

CAMPUS/COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 20, 2023 Meeting

PRESENT

Adrienne Gallo
Drew Hunsinger
Elizabeth Komives
Francisco Salinas
George Chi Loi Lo
Kristin Hall
Michael Salas
Richard Garfein
Tara Cameron

ABSENT

Belinda Zamacona
Cristiana Winter
David Kirsch
Elizabeth Winzeler
John Hughes
Ken Hall
Prabhakar Bandaru
Robert Brill
Uwe Send

CAMPUS PLANNING STAFF

April Alarcón
Elyse Hegstad
Ingrid Stromberg
Lauren Livers
Rae Hartigan
Robert Clossin
Sally Lam
Todd Pitman

GUESTS/CONSULTANTS

Associated Students—Sevan Derderian
Campus Police—Lamine Secka
Capital Program Management (CPM)—Frances Angelborg, Matthew Smith
Facilities Management—Bryan Hooks, Walt Kanzler
Real Estate—Andrew Kiesling, Jenner Smith
VC-RMP—Steve Jackson

Kevin deFreitas Architects—Kevin deFreitas
RELM Studio—Chad Krenzke, Hana Georg, Scott Baker
Wexford Science + Technology—Rosalio Arellanes
ZGF Architects—Avideh Haghighi, Brian Kenworthy, Chris Conaway

BUSINESS ITEM – APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved without further comment.

COMMENT ITEM – SCIENCE RESEARCH PARK-SCHEMATIC DESIGN (Rae Hartigan, ZGF Architects, RELM Landscape Architects, Wexford Science + Technology)

Rae Hartigan introduced the Science Research Park (SRP) project on the East Campus, explaining this project was last brought to the C/CPC in March for Committee endorsement of the Final Master Plan Concept and now returns for comment on the Schematic Design. This project will be presented to the Design Review Board (DRB) in August and today is the opportunity to provide comment to the DRB.

Scott Baker launched the presentation highlighting key design principles, including, emphasis of distinct entries into campus, facilitation of multimodal access and circulation, and integration to campus open space while incorporating active and passive uses. The SRP site touches three of the four entries into East Campus on Regents Road; first is the entry to SRP at Athena Way, another is at SRP's northern edge at Health Sciences Drive, and the third is at SRP's southern edge at Miramar Street, adjacent to Mesa Housing. Circulation through the SRP site is pedestrian-orientated, supported by two destination promenades, *Innovation Walk* and *Campus Mews*.

Baker explained the project's open space network is made up of six areas: Innovation Commons, Campus Mews East and West, South Podium and Regents Promenade North and South. Baker continued to detail each area.

The Campus Mews is at the horizontal center of the site; it is an east/west walkway with patios, seating, sun/shade opportunities and retail. The Campus Mews west end features Canyon Gardens, Parking Structure 1 (~1,760 stalls) and the Gateway Steps. Canyon Gardens is designed to be an extension of the canyon landscape, featuring stormwater management and bioretention planting. The Gateway Steps is a large series of stairs with seating and sun/shade opportunities covering a significant grade change. The Campus Mews east end features retail frontage with dedicated patio space and planters with seat walls.

The South Podium area is at southmost end of the site, featuring a pedestrian bridge connecting the Gateway Steps to the Mesa Housing shuttle stop and providing access to the South Building terrace.

Innovation Commons is on the site's northeast end, along Medical Center Drive, featuring the Health Sciences Walk terminus, Innovation Walk, the Great Lawn and the North Building breakout patio. Baker reassured the SRP team is in coordination with the East Campus Loop Road project team on the Health Sciences Walk connection. Innovation Walk is a north/south destination walkway from the Gateways Steps to Health Sciences Walk, that will bridge the north/south pedestrian gap on East Campus. Baker confirmed, that for academic program flexibility, Innovation Walk and the North Building breakout patio are level with one another, and the Great Lawn is sized to host up to 275 seats, or, capacity of up to 500 individuals.

The site's eastern edge is Regents Promenade, a meandering walkway lined with trees and plants, along terraced gabion walls and plants that buffer Regents Road and East Building on the north, or Parking Structure 2 (~1,360 stalls) on the south. Vehicular circulation at the Athena Way entrance from Regents Road intersection is under study, with the intent to balance bicycle and pedestrian safety with acceptable level of service for vehicle circulation. Parking Structure 2 would be right turn in only from Miramar Street, and Mesa Lane would be controlled access except for shuttles and emergency access.

Baker explained the hardscape palette will be leveraged as a wayfinding tool. Innovation Commons and Innovation walk will have three shades of pavers and Campus Mews will have a mix of four shades of pavers and concrete with top cast finish. There are four plant palettes for SRP: the Streetscape and Urban Plaza palette along the two pedestrian destination walkways, Urban Forest along Regents Promenade and into Campus Mews, Coastal Native at Innovation Commons, and San Diego Eclectic along the parking structures and filling remaining areas. All palettes were designed to be low-maintenance and low-water use.

