

Minutes
Council on Built Environment
May 11, 2005

Attending: Carol Cantrell for Bennett, Nancy Sawtelle, Raye Milburn, Dick Williams, Wayne Williams, Clint Magill, Chuck Sippial, Bill Perry, James Massey, Rick Floyd, Shelly Janac, David Parrott and Tom Regan.

Guests: Mark Weichold, Chris Meyer

Hotard Update

The Council reviewed an earlier e-mail from Weichold regarding concerns about the Hotard renovation schedule. Sippial provided the Council with an update on Hotard renovations from George Parker at the Physical Plant. Beginning on Monday, May 16, the furniture will be moved out of the dorm rooms and shortly thereafter, demolition in the restrooms and other areas will begin. On May 17, the A/E firm will know the cost of installing an elevator inside the building versus adding it to the outside of the existing structure. If the elevator is placed on the outside of the building, it will net additional space inside the building, as would alternating men's and women's restrooms on each floor. Once the restrooms are determined, Physical Plant will work with the occupants to prioritize the remaining work, staying within the remaining \$983,000 budget.

Weichold stated the occupants would like to be moved in no later than the second week after school begins and added that enlarging some of the rooms to provide classroom instruction space for the Center for Academic Enhancement is desirable, as CAEN is currently using two rooms in Blocker.

Weichold reminded the Council that approximately 18,000 to 25,000 students visit General Academic Programs office each year, many with their families, and CAEN also has a great number of visitors. He stated these departments need to be seen as an important part of the University and the students' and families' perception will be shaped to some extent on the facility they see. Regan suggested Weichold might want to hire an interior designer who specializes in the aesthetics of older buildings.

Sippial stated he would keep CBE posted on the progress of the building and Physical Plant will do all it can to make the building aesthetically pleasing, within budget.

University Apartments Safety Issue

The proposed measures for safety around the University Apartments area, as recommended by CBE several weeks ago, were shared with the University Apartments residents. These recommendations are:

- Closing the median gap on University Drive at the intersection with Calvin Moore Avenue. This will prevent vehicles traveling west on University Drive from trying to maneuver turning left into parking lot 50.

- Constructing sidewalks along the north side of University Drive from Moore Avenue to South College Avenue, and along the east side of South College Avenue from South College to Hensel Drive.
- Removing the sidewalks and curb cuts that lead pedestrians to the current crosswalk on University Drive near the Moore intersection.
- Adding signage at the location of the removed sidewalks that discourages crossing and directs pedestrians to the new safer crosswalks at South College and University.

Three responses were received from the University Apartment residents. One response suggested that view finders be installed in all the outside apartment doors. Meyer stated he had talked to Dan Mizer with Residence Life about this issue and Residence Life is gathering bids for replacement of doors and hardware for the apartments. Installation of the new doors, with view finders, will occur over the next year or so. Parrott was asked to let the student who requested this safety feature know about the current plans.

Floyd moved and Sippial seconded that the proposed safety measures recommended by CBE be forwarded to President Gates for his approval. It was noted that Moore Avenue will not be closed and the traffic flow patterns in the University Apartments parking lots will remain. All members were in favor of the motion. Perry asked Sippial and Floyd to work together on a fiscal note, which will be included with the recommendation to President Gates. The Finance Council will also be informed of this expense.

Geography Request

Dean Kjerfve, on behalf of the department of geography, is requesting additional space to house faculty anticipated to arrive by fall 2005. Geography is requesting funds to renovate parts of the 7th and 8th floors of the Eller Building. Geography estimates needing 4,500 SF and would like to obtain extra space on the second floor of the Data Processing Center building, which is beside Teague.

Perry asked the council to think about this request and be prepared to discuss at next week's meeting. Perry noted that Dean Kjerfve is looking at all the Geosciences operations and specifically wants to expand the GERG operation and would like to use GERG West when TCE vacates the building.

Phase 2 Discussion

Perry called attention to several items in the agenda packet relating to Phase 2: Mark Smock's memo regarding possible Research Foundation relocation, comments from the College of Liberal Arts, and Dean Regan's memo regarding justification for hiring a planning consultant.

The Council previously received a 1999 TAMU System task force report on reducing construction time and Perry noted that several ideas implemented from the report were projected to take from five to seven months off a four year construction project. The Council discussed the terminology of 100 year buildings on main campus and Regan noted that terminology is not used in the Campus Master Plan. The Plan does state that masonry construction should be used on main campus, and Regan believes that anything surfaced with masonry construction would be acceptable.

Perry reminded the Council there is a donor willing to construct a building on campus and give to the College of Science. For the donor to do this, however, requires an act of the Legislature to allow the System Board of Regents to approve a ground lease since the building site would be on the original main campus. Two of the sites considered are the footprint next to the Physics building and the other site is next to Reed McDonald where Graphics is located and where some Engineering faculty will be relocating. If the new building was located there, however, that would prevent Engineering from expanding in that location. Perry stated Deans Newton and Bennett have been discussing the issue.

Dean Murano will attend CBE next week to present a proposal for a new Agriculture Program state headquarters building. Two locations are currently being proposed by the Agriculture Program for a building which would house all their administrative offices in one location and in turn would free up space on main campus.

Milburn noted that Nancy Dickey, President of the Health Science Center, had considered a Health Science Center building near the Medical Sciences Library area on west campus, but the TRB request does not look promising. Floyd added that Barnes and Noble was recently awarded an extension of the bookstore agreement and Barnes and Noble is proposing a west campus facility. A proposal will be presented at a future meeting.

Floyd stated University Mail Service will be moving to the vacated Stores space. While the vacated building is Physical Plant's to determine usage, for insurance purposes, it would be in the best interest of the University to move all non-essential employees away from the building since the location is by the power plant.

Magill asked about usage of the Military Sciences Building. Parrott will provide Magill usage information about the building.

Regan noted that even though the planning for the Life Sciences building was in advance of the GSC planning, the GSC has a completion date while the Life Sciences building does not yet have an architect identified. Perry noted the move in date of the Life Sciences building caused President Gates to be interested in accelerated construction. Perry added that the advertisement for an architect for the Life Sciences building is out, and any calls regarding the building should be referred to Tim Donathen.

It was mentioned that the concept of GSC-2 has been tabled for now.

After reviewing the SWAT agenda, Perry read an e-mail from President Gates sharing his support and appreciation of the Council's work.

Before adjourning, Perry stated the next two or three Council meetings would be more focused on Phase 2 issues and reminded the Council to review Mark Smock's memo, the comments from the College of Liberal Arts response and Dean Regan's memo on employment of a planning consultant. Perry will be presenting the CBE Phase 2 budget to the Provost, Senior Vice President and others on May 24, as part of the whole Vice Provost budget. He asked Sippial to

review the estimated costs one more time so the most current information is presented at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18.