

Minutes
Council on the Built Environment
Texas A&M University
August 16, 2006

Voting Members Attending: Sean Eubanks for Kem Bennett, Bobby Bisor, Joe Dillard for Dick Chilcoat, Russell Cross, Clint Magill, David Parrott, Chuck Sippial, Max Summers and Nic Taunton.

Non-Voting Members attending: Steve Hodge, Shelly Janac, James Massey, Chris Meyer, Raye Milburn, Nancy Sawtelle, and Dick Williams.

Guests: Richard Adams, Becky Carr, Ralph Davila, Johnny Fazzino, Elsa Murano, Jon Rodiek and Wayne Williams.

Sippial chaired the meeting in Perry's absence. Sippial introduced Steve Hodge, who has taken Mary Miller's position in overseeing the renovation of faculty reinvestment projects.

Agriculture Land Use Plan

Murano presented a land use plan for approximately 542 acres of land surrounded by Harvey Mitchell Parkway, F&B Road and Finfeather Road, the location where the previous dairy farm was located. The land would be known as an Agricultural and Environmental Life Sciences Center and would be used by faculty and students for research and education. The area would consolidate six facilities on east and west campus, such as the Lamar Street greenhouses, horticulture shop, entomology compound, and soil and crops labs, many of which are over 30 years old. Moving these functions to the Agricultural Center would free up 200,000 SF of space and 255 acres of land for the university to use in other ways.

The proposed area would be used for field labs and green houses, turf grass plots, fruit and vegetable plots, equine pasture land, and include a visitor center and indoor pavilion. The topography of the site has varying elevations, and the lower elevation areas would be used for fields and test plots. There are existing roads in the area, paved and unpaved, which can be accessed. The area also includes 15 acres for use by Physical Plant. Murano stated that two plots of the land in the area, totaling 128 acres, are already owned by TAES, according to the System Real Estate office. While it is unknown at this time the cost of improving these areas for future use, the Agriculture Program will solicit donors for funding.

Magill advised that both Biology and Plant Pathology use the greenhouses on Lamar Street for research, but Murano noted that it would be several years before all the functions were completed at the proposed site and the ultimate goal is to move all Agriculture departments and related research sites to west campus.

Parrott stated that Recreational Sports may be interested in using the proposed vacated horse center space, marked F on the map, since it is near their current outdoor fields. Parrott will discuss with Rec Sports and bring an update to next week's CBE meeting. Adams stated that Veterinary Medicine has lost pasture and hay making land and would be interested in using the areas marked A, B, and C on the land use map for their equine facility.

Summers cautioned about the environmental impact on the surrounding residential areas. Murano stated that as field plots are established, an environmental study will be included.

Agriculture's request will be discussed further at next week's CBE meeting.

Competing Space in GSC

Bisor stated he and Paul Meyer discussed the competing requests from Human Resources and Measurement and Research Services for the GSC space, but the issue has not been resolved. Bisor noted that MARS would prefer to stay in Cain Hall rather than move to GSC. Concern was expressed that the move-in date to the GSC is nearing and it may be too late to change departmental assignments. Summers suggested that SWAT discuss the issue and make a recommendation back to CBE.

Other Business

- Janac mentioned that Payroll Services would be moving out of Sbisa by September 27.
- Sippial met with Perkins + Will representatives recently about the Life Sciences building and expressed Dr. Gates' disappointment that the project has not come further along. The contractor should begin laying the thermal piping within the next two weeks.
- Sippial stated the design of the Mitchell Buildings is being reviewed because of budget concerns.