

Meeting Minutes
Campus Development Committee Meeting
March 24, 2016
325 Burruss - 10:30 am

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 10:33am

Present: Steve Mouras (acting as chair), Jack Davis, Alexander Jones, Jennifer Hundley, Richard Rodrigues, Heinrich Schnoedt, Ted Faulkner, Melissa Elliott, Ken Smith

Absent: Jason Soileau (chair), Chris Kiwus, Elizabeth Spiller, Brett Jones, Samer El-Kadi,

Guest: Michelle Ramsey

II. Committee Charge

III. Construction Update

Steve Mouras presented the committee with information on the construction updates. The following projects were addressed:

A. Projects In Construction

- Upper Quad – New Brodie is still under construction (schedule of competition more like spring 2017), the Corps Leadership and Military Science building is in quiet fundraising phase, and the Addison Caldwell statue will be move to a more prominent location walking towards Lane Hall. Ted Faulkner asked if the statue will be illuminated and suggested that it would make a visual impact if so. Steve Mouras did not think at this time it was going to be illuminated, but would pass idea along to Jason Soileau.
- New Classroom Building – Scheduled to finish by August 2016, the building is currently on schedule and aggressively pursuing that goal. Ted Faulkner inquired if the green space in the renderings will be as plentiful at end of competition of the building. Steve Mouras replied with that there will be a small parking lot where the staging area is currently, but the rest of the perimeter will be turned into green space.
- 460 Interchange – The airport runway expansion will include upgrading the current Class BII runway to a Class CII runway at 5500 feet total. This expansion will allow more variety of aircraft to use the runway which hopefully will allow more prospects of companies looking to invest in the CRC. In order to allow for expansion any building occupied by people or where they occasionally gather had to be removed from the path. This included the Dairy building and will include the current Virginia Tech Hangar. Jack Davis asked that the building be documented well as it was dismantled because it was design by Clinton Cowgill, with Steve Mouras adding that it was indeed an interesting building- as the cinder blocks were actually manufactured from cinder created at the power plant on campus. The discussion moved on towards discussing the grade separated intersection in construction over route 460. The intersection was moved from the current Southgate location. This was done because the location is a compromise of access from between the CRC and Campus, there already exists a grade variation making it easier to construct and the intersection needed to be a certain distance from the existing grade separated intersections at Prices Fork Road and Main Street. The new grade separated intersection will be a diverging diamond. The bridge will be customized for Virginia Tech - with form liners to create what looks like Hokie Stone pillars, Virginia Tech seal on the sides, and dogwood branches images formed into the concrete. Alex Jones asked if the lighting will be continued on route 460 like

shown in the rendering. Steve Mouras responded with the scope not addressing that part of route 460 but there will be lighting along the new Southgate drive entrance. Ted Faulkner wanted to know if there will be an ability to override the signal light in the diverging diamond. Citing an existing exit in Christiansburg where the light backs up the traffic all the way on to route 460. Steve Mouras ensured that this will most likely not be a problem as the flow of traffic for Southgate has been analyzed, and the diverging diamond should prevent backups. However on game days or other events where the traffic is heavy in one direction he could see that being a possibility. Alex Jones questioned what would be happening to the existing Southgate Drive. Steve Mouras explained that they will take off the asphalt layer and return the road to turf and if funding is available due to an Additive Bid they will take out the elevated ramped sections. Currently the project is on schedule to be open December 2017, finishing December 2018, and still within budget. Discussion then migrated to the view when entering on the new Southgate Drive, and the possibility of seeing the renovated Rector Fieldhouse. The renovated Rector Fieldhouse recently was Design Previewed by the Board of Visitors and will mostly be upgraded and additional spaces for the Softball Team, Throws, Track and Field with towers emulating the Stadium.

IV. Pending Master Plan Updates

- A. Campus Master Plan – Incorporating the new vision of the President and Provost into the scope, there are now six major components including looking at the Blacksburg Main campus, Roanoke, the National Capital Region, implementation of an innovation and creativity district, and a detailed space data component.
- B. Parking and Transportation Master Plan – Stakeholder meetings have wrapped up and VHB (the consultant) will be producing a final draft by the end of April. Senior Administration will review and the final draft should be available in May 2016.

V. Drillfield Paths –

Discussion began with looking at reverse parking on the Drillfield (backing into spaces instead of pulling into spaces). Steve Mouras explained the logic of the idea, which is that drivers are backing vehicles anyways, this just changes the order. And it is safer to just pull out into traffic, instead of backing up into blind spot of traffic and with backup cameras it is even easier to do so. Members including Alex Jones and Jennifer Hundley, began discussing the conflicts of other drivers following closely and the difficulty finding a space and then passing it long enough to then reverse into the space without hitting the person behind. Ted Faulkner asked whether in the Drillfield changes, the space designation would remain F/S.

Steve Mouras then began discussions about the option being considered for tiered parking. The consultant for the Parking and Transportation Master Plan is looking at tiered parking options. Jennifer Hundley asked if the tiered parking pass would only allow owners to park on the Drillfield. What would happen if the owner had a meeting in McComas or the North End Center, can they only park on the Drillfield, she continued. Ted Faulkner mentioned that we already have a form of tiered parking, where drivers can pay less to park further way. Richard Rodrigues mentioned that tiered parking would restrict movement on the Drillfield, allowing some of the aggression of close followers in hunting of parking spaces to be removed, but that reverse parking still had a high risk of hitting other vehicles. This continued into questions of logistics and speculation of what might occur. At this point the idea of tiered parking is only at a high level discussion and will be up to the Higher Administration to decide if it is something the University even wants to consider, and Parking Services will need to dig deeper into logistics.

Discussion moved on to gating the Drillfield. Ted Faulkner expressed if there are gates on the Drillfield, that the gates be attractive. Gating the Drillfield would involve a philosophical change to the university, and as this point the logistics have not been settled. Jack Davis brought up, as the idea if remote parking is implemented, that protected bicycle parking be provided for commuters and

faculty/staff. Both protected bicycle parking, and bicycle share programs are being discussed within Planning Office and the Alternative Transportation Office.

The Drillfield Path project was then discussed. The various material types being tested, their resulting polling numbers were shown, and the “smARTfield” research endeavor shown. Alex Jones with SGA, offered to connect with the Drillfield Paths Committee to partner with the SGA in their Campus Extreme Makeover. The partnership would allow for a bigger populous base in asking opinions regarding the paths and their impact on campus.

VI. Future Meetings

A. Tours – Suggested Tours included:

B. Agenda Topics –

- Discuss the Green RFPs that were not discussed at this meeting due to time constraints.
- MMTF – talk about the impact of the project and the current plans
- Further update on the Classroom building – more floor by floor look along with classroom sizes available.

VII. General Discussion – None

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:36am