

CAMPUS/COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 19, 2023 Meeting

PRESENT

Adrienne Gallo (C/CPC Co-Chair)
Drew Hunsinger
Eric Halgren
Francisco Salinas
Jennifer Mora (on behalf of Cristiana Winter)
John Hughes
Ken Hall
Michael Salas
Robert Brill (C/CPC Co-Chair)
Tara Cameron

ABSENT

Belinda Zamacona

CAMPUS PLANNING STAFF

April Alarcón
Elyse Hegstad
Ingrid Stromberg
Luis Benito
Raeanon Hartigan
Robert Clossin

GUESTS/CONSULTANTS

Birch Aquarium – Harry Helling
Campus Police – Roberto Meza
Capital Project Management – Aaron Cooley
Facilities Management – Michael Hogan (on behalf of Bryan Hooks)
RMP Project Quality Management – Walt Kanzler
Transportation and Parking Services – Jose Perez
Scripps Institution of Oceanography – Vikki Cutri
VC-CFO – Jeff Graham
HGW Architecture – Jim Gabriel
OJB Landscape Architects – Kyle Fiddelke

BUSINESS ITEM – APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the July 20, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved without further comment.

INFORMATION ITEM – BIRCH AQUARIUM REVITALIZATION CONCEPT (Rae Hartigan & HGW Architecture)

Rae Hartigan introduced this item as a preview of schematic designs for Birch Aquarium's upcoming capital improvement program. Hartigan explained improvements will be split into multiple projects, but this item will return to the Committee with complete schematic designs and opportunity to comment to the Design Review Board once those projects are funded. Harry Helling shared the aquarium welcomes roughly 500,000 guests annually, however, has not received any significant capital improvements since it was constructed in 1992 and maintenance has been repeatedly deferred. In 2018, a Revitalization Master Plan was developed for the aquarium; and was subsequently split into zones to be executed in separate phases or project. The first project aims to begin at the end of Summer 2024 with a renovation of the Hall of Fishes and the Animal Husbandry Area (located at the northern portions of the facility).

Jim Gabriel, with HGW Architecture, noted that Birch Aquarium is located on the Scripps Institution campus, and is comprised of museum displays, husbandry spaces, classrooms and offices, a gift shop and café. The site is constrained by the campus Open Space Preserve and ecologically sensitive vegetation. When this project returns to the Committee, the design team will provide updates on potential impacts and required mitigations, as determined in coordination with the Coastal Commission. Gabriel elaborated on the project scope and described the four zones targeted for improvements as part of the overall improvements plan: Entryway, Boardwalk, South Courtyard and Husbandry Arts Care and Conservation Center (HAC3). The Entryway will receive updated paving, ADA parking and landscape, and a new arrival plaza, ticketing booth and new interactive exhibits and event spaces in the entry courtyard. Hardscape materials will reflect a coastal environment and colors will be consistent with the site. A Boardwalk is proposed at the aquarium's eastern edge, connecting the parking entry directly to a new restaurant in the South Courtyard. It would be 6-foot wide, ADA accessible, on-grade walk that includes overlook and seating opportunities. The South Courtyard will receive new viewing and interactive exhibits, a new 5,800-sf indoor-outdoor café, relocated education facilities, creating an educational hub with two courtyards, and outdoor space improvements, including an events patio and new pier that aligns with the existing Scripps Pier. Hardscape materials will be similar to the Entryway, a soft color palette, organic shapes and stone and wood finishes. The HAC3 will be upgraded with new coral growing greenhouse, lab support and husbandry shed spaces, as well as an improved gathering area for staff; this zone will require an 8-foot security fence.

Kyle Fiddelke explained the project will enhance the site's tree canopy with proposed Coastal live oaks and African sumac in the Entryway, Marina strawberry trees in the South Courtyard and Torrey pines in the Boardwalk, South Courtyard and HAC3. The project has two plant palettes: the site perimeter palette proposes native plants, and the courtyard palette includes native plants and non-native plants that are tolerant to the high frequency of guests and can provide yearlong color.