Baker concluded the presentation and Todd Pitman shared the Open Space Committee's (OSC) comments on this project:

1. *General support:* The OSC expressed support for the project and the landscape expression as the design solidifies. Particularly resonant are the elegant integration of stormwater, the balance of hardscape, softscape and trees, and the emphasis on a contemplative pedestrian environment.
2. *Coordination with fire/life safety and utilities:* OSC members emphasized the importance of continued coordination with the fire marshal as design progresses. A handful of specific areas could potentially have conflicts with fire apparatus, which should be double-checked with fire/life safety. The Committee also asked the project team to coordinate with underground utilities as early as possible to minimize conflicts with trees and maintain as much of the designed tree canopy as possible.
3. *Accessibility:* The OSC asked the project team to consider accessibility needs when selecting final paving materials. The design emphasis on pavers is positive for aesthetics as well as utility access, but could have an impact on the experience of people using mobility devices if not detailed and installed with care.
4. *Phasing:* The OSC inquired about project phasing, and requested the project team consider the design of each phase as a full idea, in case future phases are delayed or cancelled.

At discussion, the Committee asked about wheelchair accessibility through the Gateway Steps, bridge clearance at the South Podium pedestrian bridge, and wayfinding strategies, and noted that navigating uneven surfaces can be challenging especially with mobility devices.

Clossin shared that this schematic design will be presented to the Regents in September for design and CEQA approval. The project aims to begin construction Spring 2024, and it will occur in two main phases. The Committee supported the schematic design for the project.

Comment to DRB

1. *Accessibility and wayfinding:* The Committee requested careful attention be paid to the selection of paving materials and design to minimize vibration that might be experienced by those in wheel chairs.

BUSINESS ITEM – NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC) PLAZA (Todd Pitman & Ingrid Stromberg)

Todd Pitman introduced the second item of the meeting. The NPHC Plaza project started as a student initiative in 2021, and in 2022 gained the support of the Chancellor and VC-Student Affairs, resulting in a project feasibility study. An overview of the project schematic design and process has been presented to campus committees previously, but Campus Planning is returning now to update this Committee aware on design and construction status as it nears completion this fall.

The NPHC Plaza will represent nine historically Black sororities and fraternities, the “Divine Nine”, and is consistent with similar plazas across the country paying homage to the history of these organizations which promote “community awareness and action through educational, economic, and cultural service activities”. UC San Diego is believed to be the first UC campus that is NPHC-chartered, and two of the member organizations host active chapters at UC San Diego. The project team has worked closely with UC San Diego student members and NPHC representatives to ensure implementation of specific NPHC Plaza design expectations.

The Plaza recently began construction at the Hump adjacent to the Original Student Center and is aiming for completion in September, in time for a fall ribbon cutting event.

INFORMATION ITEM – LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN-SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SEIR) UPDATE (Robert Clossin & Lauren Lievers)

Clossin provided background on the purpose of the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Clossin explained the LRDP guides land use, frames planning objectives, and reports population and development growth projections for campus. The EIR analyzes potential impacts from population and development growth on campus and provides mitigation strategies. Development that is consistent with these documents enables a more streamlined process for project approvals. The La Jolla campus has its own LRDP and EIR from 2018 and the Hillcrest campus has its own from 2019; these plans and reports were created with a 15-year planning horizon, projecting population and development capacity up to approximately the year 2035. However, presently the La Jolla campus population is nearing the 2035 projected campus population. In addition, by fall 2026, La Jolla’s West Campus could be close to exceeding the square feet projected by the LRDP. As a result, the La Jolla campus LRDP and EIR must be updated to analyze and address environmental impacts that may result from the additional growth and capture any changed conditions. This update will be documented in the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR).

Lauren Lievers explained the SEIR will focus only on topics that will be affected by increased growth, and does not require a complete update because much of the analysis of the 2018 LRDP EIR will still be valid and the identified mitigation framework can still apply. The topics expected to be reevaluated in the SEIR include: Noise, Wildfire, Air Quality, Transportation, Cultural Resources, Utilities and Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Population and Housing, Public Services, and the Alternatives Analysis. Clossin confirmed this update to the LRDP and SEIR will not change fundamental goals and objectives of the 2018 LRDP, but reassess impact analyses and conclusions to ensure future projects can be consistent with the LRDP EIR and SEIR, and have appropriate mitigation strategies ready, ultimately streamlining the approval process. The SEIR is expected to be presented

to the Regents for certification by November 2024. More information will be brought to the Committee as it is available.

The Committee did not have questions or additional discussion on this item.

This item concluded the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "April Alarcón". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

April Alarcón
Associate Planner