

www.utah.edu COMMUNITY FORUM NEWSLETTER 585-9244

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



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COMMUNITY FORUM NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING:

University of Utah's Annual Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 5 p.m.

Building 540 Arapeen in Research Park

Community Forum meetings for neighbors of the U and the University community are held in 540 Arapeen in Research Park. Parking is available just west of the building. For more information, to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, or if you have an agenda item, questions or comments, please contact Teri Erick in the University of Utah Public Relations office at 585-9244.



NOTES FROM OCTOBER 24 COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

Welcome

Coralie Alder, Executive Director, Public Relations

Coralie welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation in the meeting. She encouraged those in attendance to share information discussed at the meeting and invite others to attend future meetings to ensure good neighborhood representation. The agenda items are created during a conference call which includes neighbors and University and Salt Lake City representatives. The goal is to include items of significance to the neighbors. The communication has improved, but more neighbor representation is important. The U is always looking for more names to add to the mailing lists.

A neighbor in attendance recommended an announcement of the meeting be added to each of the community Web sites.

ARUP

David Jackson, ARUP

David provided some information about ARUP, which was founded in 1984 as part of the pathology department at the U. ARUP has grown into a large complex in Research Park. The company is wholly owned by the University of Utah. When the company began, 100% of their workload was for the U. Currently only 11% of the work is for the U: the rest are clients, many of them out-of-state. ARUP serves 26,000 patients a day and they are open every day of the year. ARUP has approximately 1,900 employees. They also have labs at the U Hospital, Huntsman Cancer Institute and Madsen Health Center.

ARUP wants to be a good neighbor and be environmentally sound. They are changing over their landscaping to zeroscaping. Employees receive a pass to ride TRAX for free and there is also a shuttle from

TRAX to ARUP. Approximately 60 ARUP employees take TRAX every day. ARUP also encourages bicycle

ARUP has grown every year since their founding and the growth is expected to continue. They are looking at alternatives for expansion, but the offices must be nearby because many of their employees work and teach at the U. The plan is to get the administrative offices into another building and keep testing labs together. Their expected future growth includes 300 new employees, most likely evening and night employees.

Mike Perez added that the Campus Master Plan will include an analysis of Research Park and ARUP.

Neighbors asked if ARUP provides incentives for employees to use TRAX. Although ARUP does not provide incentives they try to provide flexible starting times to accommodate the bus and TRAX schedule. And they are considering buying back employee parking passes. They do provide incentives for night shifts.

Neighbors asked how many of their board of directors are University of Utah employees? The board of directors are advisors for the company. Five of their 9 members are from the U. The CEO of the company reports to President Young and directly to Lorris Betz.

Stadium Noise

Norm Chambers, Assistant Vice President, Auxiliary

Mark Burk, Director, Stadium and Arena Event

Mike Halligan, Associate Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Aaron White, Manager, Facility and Event Services

Norm asked for input from the neighbors about the stadium noise. A neighbor read a letter addressing the stadium noise issue. The letter outlined neighbors' concerns regarding the noise, especially during soccer games. The neighbors also noted that the noise seems

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to get louder during the second half of football games. Although the decibel readings may be within the noise ordinance, the noise is extremely loud and disturbing. She said that the issue should be about consideration of the neighbors, not just the readings and being within the ordinance.

Norm and Mark thanked the neighbors for their attendance and for letting the U know their concerns. They assured them that the U wants to be a good neighbor. They explained that the noise continues to be a challenge. The U takes noise complaints seriously and, in response, has adjusted the sound level down. It is a difficult situation because, while the neighbors feel the noise is too loud, stadium staff is starting to receive complaints that the sound system is not loud enough inside the stadium. The problem with the stadium noise seems to have started when the new scoreboard was installed in 2003. Since that time, the U has asked the company that designed and installed the video scoreboard system to verify that it is installed correctly. According to Mark, the U has been assured that it is installed and functioning properly. However, because of continuing complaints, the U recently made the decision to hire an independent consultant to evaluate the sound system and make recommendations. The consultant is planning to conduct tests during the next three football games, scheduled for October 28. November 11. and November 25.

