants with the inside. Professor Stamps indicated that he had raised the issue of the sheep barn with the OU Student Council and that that there was more than casual support to keep it where it is. He stated that in a student poll only five out of 30 students had ever been to the Meadow Brook mansion or understood its historical value. Student representative Emily Tissot stated that students would love to leave the landmark standing but are concerned with money and are more concerned about additional and updated dormitory space on campus than historical preservation.

The committee discussed three options:

One – Tear down the sheep barn.

Two - Leave the sheep barn where it is.

Three - Move the sheep barn.

There was no support for option one – tearing down the sheep barn.

A motion was made:

“Do not tear down the sheep barn. Do all we can to preserve it for use.”

The committee voted unanimously to approve this motion.

A second motion was made:

“Relocate the sheep barn to enhance the historical value of Meadowbrook Hall with pending judgments of incoming architectural plans submitted by architects for new housing developments.”

The motion passed by a vote of six to one.

New Business

Communication Arts/Media/Performance Center

Steve Zmich updated a previous report about the idea of constructing of a Communication Arts/Media/Performance Center adjacent to Varner Hall. He handed out three schematic drawings that will be submitted to the university president in January. Steve recommends schematic number three (Scheme C). He will report back to the CDEC when and if further planning regarding the project is approved.

Pull offs and Lighting

Terry Sollsteimer reported that work has been completed on Phase 1. Three pull off areas at P1 on the map, solar powered lights and two electric signs near the East entrance to the campus have been finished and are awaiting a decision from the electronics company as to which software to use. There will be at least two signs on each of the main buildings.

Wind Mill and Biomass Facilities

Siraj Khan reported that a white paper has been prepared that recommends that the University go forward with the windmill or biomass projects based upon the return on investment calculations on a long-term basis. In addition three attempts to secure grant funding have not been successful. Management has put both projects on hold for the time being.

The next meeting of the CDEC is set for Monday, January 31, 2012 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Michael Long.

