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NEXT COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING:

**Tuesday,
March 27, 5 p.m.**

**Bldg. 540 Arapeen
in Research Park**

If you have an agenda item, questions or comments, please contact Teri Erick in the University of Utah Public Relations office at 585-9244.

Community Forum meetings for neighbors of the U and the University community will be held March 27, May 22, August 28 and October 23 at 5:00 p.m. in Building 540 Arapeen in Research Park. Parking is available just west of the building. For more information or to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, call 585-9244.



NOTES FROM JANUARY 23 ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Welcome and Introductions
Lorena Riffo-Jenson, University Board of Trustees

Trustee Riffo-Jenson welcomed everyone, and expressed her appreciation for their attendance. The meeting is an opportunity for all parties to hear updates and voice concerns. She announced the next Community Forum meeting will be held March 27, with additional meetings in May, August, and October.

Current Issues
*Coralie Alder, Executive Director,
University Public Relations*

Coralie mentioned a few topics of immediate interest to the University community. In regards to the legislature, the U's priorities include the possibility of receiving state funds for faculty/staff raises. The U's top priorities for capital projects include the renovation of the nursing building as well as the Student Life Center. Additionally, the campus gun issue is now being considered as a system-wide issue and the Board of Regents are taking the lead with legislative matters.

Review of Current Projects
*Eric Browning, Campus Planner,
Facilities Planning*

Eric provided an update of facilities recently completed, under construction, or in immediate planning stages. He noted that all projects are the same as last year. There are no new projects to announce. When asked when the medical school will be razed, Eric replied that three buildings must be built prior to decanting the aging

building. When asked how architectural choices are made, Eric and Mike Perez explained that the process requires healthy dialogue and allows consideration of the site, surrounding buildings, internal programming requirements, sustainability and cost, among many other factors. Other questions involved the pedestrian concerns at the Kennecott / North Campus Drive area. A campus meeting is currently being scheduled with UDOT and UTA to revisit that issue. It was also noted that the new Virginia Tanner Building is oriented to encourage traffic along 5th South rather than through the southern neighborhoods.

Campus Master Plan
*Michael G. Perez, Associate Vice President,
Facilities Management*

Mike explained that the University has commissioned the firm Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill to develop a comprehensive Campus Master Plan which will include the golf course land. During this one-year process there will be a number of opportunities for community involvement and input, including the Community Forum group. Those meetings will be scheduled and publicized through the normal channels. Also, the firm will maintain an informational Web site for public access.

Mike noted that in conjunction with the Campus Master Plan, the University is also actively engaged with other groups such as UDOT, the Wasatch Front Regional Council, UTA, etc. to study the Foothill Corridor and thereby address neighborhood and traffic issues. When asked why so many projects indicate a "nominal" impact to the surrounding neighborhoods, Mike explained that with the exception of the USTAR project, our current construction is to relieve overcrowding, not create

new programs with additional students or staffing, so the anticipated impact will be very low or insignificant. However, the USTAR building (200,000-250,000 sq. ft.) will bring in new faculty, staff, and programs. Because this project is still in the development stage, studies have not yet been conducted to determine neighborhood impact. Mike also indicated that the new 500,000 sq. ft. hospital is not really increasing the patient or staff load because it is simply converting to private rooms and will house clinics, labs, and offices that are already currently on campus, thereby keeping the neighborhood impact the same.

Neighbors expressed concern about the anticipated impact, but also expressed approval with the Facilities Planning presentation concentrating on the neighborhood impact rather than building facts.

Neighbors also expressed an interest in having the projects on the Facilities Management Web site updated during the year, which the department agreed to do. It was also suggested that Public Relations post Community Forum materials on the Web site prior to future meetings.

When asked about parking after the Red Butte expansion and the Utah Museum of Natural History move, Mike explained that the two entities are designing a joint parking venture. It is possible in the future that additional parking will be available at the Williams Building.

Review of Transportation and Parking Issues

Norm Chambers, Assistant Vice President, Auxiliary Services

Norm described the success of the University's mass transit efforts. The latest information shows that almost one-third of the students, faculty and staff commute to campus via mass transit. In November 2005, almost 18,000 people rode the University TRAX line each day. Although ridership did drop somewhat during the fall of 2006, the overall growth is still impressive. The University will be conducting a new transportation survey sometime in February. In response to a question, Norm indicated that although TRAX usage to the Health Sciences Center is not being tracked separately, he knows that it is heavily utilized by University Hospital employees. He also reported that the lack of good pedestrian access to the South Campus and Medical Center Stations are major concerns, and the issue will be addressed in the upcoming Campus Master Plan.

Norm also noted that UTA is planning to implement a major realignment of its bus system in Salt Lake County on August 19, 2007. During the next several months, UTA will be conducting a series of public meetings to obtain community input. The University has requested that UTA conduct at least one public meeting on campus. One of UTA's primary goals is to expand the 15-minute frequency scheduling, which has been so successful for TRAX, to the bus system. The first section of the Commuter rail line is expected to be completed sometime in early 2008. It will connect the transit center in Salt Lake City (200 South and 600 West) with Davis County, Weber County, downtown Ogden and Pleasant View. UTA has already started construction on extension of the University TRAX line from the Energy Solutions Arena to the transit center.

Norm reported that thanks to the increased usage of mass transit, parking availability on campus is the best it's been in nearly 20 years. He reported that even during peak periods on campus, the University is averaging between 2,500 and 3000 vacant parking spaces. The University is in the process of systematically raising the "A" parking permit price so that it will be twice the "U" permit rate. A consultant recently identified several ADA parking improvements that need to be made. Commuter Services is planning to address the ADA concerns during the upcoming construction season.

