Plant Services Parking Lot

The project involves the construction of a 52 car parking lot, drainage, and landscaping. It also includes the removal of 8 trees (one of the trees meets the City’s definition of a significant tree). The significant tree is located in a grove of trees. The grove will remain but one tree will be removed because construction will impact the critical root zone of the tree. The site will be landscaped with at least a 1:1 ratio. The project does not impact a wetland or the wetland buffer located to the west of the site. There will be cut (2000 cubic yards) and fill (3500 cubic yards) associated with the project. The final topography will match the existing topography. The project does not impact or preclude the future proposed Burke Gilman Trail project nor the potential for creating a new campus entrance in this area. The City of Seattle has been studying the realignment of 25th Avenue NE and Pend Oreille. This project does not preclude any options for this intersection redesign. The project is being set back with a berm along 25th Avenue NE so the parking lot will not be visible from the street. People walking along 25th Avenue NE will see the berm and landscaping rather than the parking lot.
Committee members had the following comments. One graphic needs to be corrected – it doesn’t have the correct address. The section of the SEPA Checklist needs to be improved and full disclosure regarding the impact on trees. The text needs to fully disclose the trees to be removed and the replanting plan. More information on mitigation should be provided. The SEPA checklist should reflect the fact that the University does methane monitoring and this area has a high level of methane. The checklist should note that the project will have a methane venting system and will comply with Washington State regulations. The Washington State Ecology Stormwater Permit should be added to the list of required permits. The checklist should also note that the project will comply with water treatment per Washington State regulations.

The Committee concurred with the issuance of the Declaration of Non-Significance and SEPA Checklist with the changes noted above.

**Life Sciences Building Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Troy Stahlecker, the Project Manager briefed the Committee on the project and changes made to the project since the issuance of the SEPA Scoping Notice. The building is now aligned with the north edge of the existing Burke Gilman Trail. The project has been designed to integrate with the Trail as it runs along the south side of the building. The building has also been shifted to allow a larger space between the new structure and Kincaid. There will be both above and below grade connections between Kincaid and the proposed Life Sciences Building. All the Deodar Cedars will be retained. The root structures have been analyzed. The proposed structure will not impact the root systems but the tree canopy will need to be reshaped. The square footage for the greenhouses has been reduced. They will try to salvage as many of the plant specimens as they can from the existing greenhouse. Some of the greenhouse research will be located on the roof of the structure. If the project is approved, construction would begin in 2016 with completion in September of 2018. Once the new building is constructed, everyone in Kincaid will be relocated into the new structure and Kincaid will be renovated. The project will house 40 new researchers.

The Committee members had the following comments:

The greenhouses are an important for student research. Will additional greenhouses be constructed at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH)? CUH is at full capacity and construction of a glass structure is extremely costly and would have to be located within the shoreline setback. A temporary plastic structure will not meet the needs of the researchers. It is great that the building is near the Burke Gilman Trail this will create interaction between researchers and users of the Trail. A rail will be constructed so people can look in but not touch the structure. The Plant Lab Building contains ornamental casework which will be retained.
Currently the Plant Lab Building is not accessible due to high levels of pesticides. Because of these high levels of pesticides the structure cannot be accessed. The new project will significantly reduce the use of pesticides. More information will be provided in the document regarding historic issues. The Draft EIS should include information on ADA access. The Hitchcock Bridge will remain open during construction. The asbestos section should be expanding.

The Committee concurred with the issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement with the changes noted above.