

MEETING MINUTES

Master Plan Review Team

Friday, September 24, 2004

1:30-3:30 pm

Green Hall President's Conference Room

Attendance: Ann Morrissey, Bob Weygand, Vern Wyman, Annie Newman, Sandy Taylor, Jerry Sidio, Bob Drapeau, Jodi Hawkins, Will Green and Chip Yensan

Communications Strategy:

Ann Morrissey and Bob Weygand led a discussion about developing a strategy that would communicate progress to the community and enhance their understanding of the changes taking place that relate to the physical development of the campus in conjunction with the Campus Master Plan.

Discussion points included:

- Form a small group to develop a better communications strategy. The group should consist of Linda Acciaro and/or Dave Lavallee, and other members of the Master Plan Review Team. Members who volunteered from the MPRT were Ann Morrissey, Annie Newman, Bob Drapeau, Jerry Sidio and Sandy Taylor.

Follow up: Ann Morrissey will convene the meeting.

- Develop a layered plan
- Get coverage by media - especially utilize the Cigar for updates about projects, schedules and other information
- Improve the website(s) that provide information about construction projects
- Signage at construction sites
- Develop a response plan and delineate a point person for certain issues
- Periodically hold meetings to give a campus update on projects

Wind Turbine Project:

Vern Wyman gave an update on the wind turbine project. He reported that he had a financial feasibility meeting this summer with the lead students of the project and he also indicated that a larger turbine would be needed in order for this project to be successful. He said they are in the process of discussing different financial models that include developing a multi vendor shared savings RFP. He indicated that this project may qualify for this type of funding. He also indicated that several sites are being reviewed because location is a big issue. This project will return to the committee.

Follow up: Vern will have this item placed on a future meeting agenda when an update is appropriate.

Expanded Campus Parking:

Bob Weygand reported on the proposed plan and timetable for the expanded campus parking. He said the design and construction of the additional 800-space parking lot is being accelerated in conjunction with the new residence hall project. There is another proposal for an additional 600 spaces at the northeast corner of Plains and Flagg Road that need to be approved by the Master Plan Review Team. This plan fits with the goal of “perimeter” parking.

Action Taken: After some discussion, the Master Plan Review Team approved the proposal for the additional 600 spaces.

The discussion then continued about improvements to the parking and shuttle situation. Discussion points included:

- Consider a policy that would limit freshmen having cars on campus. It was suggested a survey be conducted in the WRT 101 classes with regard to understanding the impact on the admissions process. Parking Services will coordinate this survey with Student Affairs.
- Limit the number of freshmen permits that are given out.
- Need to look at a wider distribution of classes beyond the timeframe of 10:00am-2:00 pm when the bulk of scheduling seems to occur. The classroom utilization study will assist in looking at this issue, and facilities planning, Provost’s Office, and Enrollment Services are all studying it. .
- A direct route to/from a designated Narragansett commuter lot with increased shuttle runs from 4 to 5 runs.
- Re-examine fees and the idea of a surcharge for parking, meters, etc.
- In response to a question about URI’s parking fees in comparison with UCONN and UMASS, it was reported URI is about in the middle.

Capital Projects Updates:

Bob Weygand gave a brief update on the housing project and the dining hall project. He reported that they are working on budgets for the housing project and that the designs are exciting for the dining hall project. They are looking at how Roger Williams will be used as a student community center.

Watson House Sign:

Sandy Taylor requested on behalf of the Watson House Committee, that they would like to add the date of when the Watson House was built to the sign.

Action Taken: MPRT approved having the date put on the Watson House sign.

Other Items:

Bob Drapeau reported that 85 Briar Lane will be converted to the Police Dept (as recommended by SEDA and approved by the President).

There was discussion brought forward on having student representation on the Master Plan Review Team. Fran Cohen was suggested as a good resource to get student representation. Ann will follow up.

It was decided that the next meeting would not occur until sometime in November. If anyone has agenda items for this meeting, they should send them to Eileen Orabone.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm