

South Campus Consultation Group

Monday, June 18, 2018

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Agri-Food Discovery Place

University of Alberta: Anastasia Lim (Chair), Emily Ball, Pat Jansen, Ben Louie, Katherine Huising

Community members: Stephen Dobson (Lendrum), Paul Greenwood (Lansdowne), Wiggert Hessels (McKernan), Peter Rausch (McKernan), Ed Hudson (Parkallen), Lindsay Smith (Grandview), Bernie Schwartz (Lansdowne)

Commenced: 7:00pm

The minutes from the April 5, 2018 require a change to the date on the heading. The meeting minutes were accepted.

## Update on priority projects

- a. Students Who Parent consultation and Michener Park – K. Huising introduced herself and told the group that she has been with the U of A since April of 2017. She provided the group with an outline of the current condition of Michener Park (MP) – wooden structure which is past its “life span” with enormous deferred maintenance. She told the group that consultation with students who parent began in the spring and will continue but that a decision has been made to close MP in August 2020. Initial comments from students from the consultation is that the site is not ideal and they feel a significant separation from North Campus. The consultation with students who parent is on going and if through the consultation a need for family housing is identified, it will not be MP rather the U of A will consider other options. P. Greenwood asked what will happen to the MP site. K. Huising told the group that no final decisions have been made but that all options will be reviewed over the next 2 years. E. Ball told the group that one of the options the U of A will be considering is a transfer of the asset to the UAPTI. She also asked the SCCG how best to inform the community of Malmo about this topic. K. Huising told the group that the U of A may remove structures as they become vacant and that the U of A is aware of issues with vacant building. She added that the tower would be the last building to be shut down. S. Dobson commented that it is hard to find student residence for families and asked what the U of A would be doing about this. K. Huising responded that applications for MP have been decreasing but that the U of A will be offering a number of ways to assist students who parent with housing options. B. Schwartz asked if there were any people living at MP that were not students. K. Huising told the group that rented units all have a full time student. E. Ball told the group that a number of other stakeholders would also be informed of the decision to close MP in August of 2020 such as the Edmonton Public School Board and the Edmonton Catholic School Board. K. Huising added that there are currently 700 people living at MP – 250 of those are students and that given that there are over 5000 students currently living in residence, MP is a small percentage. S. Dobson asked what will happen to the structures when they are demolished and if they will be replaced with grass or gravel. P. Jansen told the group that those decisions have not been made yet. P. Greenwood commented that he found this frustrating in that a few years ago the community had invested time into developing the Sector Plan for the MP site and now it is just going to be closed down. B. Louie commented that yes there was a significant amount of time put into developing the sector plan for MP but that unfortunately the circumstances/conditions have changed and the U of A has to respond to those changes. P. Greenwood added that the U of A has a right to change its mind but that the sector plan for MP was based on student need and he is frustrated that the students needs will not be met. S. Dobson told the group that

