

**Welcome**

Randy Dryer, Chair, University of Utah Board of Trustees

Randy welcomed the group and reiterated the two-fold purpose of the annual meeting and the quarterly Community Forum meetings: 1) to allow the U in an abbreviated, yet thorough, way to review activities it is undertaking or is contemplating; and 2) to provide an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions and voice suggestions about these projects. He underscored that these meetings are not the only opportunity to share comments or learn more information. Representatives of the university's administration are always available for neighbors to contact. The U wants to be a good neighbor not only to those adjacent to the university, but to the larger community that feels the university's impact.

Parking & Commuter Update

Norm Chambers, Asst. Vice President, Auxiliary Services
Jay Nelson, Senior Transportation Engineer, DMJM Harris

Jay gave an update on the Foothill Drive Land Use and Transportation Corridor Study. The preliminary results of this study were also reviewed at a public workshop later that same evening. Essentially, the study concluded they would like to do what they can to reduce traffic flow northbound in the mornings and southbound in the evenings. They would also like to reduce travel time for transit services and enhance bike and pedestrian safety. Details regarding the project are available at www.wfrc.org.

Norm provided an update of parking and transportation at the U. Since the fall, commuter service's main marketing theme has been "Be Green—Save Green." This program highlights the U's environmental commitment and encourages students, faculty and staff to leave their cars at home and commute to campus via mass transit. The UTA Education Pass

("Ed Pass") remains the cornerstone of the U's alternative transportation efforts. Norm presented a number of results from a 2007 survey: almost 80% of students, faculty and staff have obtained a UTA Ed Pass and almost 60% have used it to commute to the U; approximately 11,700 (29%) of U students, faculty and staff use UTA to commute to campus each day (a 4% drop since 2005); and approximately 47% of full-time students commute to campus via alternative transportation (UTA, shuttle, walk, bike, or car pool). Norm was excited to announce that the university has negotiated use of the Ed Pass for U staff, faculty, and students on the Frontrunner Commuter Rail (slated to start in late April '08). Norm also said there are, on average, 2,000 to 3,000 vacant parking spaces every day in periphery lots like Guardsman Way, Merrill Engineering, and the old resident halls. Commuter Services has also started a new real-time shuttle GPS tracking system at www.parking.utah.edu.

The next University of Utah Community Forum
will be held

THURSDAY APRIL 24, 6 P.M.

HINCKLEY CAUCUS ROOM,

255 ORSON SPENCER HALL

Agenda:

- Utah Museum of Natural History update
- Research Park - ARUP parking garage
- Myriad Genetics expansion
- Expectations for Facilities Planning Web site
- Project Universe
- Other issues/open discussion

Campus Master Plan & Review of Projects*

Tami Cleveland and Eric Browning, Planner/Staff Architects, Facilities Planning

The campus master plan is designed to create a lively campus and a magnet for student, faculty, staff and public life. It will offer state-of-the art facilities to support the university's mission of teaching and research and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and interaction. Through the campus master plan, Facilities Management hopes to make campus a destination for the public, provide functional and sustainable transportation, capitalize on the beautiful natural landscape setting, and provide leadership in environmental stewardship by partnering with the Office of Sustainability.

Important upcoming dates in the campus master plan:

- May/June 2008 – Trustee approval
- August 2008 – Regent approval
- September 2008 – Building Board approval

*A list of projects is available at www.facilities.utah.edu

Office of Sustainability

Craig Forster, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability
Jen Colby, Coordinator, Office of Sustainability

Created on the recommendation of students who were concerned about the university's ecological impact, the Office of Sustainability is currently in its pilot year. It recently hosted the first meeting of the newly appointed presidential sustainability advisory board. At the meeting, University President Young spent time with the board and reiterated his commitment to sustainability. The advisory board consists of corporate partners as well as university community members. See <http://www.sustainability.utah.edu> for more information.

Sustainability carries the mission to meet "the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." According to interim director Craig Forster, the office exists where environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic progress intersect. The office studies the environmental, economic, and social "income vs. outgo" of the university "city within a city."

Among the university's ongoing sustainability efforts are the Ed Pass being extended to the Frontrunner train, as negotiated with Utah Transit Authority; reducing water and energy use and waste flows; slowing growth in commuter single-occupant vehicles; the new paper recycling program; upgrading light bulbs on campus to higher efficiency lights; and a possible recommendation to President Young that he sign the American Colleges & University Presidents Climate Commitment. Randy Dryer confirmed the president's and the Board of Trustees' commitment to the university's sustainability mission. He said that sustainability is essential not only because it is the "right thing to do," but also because it is increasingly an economic necessity.

Neighbors expressed excitement about the U's sustainability program, noting that it is helpful to see the community impact from university efforts. One neighbor suggested the university combine salt storage with Salt Lake City since the salt storage facilities for each are currently across the street from one another. Additionally, in response to a neighbor's question, the sustainability team said that there have not been direct discussions with Rocky Mountain Power to develop alternative fuel resources, but they would like to install solar panels as a demonstration program and a kick-off to encourage the funding of alternative sources, which are currently expensive relative to fossil fuels. There may be a demonstrative wind turbine on campus to provide a good example of wind power, and geothermal options are being considered. Many states are aggressively incentivizing solar and other sources of power. Until our state adopts a similar program, corporate partners are unlikely to come up with alternative sources.

Salt Lake City Report

*Karen Hale Director, Communications, Mayor's Office
Hank Welch and Joyce Valdez, Community Liaisons
Esther Hunter Senior Advisor to the Mayor*

Karen introduced Joyce, Hank and Esther. They said they are happy to facilitate good communication through the Community Forum meetings. Karen noted the salt storage suggestion. Joyce mentioned that a key concern for neighbors in the Avenues area is people speeding on 100 South (mostly toward the U). Recently someone came close to being hit. They are also concerned about whether the U affects their power or not. Hank suggested the Community Forum meetings start at an hour when more people are available and the door is open all the time. Esther said she was pleased to bring a community standpoint to the Mayor's office and will continue to be the university neighborhood chair.

Universe Project and Updates

Michael G. Perez, Assoc. Vice President, Facilities Management

As it had been presented at previous Community Forum meetings, Mike Perez offered a brief overview of the Universe Project (a multi-use development proposed for the area around the Rice-Eccles Stadium TRAX station). The university is at the point of developing an RFQ ("request for qualifications") to identify potential developers that would be qualified to work on the project. After identification of qualified firms, an RFP ("request for proposal") will be prepared that will include community input. With Esther Hunter's and others' help at the city, university administrators already have been able to loop into the city's regular process and allow for public comment. These comments and meetings are advisory.

For a complete list of projects or more specifics, go to <http://campusmasterplan.utah.edu/>. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Facilities Planning at 581-6510.

For past newsletters from Community Forum meetings, go to <http://unews.utah.edu/?action=neighbors> or contact Kate Ferebee at 585-9244.

Neighbors expressed both concern and excitement about this project. One neighbor was concerned that 1300 East between 200 and 300 South is an historic district. There are solar structures there that may be blocked by the development. In addition, this neighbor feels that the project may hamper the interests of landowners in the area and does not want rents to increase. Mike assured the group that all universe project development will be on U property and there is no intention on the university's part to expand outside of that area. There will also be no net gain or net loss in parking at the university. In addition, Esther Hunter expressed her appreciation to the university for creating a collaborative effort with the universe project and its advisory board. She said that a lot of community members' thoughts have been heard and taken into consideration for this project.

Miscellaneous Discussion

In response to a neighbor's question, Mike Perez assured the group that the university has no plans to provide a shuttle to the This is the Place monument. This may have been suggested at a workshop, but there is no plan at this time.

It was suggested that the time and location of the Community Forum meetings be changed to accommodate people who cannot arrive before 5:30. The group decided to hold the next meeting on March 25, 2008, at 6 p.m. (Note: the meeting has since been changed, however, to **6 p.m. April 24** to avoid a conflict with caucus meetings.) Randy Dryer has committed to chair this meeting pending availability. The university will also make the effort to provide minutes, agendas, and handouts prior to each Community Forum meeting via <http://www.unews.utah.edu/?action=neighbors>. Also, watch this Web site for updated meeting times and locations.

