

Minutes
Council on the Built Environment
January 19, 2005

Attending: James Massey, Joel Wixson, Tom Regan, Clint Magill, David Parrott, Shelly Janac, Raye Milburn, Charles Sippial, Dick Williams, Nancy Sawtelle, Jim Calvin, Kemble Bennett, Rick Floyd, and Bill Perry.

Guests: Shady Groves, Tim Donathen, and Steve Byrne.

Parrott stated the division of Student Affairs would like to move forward on a design-build concept for the University apartments. The current apartments, built in the mid- to late 1970s, would not be demolished until new apartments are completed to replace them. While the new apartments would be available to all students, the international students have built a community there and the area is attractive to them because of the close proximity to campus.

The question was asked if the new apartments would exclude a potential partnership with the city. Perry stated once the criteria for public/private partnership are established (currently being reviewed by APC), the city may want to make a formal proposal. Any proposal will be judged against the criteria and the Council's plans, and would not necessarily have to be at this location.

Sippial suggested a master plan study for the area surrounding the University apartments, including pedestrian access and retail outlets to accommodate the students' needs. Regan noted it will be important for the apartment design to take advantage of energy efficiencies and to help reinforce the community. Donathen added that the University is not bound by the current configuration and may want to consider relocating streets.

Parrott stated Student Affairs is interested in balance of doing the job right and moving with judicious speed. He questioned who would fund a master plan for that area. Perry stated funding could possibly be shared by Vice Presidents for Finance and Student Affairs, but consultation would need to occur.

The Council approved conceptually the idea to replace student housing in the University apartments area in a planned and orderly way and asked that the topic be brought back to the Council with a master plan of the entire area. Perry stated he would work with the Vice President for Student Affairs on how detailed the master plan should be.

Colonel Shady Groves presented a proposal for a Leadership Development Course training facility with 16 training stations, similar to a facility at the Lackland AFS. The course is designed to teach Corps members to solve various problems using leadership and analytical skills. While the course would be operated by the Corps of Cadets, it would be available for use by the University. Physical Plant has estimated the facility cost as \$98,600 which includes a storage building, electrical connections, and facility design. Funding for the facility would come from donations. The proposed location is on University property near the obstacle and stamina courses by Easterwood Airport. The Council encouraged Groves to consider other locations, possibly off Gabbard Road close to the ropes area.

The Council approved the proposal in concept and will forward the proposal to CFPC with a request to recommend the most appropriate site for the facility, taking into consideration other agencies with buildings in the area and their future expansion plans. Since the Corps plans to solicit a donor(s), the Development Strategy Group will be informed of this proposal.

President Gates has received a request from outside the University for construction of a 5K jogging trail on campus and asked Sippial to present it to CBE since it is a capital plan project. A suggested location for the trail would run through George Bush Drive, Barbara Bush Drive, Research Parkway, John Kimbrough Street and Penberthy Drive. Two shorter trails are also included within the 5K trail. The cost is estimated to be \$1,275,000 which includes adding sidewalks and lighting, and enlarging the current pedestrian bridge. Floyd noted that there will be a cost to maintain the trail and added that the proposal was not brought to the Council by students or an academic unit, nor was it brought to the Council as a campus need. Calvin questioned if the Research Park has been contacted about any potential developments they may have that could deter with the siting of the trail.

The Council will review the request at next week's meeting after the members have had an opportunity to review the original charge to the Council and the Council's principles of operation.

The Council reviewed a list of classrooms in the Engineering quadrant that could be converted to office space if determined that was the best use.

Bennett stated 16 new faculty members are to arrive in fall 2005 and that number could actually be closer to 20 or 22. Engineering hired 47 new faculty last year, with 29 of those being new positions. These faculty were accommodated through moves into the Brown Engineering building. While many faculty bring their research program with them, there can be a delay of up to a year before the lab equipment is received and ready to use, so that allows more time to find lab space. The need for office space for FY05 is estimated to be 17,500 and 52,500 for labs, although the lab space can be phased in. Bennett noted that about 6,000 SF of the lab space needed will be for wet labs. Office size need for graduate students is calculated at 100 SF per student, which is more than the current average of 50 to 75 SF, but is the norm for engineering colleges.

The question was raised if the Research Park could provide some short-term, emergency space to help Engineering. Perry asked Calvin to check with the Research Park on what might be possible.

Regan stated that the deans need CBE input on what is possible regarding new construction and renovation. Perry volunteered to meet with the Council of Deans to discuss this issue. Also, if it is determined that the faculty reinvestment period should be extended to another year, the deans would have to recommend that action to President Gates.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26 at 1:30 in 707 Rudder.