As a result of the hospital expansion, the heliport parking structure is being raised.

Norm also announced that the next Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on March 23, on the 6th floor of the Rice-Eccles Stadium Tower.

Stadium Noise

Norm Chambers, Assistant Vice President, Auxiliary Services

Aaron White (Manager of Facility Maintenance) and Mark Burk (Director of Rice-Eccles Stadium and the Jon M. Huntsman Center) assisted Norm in addressing the issue of stadium noise. Last fall, in response to neighbor complaints, the University hired a professional, third-party consultant to monitor the noise at the October 28 and November 11 home football games. A copy of the results was distributed and will be posted on the stadium Web site. Measuring stations were monitored in the area approximately ½ mile north of campus. The results show that the University was within the noise ordinance. However, in response to neighbor concerns, the consultant was asked to make recommendations that will help insure that the noise level is more acceptable. The consultants made four suggestions which are outlined in the report. The recommendations will be addressed in the upcoming 2007-08 budget. The University will give a status report at a future meeting.

In addition, Aaron and Mark reported that beginning in October 2006; stadium management established a more proactive procedure which requires promoters (Utah Football & Real Salt Lake) to provide copies of their PA announcement tapes to the sound booth prior to the event, so the tapes can be reviewed and the sound level adjusted, if needed. Several of the neighbors indicated that they had noted an improvement.

Aaron and Mark noted that the Real games seem to be the biggest challenge. Real's 2006 season had already finished before the consultant was hired to conduct the noise study. The consultant will be asked to monitor the noise during the first Real Salt Lake night game. Although the University will continue to proactively work to moderate the noise, Norm reiterated that it is an ongoing challenge to balance the concerns of neighbors, while at the same time providing a good fan experience. A neighbor also voiced concern regarding the frequent number of fireworks shows that Real puts on. According to the neighbor, it wouldn't be so bad if Real shot off fireworks only on or near holidays,

like July 4 and July 24. However, that is not the case and the fireworks are disturbing animals and children and impact the neighborhoods to the south of the stadium. Mark indicated that he would check with Real to find out when they are planning to shoot off fireworks and post that information on the stadium Web site. He indicated that he will encourage Real to cut back on the number of times they shoot off fireworks.

Gwen Springmeyer, from the Mayor's office, suggested that, in the future, the Salt Lake City noise ordinance be consulted in addition to the county ordinance. She also indicated that she would be willing to sponsor a meeting with the affected neighbors after the noise is monitored at Real / U games. Mark offered to obtain tickets to Real games for neighbors, if they are interested. Interested neighbors should contact Mark at 585-1650.

Questions and Public Comment

- A neighbor asked if the University was interested in developing Reservoir Park (1300 East and 100 South) into a parking lot for University events. Norm Chambers indicated that it was his understanding that one or more members of the Kingsbury Hall advisory board has expressed concern regarding the lack of convenient parking available for Kingsbury Hall events and had recommended that the University explore the feasibility of building a parking structure on that site. Prior to taking any action, the University conducted an internal review and concluded that it should not pursue the development of parking on that site. He reported that a couple other sites, located on campus in the northwest quadrant, are still being considered. The neighbor indicated that the University should have been more open about the research and informed the community while the U considered its options. Regina Schaub, with University Space Planning and Management, responded that the inquiry was so briefly considered that there was not enough time to report to the Community Forum.
- A neighbor complimented the University on the shuttle service from the stadium parking lot to events at Kingsbury Hall. It was noted, that this type of shuttle service has to be paid for by the event.
- The general consensus was that the Community Forum is a good medium for discussions.

Future Agenda Items (suggestions from neighbors)

- Combined salt storage (University and Salt Lake City)
- Removal of the Supercross dirt on Guardsman, adjacent to the baseball field
- The need for an official capital improvement / neighborhood, policy that will identify project impact / mitigation
- Sustainability, it was suggested that the University create a new position in Facilities Management to handle sustainability issues

- Concern regarding the loss of open space in foothills, Research Park, and "This is the Place" State Park
- What is the future of the golf course? Mike Perez noted that the Campus Master Plan will help evaluate these concerns, and that the University is growing and the Campus Master Plan will help manage that growth and our open space.

CAMPUS EVENTS

February 10-March 18 – Guild of Book Workers 100th Anniversary Exhibition at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. For more information go to: <http://www.umfa.utah.edu/>

February 16-March 3 – *Othello* at Simmons Pioneer Theatre. For more information go to: <http://www.pioneertheatre.org/season/show5.html>

February 19 – Presidents Day

February 22 - University of Utah women's gymnastics vs. Michigan. For more information go to: <http://utahutes.cstv.com/sports/w-gym/utah-w-gym-body.html>

February 24 - University of Utah men's basketball vs. New Mexico. For more information go to: <http://utahutes.cstv.com/sports/m-baskbl/utah-m-baskbl-body.html>

February 27 - University of Utah men's basketball vs. San Diego State. For more information go to: <http://utahutes.cstv.com/sports/m-baskbl/utah-m-baskbl-body.html>

March 19-23 – Spring Break

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



For a complete list of projects or more specifics, go to http://www.facilities.utah.edu/2007_Project_Updates.pdf, or to receive a copy in the mail, please contact Teri Erick at 585-9244.

For a Reference Key of Topics discussed at the 2006 Community Forum meetings, go to <http://unews.utah.edu/?action=neighbors> or contact Teri Erick at 585-9244.