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NEXT COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING:

Thursday,
August 21, 6 p.m.

Hinckley
Caucus Room,
255 Orson Spencer Hall.

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

WELCOME

J. Spencer Kinard, Board of Trustees
Mr. Kinard welcomed the community forum attendees and reiterated the three primary issues of the night's meeting, a: 1) quick update on the future Utah Museum of Natural History, which is not far from breaking ground; 2) update on Research Park; and 3) discussion of the Universe Project, which is not as far along as many of the other university building projects. In addition, he assured the audience that community members' voices are welcome and whatever is suggested will be considered and, as much as is reasonable, will be taken to the planners. This has already happened with a number of suggestions stemming from public meetings.

UTAH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (UMNH) UPDATE

Sarah George, Executive Director, UMNH
Sarah expressed excitement—on behalf of the university as well as the city—and anticipates opening the newly built UMNH in winter of 2010-2011. Construction is slated to start in August 2008. The process of relocating the Utah Museum of Natural History included coordinating an in-depth environmental impact statement (EIS) with the National Park Service in spring 2005, many public input sessions, travelling across the state to get input on the design and the experience the public wants, and reviewing feedback from hundreds of people.

The new museum will be built on a 17-acre site and confined to an area within the site that will preserve the native habitat in the best condition, the oak woodland on the southwest corner and sagebrush/bitterbrush habitat upslope to the east. Native seeds, bulbs and insects have been "banked" to reintroduce once construction is done. In addition, when finished, no portion of the site will be fenced. Also in keeping with the natural experience, outdoor interpretive areas will be free to the public.

Wakara Way will provide entry to the museum, and will include two eastbound traffic lanes, a sidewalk and dedicated bike lane. Museum administrators expect to meet parking needs while minimizing impact by breaking

the parking lot into segments and landscaping with native plants. The museum will also take advantage of 800 parking stalls in the Williams lot by building a connector road between the two locations. University shuttles already link the hospital with the Williams building, so they will loop around to the new UMNH, connecting campus and downtown with the museum via UTA buses, TRAX, and campus shuttles. In July, improvements will be made to Wakara Way above Colorow.

Sarah also noted that the entire project has been undertaken with input of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Association. The Association asked for trail improvements, such as providing sitting areas, bike racks, places to water dogs, free access to restrooms, and trail rebuilding, especially the bushwhacked areas. During construction, safety is a key issue so the actual building site will be fenced. The main Shoreline Trail will be open after hours and on weekends. During weekdays, they will close the trail and re-route people to the west. There will be informational signs posted on the trails and updated on the museum's web site: www.umnh.utah.edu. Heavy equipment will be routed through a widened lane up to the site and Red Butte Gardens during construction. There will be a concrete barrier between the two lanes that will keep construction traffic from regular traffic during the day. At the request of a neighbor, Charles Evans will make sure the architects note that vehicles should remain on state roads when egressing Research Park. Specifically, not to move on Sunnyside Avenue when either entering or egressing Research Park or the construction site. Sarah explained that the four pipelines through the site will remain. There is a 60- or 80-foot easement, which makes the narrowest point of the trail 15 feet. The pipeline is patrolled regularly and the museum site is above the pipeline in case of breakage.

The UMNH building is designed to take the topography of the area into consideration and conforms to the contours of the landscape. It includes "green" features, such as native plants, relatively little water consumption, irrigating with rainwater and snow melt caught in cisterns, and using local and recycled materials wherever



For past newsletters from Community Forum meetings, go to <http://unews.utah.edu/?action=neighbors>.

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possible. Fly ash, a byproduct from coal-powered plants, will be used as part of the concrete mix. In addition, low- or no-volatility paints and local concrete will be used. In the future, museum administration expects to use solar power when their budget permits. Current calculations show that all lights and exhibits could be powered using solar panels on the roof. Cutting into the hillside also helps with heating and cooling.

In designing the museum’s layout, a team of scholars, scientists, artists, writers, and volunteers has been developing the stories that will be told at the museum. In the main foyer, a three-story collections wall will feature iconic objects from the museum’s 1.2 million-object collection. It will also provide a phenomenal view of the Salt Lake valley. Dubbed the “Canyon Space,” this main lobby will be free to the public and will welcome community gatherings. The back of the building will house offices and staff meeting rooms. Each of the nine galleries has a theme, from native voices to past worlds. You can track project updates at www.umnh.utah.edu. In addition, the results of the traffic study are available by contacting Sarah George at (801) 581-6927.

RESEARCH PARK UPDATE

Charles Evans, Director, Research Park

Following is a list of updates in Research Park:

ARUP is one of only two tenants of Research Park that have parking issues. They plan to build a parking structure where they now have surface parking, and will complete a temporary surface parking lot early in the summer. The permanent structure will house 1,350 cars on 4 levels, but it will cut into the topography of the landscape, so it will not be 4 stories high.

Myriad Genetics continues to expand and has made arrangements with the Williams Company to add a fifth phase of expansion. Designed by the same architect as the existing buildings, the new one will be dedicated to proprietary research only and will have a 208-car parking structure underneath. It will not require any variances and will go through the standard city procedure.

