DRAFT

University Landscape Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday – December 4, 2008
University of Washington Tacoma

Meeting Agenda Summary:
- UWMC Expansion
- UW Tacoma
- UW Tacoma Campus Tour
- Greetings from UW Tacoma Chancellor Pat Spakes
- Campus Art
- Lewis Hall Renovation
- Molecular Engineering

Committee Members

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Dale Cole, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 and called for the approval of the September 11, 2008 meeting minutes and acceptance of the day’s agenda.

Committee action: Jennifer Jones moved to approve the minutes and agenda; a second was heard from Maggi Johnson. Motion passed.
UWMC Expansion
Joel Matulys, UW Project Manager
Phil Duff, NBBJ
Bob Shrosbree, SiteWorkshop
Clara Pang, SiteWorkshop
Vinita Sidhu, SiteWorship

Project Phase: Design Development Follow-up
Requested Action: Comments only (approval given at previous meeting)

The presentation was a follow-up to the previous meeting to address the Committee’s comments related to the CHDD entrance, Columbia Road improvement, the design of the 4th floor terrace and the oxygen tank relocation.

The CHDD west entrance: Enhancements to the entrance are in response to the temporary loss of the north entrance during construction and will provide continued, improved service after project completion. Improvements include a small drop-off area, accessible parking, a simple building entrance canopy and relocation of the dumpsters further south. Access will be provided from the mid and lower levels of the parking garage via ramps, stairs and crosswalks. The drop-off area is separated from the driveway with a planted island.

Columbia Road interface with CHDD: The increased slope of the hillside has been reconciled with a series of terraced walls with sloped planting areas between. The low wall originally proposed at the back of sidewalk has been replaced with a series of concrete plinths with integral lighting and guardrails between. The hillside planting is proposed as a 60/40 mix of deciduous/evergreen to open views and provide more penetration of sunlight onto the walkway.

Oxygen Tank: The siting of the oxygen tank enclosure minimizes the impact and disturbance to the glade as much as possible. The layout of the enclosure has shifted west to reduce the amount of paving required for the adjacent load zone. The proposed enclosure is a neutral gray colored metal louver system set on a concrete seatwall.

Fourth floor terrace: This space will be a purely visible space and will not be used by patients, visitors or staff due to infection control issues. The design minimizes the reconfiguration of mechanical and structural improvements, but does recommend reconfiguring the existing skylight in the same location. The elements that provide visual interest from the surrounding patient rooms include light bars, a variety of highly textured paving materials, bamboo planters with an integral lighting structure, a continuous skylight and copper reflecting basins. The third floor terrace will be accessible and incorporates many of the same features.

Committee comments:
- Enclosure material color for oxygen tank should take on character of landscape rather than building. Dark Bronze was recommended.
- Plant material screening oxygen tank should be seasonal and mostly evergreen.
- Trash enclosure material should reflect adjacent building material (metal) rather than wood which adds a new material in this area if costs allow.
- Fourth floor terrace landscape plan continues to be improved. Access and maintenance issues have been largely addressed. The Committee made the following additional suggestions:
- West end needs more study to provide visual interest from upper levels. The light bars and basins don't provide enough of a pattern for visual interest in comparison to the expanse of pavement.
- Design of shed should be kept simple and not match the character of the skylight.
- Flagstone paving vocabulary seems out of place - may be one too many paving materials and could be eliminated.
- A maintenance plan for the 4th floor terrace should be provided by the design team to ensure appropriate and timely maintenance and prevent the garden from falling into disrepair as it has in the past. This document could be used by in-house maintenance staff or an outside firm if desired.

- In general, the design team responded to the Committee's concerns and has created an elegant landscape.

**Committee Action:** This was a follow-up to the DD approval in September. Committee requested the design team develop a maintenance plan for the courtyard and study the west end of the courtyard to create more visual interest.