At discussion, the Committee suggested an additional entry point, potentially with a second museum ticket booth, at the end of the Boardwalk to mitigate any wayfinding issues with the boardwalk. The design team explained the restaurant will be positioned for aquarium programs and events; however, open access is being considered and an additional control point is planned for that. The Committee inquired on embodied carbon minimization and energy systems; the design team explained there is not a numerical value measuring the project's embodied carbon minimization, however, existing hardscape will be replaced with softscape: porous

paving, trees and planting. The University is not targeting this site for any additional solar energy (there are existing solar panels on the roof today). The Committee requested the design team consider more native trees that could be adaptable in the courtyard plant palette. Michael Hogan stated the project must take care of remaining trees and specified that existing trees near proposed concrete removal require tree and root protections. Hogan recommended investment in structural soils and systems for new trees to help minimize disruption between root systems and hardscape.

INFORMATION ITEM – C/CPC CHARGE AND PLANNING PROCESS ORIENTATION (Robert Clossin)

Robert Clossin explained the Campus/Community Planning Committee (C/CPC) advises on physical development plans and studies to ensure alignment with the University's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), Strategic Plan, and planning studies. In relation to the C/CPC, is the Open Space Committee (OSC) advising on landscape projects and activity implicating the Open Space Preserve, the Design Review Board (DRB) comprised of campus architects and design professionals ensuring project architecture is appropriate and consistent with University principles and guidelines, and the Building Advisory Committee and Work Groups formed specifically for a building project to provide input on program design. Typically, design review projects are first presented to the OSC, then the C/CPC (with OSC comments shared) and last to the DRB (with OSC and C/CPC comments shared). Projects that were presented for comment last term include: Ridge Walk North Living and Learning Neighborhood, East Campus Loop Road/Health Sciences Walk, Price Center Courtyard Renovation, Café Ventanas Renovation and Science Research Park.

Clossin elaborated on the University planning process, explaining all development and planning activity relates back to the goals of UC San Diego Strategic Plan (2014) to be a student-centered, research-focused, service-oriented public university. Efforts to achieve this goal include the LRDP (2018), detailing recommended campus wide land use, policies outlining standards for signage, lighting, sustainability, etc., and neighborhood planning studies with more detailed site analysis and design guidelines. Clossin highlighted the LRDP, explaining it captures the University's projected growth through 2035 in terms of developed gross square feet (GSF) and population. The current LRDP projects roughly 28 million GSF of development by Fall 2035; however, by 2026 the University will already have roughly 23 million GSF developed. Similarly with population projections, the LRDP projects a population of roughly 66,000 by Fall 2035; however, the Fall 2022 population was 63,000. The 2018 LRDP Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be updated to capture recent growth and update population and development projections out to 2040. The Committee can expect the updated EIR and projections presented this term.

INFORMATION ITEM – CAPITAL PLAN AND PROJECTS UPDATE (Robert Clossin)

Clossin highlighted the University's housing plan, explaining the current housing demand at UC San Diego exceeds its supply; roughly 45-percent of students are housed on campus and the LRDP specifies a goal to house 65-percent of students on campus. By Fall 2025 there will be additional on-campus housing for roughly 5,700 students with the completion of: (1) Theatre District Living and Learning Neighborhood, (2) Pepper Canyon West

and (3) Ridge Walk North Living and Learning Neighborhood. There are aggressive efforts being made by the University to expand student housing with a goal to provide a four-year housing guarantee (presently two years) at below market rates. Development of faculty and staff housing is also a campus priority and several locations are being considered. This term, the Committee can expect agenda items regarding Faculty/Staff Housing and Pepper Canyon East Student Housing.

Clossin shared current and upcoming non-housing capital projects, including Triton Center, Multi-Disciplinary Life Sciences Building (MDLS), Science Research Park, and continued development of the Hillcrest LRDP. This term, the Committee can expect agenda items regarding a new Multipurpose Research Facility and the new hospital at Hillcrest and other healthcare initiatives in La Jolla. Additional agenda items the Committee can anticipate include: MDLS, RIMAC Renovation and Expansion, Update to the 2018 LRDP, Campus Retail Study Update and Climate Action Plan and Decarbonization Study.

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