The old drilling research lab is undergoing remodeling. Idaho Technology is almost completely redoing the building. According to Charles, the \$6.5-million building should be a “vast improvement” to what the company is currently using and will increase the square footage from 25,000 to 45,000 by building up to the higher level of the current structure.

Goldman Sachs wants to occupy the rest of the space they have leased in the Williams Building. They would also like to add a parking structure, for which they have already gained approval from the Williams Company. In the long run, it gives a lot of parking in the public area (where the new UMNH will be) and the U has no objection to it. All buildings that are not university-related have to go through the city process.

In response to a question about plans to relieve congestion in parking with the Marriott Hotel and university human resources (HR), Charles said the problem only arises when the two have a meeting at the same time. This happens only 4 times per year when HR is doing new-hire orientation. The hotel and representatives from HR have gotten together at Charles’ suggestion to coordinate schedules. They will notify Charles in advance if the schedules conflict. He will then make arrangements accordingly.

Another neighbor inquired about the status of a request for a stoplight on Wakara Way. Charles was unsure of the status, as this is something the city needs to address. Representatives of the mayor’s office were in attendance. Charles made no objection on the part of the university to having the light there if the city’s traffic studies warrant one.

The issue of a sidewalk on Chipeta and Wakara was raised by a long-time neighbor and staff member. Charles did not know why sidewalks weren’t included in the original planning, but now it would be very costly to install them. He said, however, there may be the possibility of retrofitting a sidewalk in front

of the building at 375 Chipeta. Otherwise, he suggested talking to the building owners individually. The university has little control of what happens after a building is leased, other than the appearance of the building. The campus master plan may address some of this issue, and Charles will look into it.

UNIVERSE PROJECT

Michael G. Perez, Associate Vice President, U of U Facilities Management
Note: *The discussion of the Universe Project was moved up to accommodate attendees’ schedules.*

At the time of the meeting, the university was in the RFQ (request for qualifications) stage of the Universe Project (UP), a mixed-use private-public partnership on approximately 8 acres next to the stadium TRAX stop. Since then, the university has moved to the request for proposals (RFP) process. In planning the UP, the university has attempted to utilize current city processes concerning historical landmark areas and has heard community input. It is anticipated that planners will have work sessions to collect and consolidate public input to determine the look and feel of the area. The project has also been shared with the Salt Lake City Planning Commission. Mike explained that the project, a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), came about from a graduate student study. Any displaced parking will likely be replaced with structured parking. In response to a neighbor’s question about total number of parking spaces as required by the RFQ, Mike said that the RFQ contains minimum requirements only and intends to not result in any net parking loss. According to Mike, it is a tough position for the university: to maintain parking spaces and, at the same time, promote the use of mass-transit and discourage single-occupancy vehicle use. Preliminary sketches of the development area do not illustrate the entries for east- and west-bound traffic, but will be included and determined by the development planner.

The request for proposal will identify such concepts as the maintaining of view corridors and a design that attempts to correspond to the adjacent historical area. It is anticipated that a preferred developer will be identified in July. The university will adhere to appropriate parking standards for retail parking locations.

A neighbor expressed her concern that the exemption to city ordinances cannot be used by a private owner. She feels that the university has put a big “carrot” in front of developers who might wish to be exempted from city code. She said she does not think the developers who have responded to the RFQ will “hold tight” to their proposals if the exemption from city code is taken away. Mike responded that the development is primarily for university use (such as housing and office space) supporting its mission. The university will not make a profit on it, but will get value from acquiring usable square footage (parking, housing, office space) while also providing a much more attractive entry onto campus for the university and broader communities, including visitors. Private businesses will be subject to all applicable taxes. In response to a neighbor’s comment that this should be regulated like Research Park, Mike said that the university sees this as more for university consumption than the privately owned buildings in Research Park. The RFP will require that the developer interface appropriately with UTA/TRAX and to assess transportation circulation and capacities.

Spence Kinard reminded the audience how important out-of-state recruitment is to the university’s research mission. He said that the trustees and university administration want an even larger Research I university—not in size, but by recruiting the “best minds.” USTAR and the Brain Institute help to do this, but also providing a comfortable and convenient campus for people who will make it their home for years is a great way to entice more researchers who have the potential to be the “next Mario Capecchi.”

To find out more information about the Universe Project or the campus master plan, visit www.facilities.utah.edu.

Resolution from Community Council

The Sunnyside East Neighborhood Council formally submitted a resolution to Mike Perez and Spence Kinard, and notified meeting attendees that they will likely deliver a copy to university President Michael Young. They suggested that a member of the administration visit different communication council meetings as has been done in the past. Mr. Kinard said that at the beginning of the academic year, the Board of Trustees sent a letter to all community councils expressing interest in attending meetings. He said only one council responded: East Central. The Sunnyside East representative said she did not remember the letter and it must have been prior to her joining the council, but the invitation is open to university administrators. Mike also reiterated the sentiment he had expressed to her before, which is that he would be happy to attend any of their meetings and they need just to give him a call.