Mike Halligan spoke about previous tests conducted during a football game in September 2003. At that time a test was conducted at many locations of concern for the neighbors. The test first took a baseline noise reading at each location the day before the game at approximately the same time. The baseline reading was in the 60s. The day of the game the reading increased approximately 1 or 2 decibels. Mike also mentioned it is likely that the reason the noise seems to get louder later in the game is because the street noise decreases later in the evening.

Aaron White assured the neighbors that the U has been making adjustments to the sound to try to mitigate the noise. He assured them that the sound level is not being turned up during games. He reiterated what Mike mentioned about street noise. He also mentioned that Real Salt Lake's announcer is a very enthusiastic soccer fan, and when Real scores, he gets very excited and yells into the microphone. The U's sound technician tries to stay one step ahead of him by adjusting the sound level down, but is not always quick enough.

The U knows that an agreeable solution has to be found and is working on ways to fix it. The U is spending money to bring in an outside consultant, as Norm mentioned, because the U wants to work with the community. The consultant will be monitoring the noise at several locations in the neighborhoods. The consultant is scheduled to complete the review by the end of November and will submit the final report in early January 2007. The results of the study and recommendations will be shared with the neighbors at the next Community Forum meeting, scheduled for January 23.

Traffic/Transportation Committee Report

Norm Chambers, Assistant Vice President, Auxiliary Services

Norm provided an update on the Transportation and Traffic Committee. Earlier this year the U extended invitations to UDOT, UTA, Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Salt Lake City transportation office, Mayor's office, the VA Hospital, community members, several private companies in Research Park, etc. to participate on the Committee. The goal of the Committee is to understand the issues, identify traffic and transportation problems in this part of the city and to look for solutions. The meetings began in March 2006, and there have been a total of 4 meetings. At the July meeting

the U announced that plans were in the works to develop a Campus Master Plan in 2007. Some of the neighbors mentioned this would be a great opportunity for the City, UDOT, and UTA to coordinate with the U. They mentioned that they would like to see the East Bench Master Plan updated and a transportation study done on Foothill Boulevard. A subgroup, consisting of the U, Salt Lake City, UDOT, UTA and the WFRC, met in September and is currently working to launch a Foothill Traffic/Transportation Study, in conjunction with the U's Campus Master Plan.

Foothill Corridor Transportation/Traffic Study Report

Tim Harpst, Director, Salt Lake Transportation

Tim built on the information provided by Norm Chambers. To conduct the study and update the city plans, UDOT has agreed to provide \$50,000, as long as their concerns about the congestion at the south end of Foothill are addressed. The U committed \$50,000, UTA committed \$50,000 and the city council recently submitted a \$70,000 budget request. They will find out in December if the request is approved. Approximately \$20,000 is needed to update the land use element along Foothill. The planning division recommended that the area along Foothill be updated but noted that the master plan is pretty good. The update will look at potential growth and consideration for zoning changes, etc. And \$50,000 would be used for the transit study. If funding is approved, the job will go out to bid in January.

The neighbors asked what they could do to help get the funding approved. Tim said to write letters of support to council members. There will most likely be a city hearing in mid December.

The neighbors expressed appreciation for how much the city planners do. Their work does not go unnoticed.

Utah Museum of Natural History

Sarah George, Director, Utah Museum of Natural History

Sarah provided information about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). There was a 60-day public comment period and the museum appreciated the comments they received through letters and from the public meeting. The comments and information will be included in a report that should be completed the first of the year. There will be another public review period and then a decision.

Sarah noted that there is a great deal of public transportation in the area around Research Park. There was also a joint study done with Hogle Zoo, This is the Place, and Red Butte, to look at the impact on traffic. The majority of people come to the museum between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. so the impact was low on the main intersections. The main problems occur earlier or later in the day. There is a possibility that a shuttle only road will be created between This is the Place and Research Park. The museum wants to minimize the amount of parking stalls needed. They have found that the Williams lot is very close to the museum's future lot. They have been given verbal permission to build an access from the museum to the Williams lot. This should provide the majority of parking stalls needed because the maximum traffic need for the museum is on Saturday. If this permission is finalized, they would only build 150 parking stalls, instead of 200.

