



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY SENATE CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Final Report
May 12, 2003

The question of the New Village Mall usage of Oakland University land to park their vehicles was brought up. Richard Tomczak informed the committee that the Village Mall people had approached the university for additional parking space during the period of time of two weeks around their Grand Opening and at Christmas time. Mr. Tomczak further reported the parking was strictly for the Mall's employees with shuttle buses transporting employees to and from the mall. The area of parking for the mall employee would be at the VIP parking facility of the Meadowbrook Music Festival.

President Russi appointed a Task Force to look at all the options and to figure out ways of dealing with the traffic problems and to consider options such as re-routing some traffic, one-way streets, exercising some control over the traffic lights at the campus entries. Members of the Senate Campus Development and Environment Committee asked for representation on the Task Force. In a follow-up e-mail from Rusty Postlewate sent to all committee members, the committee is indeed represented by Rusty and Sam Lucido. Information regarding future action by this Presidential Task Force will be reported and discussed for input by this committee back to the Task Force.

Parking on campus has become a pressing issue and the need for more parking space especially construction of new parking structures at Oakland University. The new parking structure is nearing completion, and there is no discussion underway for the next structure. Based on the upward enrollment trend and the length of time to have another parking structure constructed, the administration should be urged to begin the planning process now, for the next structure.

Lighting for the P 11 parking lot across from the Matthew's Apartments will not be installed until January of 2003 due to manufacturer production. The company constructing the lights will not fabricate lighting systems until orders are placed consequently a delay in placement.

Traffic lights on Squirrel and University Drive plus the traffic light at Meadowbrook Drive and Adams Road do not adequately favor university traffic exiting the university. Campus police have studied the problem. Lieutenant Tomczak updated the committee on his conversations with the Oakland County Road Commission pertaining to timing of lights at the University and Squirrel entrance and exit and also the entrance and exit at Adams and Meadowbrook Drive. Oakland County Road Commission monitored both areas and adjustments were made. The overnight parking situation in Lot 16 was discussed by Lieutenant Tomczak pointed out a safety versus convenience issue for students and staff. The Oakland University police monitored the parking lot at different times. Monitoring showed parking spaces available before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. therefore students will be allowed to park in P 16 overnight. The Oakland University Police Department will continue working with Auburn Hills about possible additional traffic lights along Squirrel Road between Pioneer Drive and Walton Boulevard.

This committee raised a problem with the flow of traffic at the intersection at Meadowbrook Drive and Pioneer Drive. The committee feels a right turn lane is essential and supports any effort to expedite this measure. We were told that

Rusty has talked to Lynne Schaefer. She has agreed to provide funds for this project.

Issues of concern were discussed about the safety of our current parking structure. Lieutenant Tomczak assured everyone that there was adequate security in the structure with eleven cameras, one each in the stairwells and nine blue light emergency phones. Lieutenant Tomczak pointed out that Oakland University's legal counsel is reviewing information concerning traffic control at the Parking 1 lot's entrance and exit along Squirrel Road. Following the review, the order for placement of stop signs needs to be requested by the Oakland University Board of Trustees for stop sign emplacement.

Richard Tomczak discussed the stop sign issue at the P 1 parking lot entrance and exit on Squirrel Road. Lieutenant Tomczak told the committee our legal counsel was still looking over all legal ramifications over the stop signs and have not come to a final discussion as of yet.

Richard Fekel, Director of the Oakland Center presentation on new construction at the Oakland Center was very informative and the committee was impressed with the expansion and renovations in progress at this facility. The addition of 30,000 square feet of room plus the expanded food court will seat an additional 210, the coffeehouse 85, and the new upper level multi-purpose room 600. This is truly welcome news for faculty, staff, and students who use the Oakland Center. Renovations of the kitchen, the addition of an expanded coffee shop, a new computer lounge, and a banquet area will update the Oakland Center significantly and made it an attractive addition to our campus.

Professor Richard Stamps brought to the committees attention the need to preserve what few historical buildings we have left on campus. Professor Stamps felt a strong desideration to identify these structures and register these building before they were demolished. We Invite Professor Gottfried Brieger,

past chair of Oakland University Senate Campus Development and Environment Committee to discuss issues pertaining to the preservation of existing Historical Landmarks on Oakland University property. Dr. Gottfried Brieger pointed out to the committee in the Historic Preservation section of the Master Plan, “ These structures should be evaluated on a case by-case basis to determine whether they should be retained based on criteria developed by the Oakland University Senate Campus Development and Environment Committee.” Richard Stamps asked if the stone embankments with overgrown brush and trees would also be maintained to keep our historical heritage in tact. Dr. Stamps argued that we of Oakland University should recognize our stewardship and our responsibility to maintain the existing historical buildings and create uses for them.

We contacted Professor John Cameron to help the committee on identifying any existing map, even a map that he might possibly have generated of all the historical building on the Dodge Estate. If so I have requested him to please send me a copy of your map or anything else that would be helpful to preserve any historical site left on Oakland's Campus. It is important for this committee to take positive action on this issue of importance. Historical perspectives give all a glance of the past where our roots started. I feel the hopes and dreams Matilda Wilson had for this university have moved from center and just maybe one way to refocus us would be to preserve our heritage. Finally, the committee looked over the information provided by Professor John Cameron from Art and Art History.

Professor David Sidaway had advised the committee to upcoming action pertaining to the thinning of Oakland University's forests especially the forest along Walton between Adams Road and Meadowbrook Music Festival. Lieutenant Richard Tomczak reported that President Russi was convinced of a desire by students to walk to the new Village Mall. Oakland University will be clearing out underbrush and trees six inches and less for removal. The projected area will be twenty feet from the current walkway. Oakland University police support this action.

Mr. Rusty Postlewate discussed current and future buildings on campus. He told the committee that the Oakland Center was the last project with the forty seven million dollar bond issue but Oakland University has plans in the future to build a Automotive Technology/Engineering Building with an associated parking structure and a Performing Arts Center with its associated parking structure. Dr. Stamps requested that all proposals and all new building construction should be brought before the committee.

Jeremy Kopp, student representative, discussed the problems associated with crosswalks especially the one at the student apartments. A discussion of the crosswalk policy ended with the University Police monitoring the situation.

Athletic Director Jack Mehl presented an outlook at the new proposed Soccer Stadium and its impact on the lower field arrangement.

Mr. Rusty Postlewate discussed classroom changes and new designations and identified the 202 O'Dowd classroom facility would be demolished, changing the current room into a series of three classrooms, two earmarked for the Cooley Law School.

Respectively Submitted,

Richard J. Rozek, Ph.D.

Chair