Request for Feedback

Eric Browning, Planner/Staff Architect, Facilities Planning

Eric asked for feedback about the project document that was handed out at the annual community forum meeting in February. He would like to know whether the design of the document is helpful or if neighbors would like more/less information. Anyone interested in providing feedback can respond in writing to Betty Martin in the Facilities Management office at 1795 E South Campus Drive, Salt Lake City, UT, 84112. Call (801) 581-6510 for more details.

Calendar Highlights

*Neighbors are invited to attend our summertime brownbag lunch series, “Wednesdays on the Green,” which offer live music from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch or pick up something at the Union and enjoy an hour of local music on the Union Patio.

JUNE

2-16 Summer Institute in the Human Services, 581-8913 for info.

3 School of Medicine Seminar: Genomics and Infectious Disease, EIHG Auditorium, 4 p.m., 585-0462 for info.

4 Wednesdays on the Green*: Lost by Reason, 12 p.m., SSB Plaza (between Union and Student Services Bldg), 581-6773 for info.

11 Wednesdays on the Green*: Eddie Zen, 12 p.m., Union Patio, 581-6773 for info.

14 UMNH One World Family Festival, UMNH, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., 581-6286 for info.

JULY

3 Real Salt Lake v. Houston Dynamo, 8 p.m.

8 UNP Partners in the Park 6 p.m. – 8p.m., West Pointe Park, 1100 N. 2000 W., <http://www.partners.utah.edu>, 801-972-3596 for info.

12 Real Salt Lake v. Columbus Crew, 7 p.m.

16 Wednesdays on the Green*: Kristin Erickson, 12 p.m., SSB Plaza (between Union and Student Services Bldg), 581-6773 for info.

16 Real Salt Lake v. International Exhibition, 7 p.m.

22 UNP Partners in the Park 6 p.m. – 8p.m., Sherwood Terrace (South Pavilion), 400 S 1500 W SLC, UT <http://www.partners.utah.edu>, 801-972-3596 for info.

28-30 24th Annual Community of Caring K-12 National Character Education Conference, Salt Lake City Marriott University Park, 801-587-3432 for info. and registration

28 Real Salt Lake v. Toronto FC, 7 p.m.

29 UNP Partners in the Park 6 p.m. – 8p.m., West Point Park 1100 N 2000 W <http://www.partners.utah.edu>, 801-972-3596 for info.

30 Summer 2008 classes end

30 Wednesdays on the Green*: Stacey Board, 12 p.m., Union Patio, 581-6773 for info.

AUGUST

9 Real Salt Lake vs. Real Madrid, 7 p.m.

11 – 14, AP Summer Institute for Teachers, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., <http://www.ed.utah.edu/ap>, 581-8223 for info. and registration

12 UNP Partners in the Park 6 p.m. – 8p.m., Jordan Park- Large Pavillion 1060 S. 900 W. SLC, UT, <http://www.partners.utah.edu>, 801-972-3596 for info.

14 Wednesdays on the Green*: Gary Gerber, 12 p.m., Union Patio, 581-6773 for info.

21 Campus-wide TA Orientation, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

22 UNP Partners in the Park 6 p.m. – 8p.m., Riverside Park (Lions Terrace)-739 N.1400 W.SLC, UT, <http://www.partners.utah.edu>, 801-972-3596 for info.

25 Fall Semester 2008 classes begin

29 Real Salt Lake vs. Colorado Rapids, 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS & ACTIVITIES

Utah Museum of Fine Arts, 581-7332

Africa: Arts of a Continent is a permanent rotating exhibition that focuses on four cultures: the Dogon of Mali, the Baulé of the Ivory Coast, the Yoruba of Nigeria and the Kuba Kingdom of the Congo. *Africa: Arts of a Continent* also incorporates several ancient Egyptian burial objects from various dynasties and explores the importance of the Nile.

The *Journeys through Asian Art* exhibition showcases objects from the world’s largest continent, illuminating the development of art in India, the Himalayas, Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea and China. Runs through Dec. 20, 2010.

A Fragile Empire: Rome and Her Glass – Come gaze at the UMFA’s own collection of glittering Roman glass and learn about the important role of glassblowers in ancient Roman society. Runs through Dec. 31

Utah Museum of Natural History, 581-4303

With over 15 computer interactives, hands-on displays, and videos, *Putting DNA to Work* brings the science of DNA out of the lab and into everyday life. This high-tech exhibit lets you discover how patterns in the human genome hold vast possibilities for solving pressing issues of our time. Runs June 14 – Oct. 12.

Red Butte Garden, 581-4747

With over 100 acres of gardens and natural area, Red Butte Garden is the largest botanical center in the Intermountain West that displays and interprets regional horticulture. The Garden is open year-round for visitors to walk through the gardens or hike through the Natural Area. Red Butte Garden also offers four seasons of educational and recreational programs including concerts, festivals, kids programs, nature outings, classes and workshops.

Athletic Events, 581-8171

For athletic information visit: <http://utahutes.fansonly.com>