They are in the process of developing exhibit designs but they are waiting on the results of the EIS to make building designs. Sarah displayed renderings of the exhibit designs. Moving from the inside to the outside of the museum is very important and they plan to incorporate the views from their location in many of their exhibits. The outside of the building will

not be fenced; the area will be open to the public. This area will be free for visitors and Sarah reminded the group that the museum offers free admission the first Monday of every month.

The museum's visitation is approximately 75,000 a year. She noted that is currently done with 12 parking spaces. Their outreach number, which includes their traveling exhibits, is 250,000 a year. Approximately 18,000 a year are school groups, but they took a huge hit this year in this area because of the price of gas for the school buses.

Neighbors asked if there would be a shuttle from the museum to a TRAX station. There is a shuttle that runs from the Williams lot to the hospital TRAX stop which can be utilized.

A question about the timeline was asked. The museum is 4 years away from moving.

Neighbors also asked about participation on the EIS decision. Sarah said they are including representatives from the museum, U administration, national parks service, and environmental service.

College of Social Work

Jeff Nielson, AJC Architects

Jeff presented the addition to the Social Work building. An additional 2-story building will be added next to the existing building. It is an additional 17,000 square feet. The materials to be used will match those in the area. The project is funded by donations. There will be a large public meeting room on the first floor and the second floor will be classroom space. The basic floor plans were drawn up but are still in development. The second floor will connect to the existing building with a bridge. This new area will mainly be used by existing students, faculty and staff. The U impact will be minimal, but there is an outreach component associated with this building that may bring some traffic to campus. However, the TRAX line is adjacent to this building.

David Eccles School of Business

Bill Billingslev. Campus Design & Construction

The majority of the School of Business buildings were built in the 1950s and 1960s, before there were strict seismic guidelines. In the late 1990s, the CRCC building was built for the School of Business, more specifically for the executive MBA courses which are mainly evening courses. The older buildings have some major issues. The business classroom building only has men and women's restrooms on every other floor and the only elevator accessible for the building is in KDGB which is connected to the business classroom building by a bridge. Unfortunately, this bridge would come down in an earthquake. Also, the brick on the building is not reinforced.

The addition to the school will likely be 60,000 square feet but there will not be an increase in student or faculty load. The business school will gain additional space because the economics department will be moving out of the building. They are in the very early stages of this project and there are many options.

The timeline for this project has yet to be determined. Last fall, they announced a major donation, and the total project will cost \$42 million. They recently hired an architect for the project, and if things go well construction could start next fall.

University of Utah - Campus Master Plan

Mike Perez, Associate Vice President, Administrative Services, Facilities Management

Currently, the U is in the process of interviewing consultants for a comprehensive campus master plan. A consultant should be under contract before the end of the calendar year. The steering committee on this project is the President's Cabinet.

The master plan, like an umbrella, will consider all campus projects. Academic strategies and visions will be taken into consideration. The plan will include Research Park and will look at the Fort Douglas area. Traffic impact and housing is another component of the plan. It will be a yearlong project. The funding is in place. The stakeholders have been identified and include the school, the community, Salt Lake City, UDOT, and more. In the January meeting the U should announce the firm and the start of the project.

This will be a thorough process and will involve the community. The U would like neighbors to provide input. Work sessions between the U and the community are anticipated. The U will work with the neighbors to determine the best way to collect and manage input.

Discussion of next Agenda

Agenda items to be included:

- * Stadium Noise
- * Campus Master Plan
- * Review of Campus Projects

CAMPUS EVENTS

November 10 - Veterans' Day Commemoration. The public is invited. For more information: http://www.veteransday.utah.edu/

November 16-19 - 'Urinetown' The winner of three Tony Awards, Urinetown tells of greed, love, and revolution. Water has become so scarce that a monopolistic corporation controls the town's public amenities. Destitute citizens are assessed massive taxes and fines for their most private and basic of needs. Finally, a hero rises to lead his fellow citizens against the tyrannical regime. For more information: http://www.theatre.utah.edu/calendar current/calendar.htm

November 23-24 - Thanksgiving Break.

November 25 - University of Utah football game vs. Brigham Young University at Rice Eccles Stadium.

December 8 - University of Utah Gymnastics: Red Rock Preview at Jon M. Huntsman Center.

For more events listings go to: http://www.events.utah.edu/.

