

Minutes
Council on the Built Environment
January 25, 2006

Voting Members Attending: Theresa Maldonado for Kem Bennett, Ralph Davila for Russell Cross, Clint Magill, David Parrott, Bill Perry, Tom Regan, Chuck Sippial, and Joel Wixson.

Non Voting Members: Jim Calvin, Shelly Janac, James Massey, Raye Milburn, Joe Powell, Nancy Sawtelle, and Dick Williams.

Guests: Ed Portis of Perkins + Will, John Threadgill of EDAW, and members of the Design Review Board.

Calvin introduced Portis and Threadgill, who would share architectural concepts about the Life Sciences Building. He added that President Gates wants to give an informational presentation to the Board of Regents at its March meeting and has already has shared renditions of the building with various groups and has received positive feedback.

Threadgill presented 12 architectural and site features of the proposed district plan for the Life sciences corridor. He noted some of these features are already included in the campus master plan:

1. West Quad – provides structured open space for west campus
2. College Station Monument – commemorating railroad depot where College Station began
3. Wellborn Road as a Boulevard
4. Underpasses at Jones and West Lamar – allows for completion of transit loops between east and west campuses
5. Primary Transit Stop at MSC
6. Memorial Oak Trees at Simpson Drill Field
7. Rehabilitation of Military Walk – which would require relocation of General Rudder's statue as a terminus on south end; relocate Silver Taps memorials at four corners of intersection of Old Main and Military Walk, flanking the flag pole
8. Sbisa Hall Quad – maintain axis to Military Walk; would require relocation of Fish Pond
9. Relocation of Law-Puryear Marker
10. District Parking Garage – 325 spaces on four levels
11. Loading and Service Access – one each on the north and south sides of building
12. Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building

He noted that these features, if endorsed, would be incorporated over several phases, the current phase being the main Life Sciences building, atrium and auditorium.

Regarding the parking garage, Parrott asked whether Residence Life had been consulted since the area being considered would impact parking for Residence Life students and others. Perry asked Parrott to visit with Ron Sasse to look at the idea and get them involved in discussions since it could impact Resident Life's district plan.

Portis presented a Life Sciences building design of 210,000 square feet, with 75,000 SF on the first floor. For the end facing the YMCA, the architects are proposing a lawn area and fountain. The third floor could house administrative functions for the building. He envisions the building being used as a pedestrian passageway from main campus to west campus. Portis noted that both schemes A and B are almost identical in square footage and both can accommodate future phases

Calvin asked that the Council endorse one of the two concepts. Magill moved and Parrott seconded to endorse Scheme A. All members were in favor of the motion, with no abstentions.

Perry noted that at next week's meeting Residence Life will provide an update on their district plan and how it meshes on the north side of the Life Sciences building.

Perry reiterated that Gates would be giving an update at the March Board meeting on the Life Sciences district plan, sharing building information, and how the district plan could lead to renovation of Military Walk.

Parrott will visit with Traditions Council about the possibility of the relocation of Fish Pond and Silver Taps memorials. Calvin will also visit with Traditions Council and Residence Life about the concepts presented today. Powell, Parrott and Calvin will discuss parking around the area.

Sippial asked if the Design Review Board would be a proponent for the district plans. Regan replied he would visit with the DRB about this issue, however it would be expanding their scope of duties.