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- he will reach out to Malmo and ask how they wish to be communicated with on this topic and will get back to U of A.
- b. Increased traffic associated with new government and university buildings – P. Jansen told the group that he is not speaking on behalf of the Government of Alberta (GOA) and their project. He told the group that the U of A continues to have discussions with the GOA on finding precinct wide parking solutions. He added that the U of A understands the GOA has done a traffic study for the area and the U of A did its own traffic assessment during the LRDP Amendment process. From the U of A perspective there has not been a significant shift in traffic patterns on U of A land. He added that the U of A does not support a parking structure on the U of A lands near the LRT site and have asked the GOA to consider a surface parking lot in that area. P. Jansen told the group the U of A has not received any decisions from the GOA and that the GOA will need to address traffic questions related to their existing and proposed facilities. P. Greenwood told the group that Lansdowne does support a parking structure, as does McKernan. E. Hudson indicated that the community is split on the parking issue. L. Smith asked if the U of A has decided to give up the parcel of land near the LRT South Campus Station for parking. P. Jansen responded that the land continues to be on the table and that the U of A wants to be part of a discussion to explore all options and be part of the solution. L. Smith told the group that in his discussion with City of Edmonton (COE) a parking lot/structure is against the COE's plan for transit-orientated development (TOD). P. Rausch added that the COE Councillor for the area has indicated that provincial land assets have nothing to do with COE planning. S. Dobson commented that BUNT is doing piece-by-piece studies but that the pieces are not being put together to create a strategy for the whole area. He added that the addition of a lot of asphalt will only increase traffic, which will gradually become a problem and that there is no information about the impact of increased traffic on the GOA website. P. Jansen added that cost would be a major factor if the GOA were considering a vertical structure.
  - c. Status of the land trust – A. Lim told the group that there are no updates on the status of the U of A land trust – UAPTI.
  - d. Consultation on amendment of the LRDP – S. Dobson asked if the U of A land near the South Campus LRT is developed as a parking lot would the LRDP be amended. B. Louie told the group that interim uses on sites can happen and the Sector Plans for South Campus has that provision however should a plan to develop the area have a long-term impact the U of A would need to amend the LRDP. S. Dobson asked what would a lease of the land to the GOA look like. P. Jansen responded that the U of A does not have a strong idea of what a lease would like so he is not able to respond at this time. B. Louie added that whatever the GOA decides to build might impact what the U of A can do with its land in the future. The U of A is waiting to see what the GOA is purposing and have an opportunity to provide comments.
  - e. Information session on self-driving cars experiment: timelines and potential new access rules for non-university people walking the farm – P. Jansen told the group that Facilities and Operations is working with the research group and faculty to develop standard operating procedures for the research project. S. Dobson asked that the research group be told that the road is actually more like a country lane. P. Jansen responded that they continue to work with the research group on timing of experiments, signage, etc. P. Greenwood asked if a simple Q&A could be developed and sent out to the SCCG membership.
  - f. South Campus Community Ice Arena – P. Jansen updated the group informing them that the U of A is still working on the schematic design for the project, logistics of a joint partnership of the facility and operational alignment. The U of A is continuing to work on the the funding model but the project is still not fully funded. The U of A along with the COE would like to hold a second open house to show how

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responses to the feedback from the first open house has been used but that will not take place until funding is further along. S. Dobson asked if federal and provincial funding would be easier to obtain with a complete design. P. Jansen told the group that there have been many discussions with both levels of government on funding options and added that the provincial component of funding will be minimal if any. L. Smith asked if there would be any opportunities for input from community once the design is done. B. Louie responded by saying that schematic design is not a full or complete design and that there will be opportunities for community feedback on the draft final design options during a second open house.

- g. South Campus signage and infrastructure update – P. Jansen updated the group by informing them that as per the last SCCG meeting, sign upgrades are being done by internal U of A staff and that the area will soon have changes in signs, speed signs and installation of LED speed signs. How the speed signs will be utilized will be the responsibility of Parking Services. There will also be upgrades made to some of the sidewalks during 2018.
- h. Storm Pond - Phase 2 and soccer fields – P. Jansen informed the group that the U of A has indicated to the GOA that the U of A is able to develop soccer fields along with a storm pond. The U of A did preliminary designs, which were provided to the GOA but the GOA has not provided a funding guarantee to allow the U of A to being the project. P. Jansen added that the group should know that without the funding guarantee the U of A would not proceed on the project.
- i. Alberta Laboratories - Precinct Parking Development – this agenda item was discussed under Agenda item 3b.

**Other**

Sharing of U of A or community updates – P. Jansen told the group that South Camps is at capacity for power and that the U of A has started the process of engaging EPCOR to review options. In the LRDP there is small building identified as a switch building to be used to house power functions. This switch building will be unoccupied and be approximately 3500 square ft. The U of A is not sure at this point when the switch building will be constructed and it is not considered a substantial development. L. Smith asked if this will provide additional power for the SCCIA. P. Jansen responded yes and the additional power for any future new development.

S. Dobson told the group that the intersection at 60<sup>th</sup> Street and the LRT pedestrian crossing has/is being reviewed by the COE.

**Adjournment/Next steps**

W. Hessels moved that meeting be adjourned at 8:20 pm.