Campus Planning Committee

June 4, 2010
Meeting Minutes
[Approved]

Members Present: Jerry Anthony, James Bechtel, John Scott, Mark Young

Members Absent: Greg Black, Ryan Delves, Carol Haack, Tom Kruckeberg, Larry Robertson, Christine Rutledge-Russell, Sara Snyder

Others Present: Shawn Albaugh Kleppe, Don Guckert, Rod Lehnertz

Call to Order: Mark Young called the meeting to order.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the March 19, 2010, CPC meeting were approved as distributed.

Old Business: None

Discussion / Action Item(s):

Art Building West – Flood Mitigation and Emergency Generator

The redesigned proposal for placement of an emergency generator for Art Building West (ABW) as part of the building’s flood mitigation was presented. To protect ABW from future flooding, a strategy has been developed that utilizes a demountable flood wall that will be set up around the building during times of flooding. The flood wall ties into the bluffs at the south and west ends of the building. Within the perimeter of the wall a pump station will be created to remove water that penetrates thorough the permeable ground. The pump station will be powered by an emergency generator (which also serves the building for emergency power). The new location proposed for the emergency generator would be located off the parking lot that is west of the building. The slab supporting the generator will be at the 500 year +2’ level with a 40’x16’x8’ enclosure around the generator. The enclosure will be made from perforated, sandblasted stainless steel panels. The stack would not extend above the enclosure, thus minimizing the visual impact.

The proposal was supported by the Committee.

Madison Street Services Building – Wind Turbine

An updated proposal for the installation of a wind turbine at the south end of Madison Street in front of the Madison Street Services Building (MSSB) was presented. This project consists of installing a 2.4 kW wind turbine for Engineering to be used as a teaching tool.

A twelve foot diameter turbine rotor will be mounted on a thirty-three foot tall mast pole for a total height from ground to top of turbine blade of thirty-nine feet. The turbine’s electrical wiring will be connected to the existing power panel located in MSSB, making this unit interconnected to the MidAmerican energy grid.

As noted in previous presentations, the intent of the turbine is not to produce power, but to be used as a teaching tool. It replicates all aspects of commercial wind power equipment.

Discussion included the mechanics of dropping the mast for teaching, safety issues, diameter and color of mast, and amount of sound disturbance.

The proposal was supported by the Committee.
Medical Laboratories – Temporary Generator

A revised proposal for temporary placement of a semitrailer-mounted diesel generator to provide emergency power for research freezers being installed in Med Labs was presented. This generator is intended to remain in place until the West Campus Energy Plant comes on-line, estimated to be in late 2013.

The recommended location is the current site of the “temporary” structure on South Grand Avenue that now houses a decommissioned CT scanner.

Discussion included the potential constraints on where this generator could be located and the architectural significance of the Med Labs building. Concerns were expressed over the continued utilization of this site for temporary facilities.

Given the information provided and the challenges related to need, the Committee accepts the proposal with strong reservations. The installation clearly damages the visual quality of the area. The Committee emphasized the temporary nature of the generator and suggested that the issue be revisited in one or two years as part of a continuing concern about the general environment around the Med Labs. Upon removal of the generator, the Committee further suggested that the University undertake a reclamation project to improve the site from a visual perspective.

Work Session Reports

Iowa City Deer Management

Rod Lehnertz provided a quick update to the Iowa City Deer Management Program. The 2009-2010 annual report provided a summary of the program and recommendations for future deer removal activities. It was their conclusion that the deer herd had been reduced to a reasonable population level and recommended a delay in any additional deer management activities until the winter of 2011-2012.

Iowa City Ronald McDonald House – Parking Expansion

Representatives from the Iowa City Ronald McDonald House presented a proposal for construction of an additional parking lot behind the Ronald McDonald House and accessed through the Hope Lodge parking lot. The proposed lot would provide convenient, free on-site parking for the families of children staying at the Iowa City Ronald McDonald House. Currently, 20 parking passes are being purchased from the University for use at the Carver-Hawkeye Arena lot or the UIHC ramps and another 10 parking passes for the Finkbine Commuter Parking Lot.

Discussion included past attempts of expanding parking in that area, the relationship of leased property tied to the UHIC, efforts to preserve wooded space around the Ronald McDonald House, the consideration of other parking alternatives, and the consideration of other services/options that would help alleviate the need for close-in parking.

At the request of the Committee, representatives from FM will explore with Parking and Transportation the feasibility of securing an appropriate number of dedicated parking spaces in the Carver-Hawkeye Commuter Lot and/or close-in lots in lieu of constructing new parking in this natural environment.

Project Updates

Finkbine Golf Course Sign

Rod Lehnertz reported that the Finkbine Golf Course sign had been installed and slightly modified from the proposed version.
School of Music Siting

Rod Lehnertz reported that the proposed siting of the School of Music (downtown location) is on the agenda for review this month by the Board of Regents.

UIHC Banner Policy

Rod Lehnertz reported that a draft version of the UI Campus Banner policy has been forwarded to the VP for Student Services for review and contribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.