**UW Tacoma**

*Catherine Vogt, UW Project Manager*
*Milt Tremblay, UW Tacoma*
*Eric Bode, Walker Macy*

**Project Phase:** Schematic Design

**Requested Action:** Approval

The project includes a new building south of the Tioga Building along the Hood corridor called the Jefferson Building and the renovation of the Joy Building between Pacific Ave and the intersection of Commerce Street and the Hood corridor.

The improvements around the Joy Building include a new sidewalk along Pacific Ave with a street tree, site furnishing, and unit paver zone incorporated along the back of curb. Along the Hood corridor, the vocabulary of historic loading docks prevalent in the area is expanded upon to form the entrance into the building. Storm water planters provide a buffer between the sidewalk and raised entrance platform and create a nice opportunity for expression of rain water. Existing trees along the Hood corridor are preserved to the extent they can be with the incorporation of bicycle storage.

The Jefferson Building will extend into the existing parking lot and requires the relocation of 6 accessible parking spaces. Grade changes between the Hood corridor, the parking lot and Jefferson Street create many challenges for providing universal access to the building and results in the intricate design of many elements in a confined space. In addition, a loading space for book transfer, bicycle storage and a trash enclosure are incorporated into the design. The improvements along Jefferson Street include a new sidewalk with a street tree, site furnishing, and unit paver zone incorporated along the back of curb. A future connection to the Cragle parking lot will be included in the design, but will be installed at a later date when funding is available. Opportunities to improve the landscape along the Hood corridor include a new sidewalk along the east side of the Tioga building providing a connection to the central campus stair and a drainage swale at the toe of the slope within the RR ROW.
Committee comments:

- For continuity, the pavement pattern and material along the Hood Corridor should match what is currently along Commerce Street.
- Incorporating storm water planters and bicycle storage into the plans was viewed favorably by the Committee.
- If small planters along Jefferson Street are not irrigated during summer, they should incorporate very drought tolerant plants or be eliminated given the west-facing façade. If the planters are removed due to building expansion, the Committee recommended exploring the option for a green roof to mitigate storm water.
- The Committee was concerned about the Commerce St, Jefferson Ave, Pacific Ave, 17th St intersection and how it could be modified to allow this area to become a major campus entry. Suggestions for how this might be improved should be included in the design of the Joy Building site.

Committee Action: Maggi Johnson moved to approve schematic design; Ann Marie seconded the motion; motion passed.

Campus Art Policies & Practice

*Kurt Kiefer, UW Campus Art Administrator*

Kurt has resigned from his position and it is unlikely the position of Campus Art Administrator will be refilled at this time given budget cuts the University is facing. The role of this position is to work with UW Capital Projects and University departments to identify project sites and opportunities to support campus initiatives and manage the development of WSAC commissioned projects (0.5% of all state funded projects over $200,000). Kurt has proved to be an effective liaison between the UW Public Art Committee and ULAC as it relates to the siting of art in the landscape, and without a replacement, this connection has the potential to be lost.

The campus acquires art in two ways: through the Washington State Arts Commission’s Art in Public Places Program (WSAC) and as gifts. The art from WSAC is technically not owned by the University, but is jointly managed by the University and WSAC. The UW Public Art Commission (UWPAC) is a standing committee jointly appointed by the University and WSAC and provides the University with more control over the development of works of art for the campus.

Currently there is no commemorative and memorial art policy for campus, resulting in no direct process of approval for the multiple memorial requests for groups or individuals that are not always in the best interest of the University. A policy should be developed that answers the fundamental question of whether the University should memorialize someone or not and should outline a clear process for decision-making and development. The policy created by Norm Johnston for the State Capital is a good example to reference.

Committee comments:

- With the pending departure and unlikely replacement of Kurt Kiefer, the Committee is concerned how art and memorial policies and procedures will be handled. The Committee believes ULAC needs to remain involved in siting and placement of art in the landscape.
• The Committee is especially concerned since there does not seem to be any ‘memorial policy’ defined in the University Handbook.
• The Committee feels strongly that very clear University policies and procedures regarding campus art and memorials are essential.
• The committee will review the memorials policy developed by Norm Johnston for the State Capital campus and determine next steps for coordinating the development of a policy with the appropriate University representatives.

**Motion:** No action required. Committee will work with the appropriate representatives to initiate a memorials policy and identify a point of contact for the review of art placed in the landscape.

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**Lewis Hall Renovation**

*Ken Kubota, UW Project Manager*

*Erin Doherty, Mithun*

*Sandy Dymale, Mithun*

*Erin Jacobs, Mithun*

**Project Phase:** Design Development

**Requested Action:** Approval

The site development concept attempts to balance the building and help ground it without disturbing the historic aspect of the building. The recommended plantings at the historic entrance have been simplified, incorporating low growing plants on either side of the entrance. The landing at the bottom of the stairs has been enlarged and the pathways widened to accommodate the various paths of travel. The entrance plaza adjacent to the addition is more expansive and accommodates universal access.

The storm water strategy for the project is comprehensive and includes a green roof, a cistern and rain gardens with integrated conveyance systems. The cistern is sized to collect ½ the water from the roof and will be used entirely for irrigation. Planting in the rain gardens will be a mix of plants, but will appear as one gesture.

Committee comments:

• The major landscape issues raised during the September presentation were largely met. There are only a few remaining concerns, one being that the major pathway access from the quad along the east side of Lewis seems to end with a whimper (a grove of trees) and needs an ‘eye catcher’.
• Cistern access and size needs to be carefully evaluated to be certain it can function as planned for irrigation of the rain gardens.
• Pavement scoring and scaling should switch with the finer scoring in front of the historic building and the coarser scoring at the plaza to the new addition.
• Low wide benches will become skateboard magnets and should be detailed to prevent this.
• Maintenance access to roof needs to be more than just a ladder, roof garden irrigation needs to be thermally protected, fall protection for roof garden should be incorporated into the design, widening of the pathways in the front lawn will require relocation of irrigation heads and piping, and cistern access needs to be convenient for maintenance.
Molecular Engineering
Steve Tatge, UW Project Manager
Tim Williams, ZGF
Jarvis Payne, Walker Macy

Project Phase: Mid-Design Development
Action Requested: Review and Comment

Stevens Way connection: The entrance facing Stevens Way was brought down to a lower level, bringing it more inline with the elevations along Stevens Way and eliminating the need for excessive regrading and retaining walls. It also allows for a direct connection to the accessible parking stalls along Okanogan Lane. Bicycle parking is tucked into the landscape space between the building and road and provides a more direct connection to the showers and locker rooms inside the building.

Courtyard: the design attempts to integrate the existing geometry and form with the new. A campus-scale promenade leads visitors into the courtyard from Grant Lane and is enhanced by flowering trees and textured pavement. The raised lawn is defined on the eastern edge with a skylight that looks down to the lower levels of the building and is anchored with a specimen tree in the corner. The proposed planting uses the same palette of plants that are found in the existing courtyard to provide continuity, but will be used in a more free-flowing nature and incorporated into the flow-through rain gardens.

Committee comments:
- Massing of courtyard design is much better than previously shown. However, some further detailing of the elements is required. The promenade is very wide and terminates abruptly. The species of trees should relate to the scale of the open space.
- Entrance off Stevens Way is a great improvement to the retaining walls previously shown. However, the location and scale of planters needs further resolution. Currently they appear fragmented and are not in the same scale as the building.
- The treatment of the phase 2 building site seems overly complicated and may require more maintenance to keep looking good. The design team should consider how people might pass through this space and accommodate pathways if necessary.
- Questions were raised about the lay down area for phase 2, parking needs for the new facility, and whether occupants of Johnson Hall were satisfied with the changes that will occur in the courtyard area.
- The committee is pleased to see the landscape design going hand in hand with building design.

Committee Action: No action was required.