

CAMPUS/COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 16, 2023 Meeting

PRESENT

Adrienne Gallo (Committee Co-Chair)
Belinda Zamacona
Cristiana Winter
Drew Hunsinger
Elizabeth Winzeler
Emily Ryzak
Eric Halgren
Francisco Salinas
John Hughes
Kadaveru Sreevatsank
Ken Hall
Kevin Hovland
Michael Salas
Richard Garfein
Tara Cameron

ABSENT

Mohan Paturi
Robert Brill (Committee Co-Chair)

CAMPUS PLANNING STAFF

Amy Ly
April Alarcón
Ingrid Stromberg
Jennifer Mora
Rae Hartigan
Robert Clossin
Todd Pitman

GUESTS/CONSULTANTS

Campus Police – Lamine Secka & Roberto Meza
Capital Project Management – Matt Smith
Facilities Management – Bryan Hooks & Jason Kayne
RMP-Project Quality Management – Walt Kanzler
Recreation – Rich Mylin
Transportation Services – Curt Lutz
Real Estate – James Golde (on behalf of Jeff Graham)
VC-RMP – Steve Jackson

Bandak Project Management – Niklas Bandak & Sean Campbell
HGW Architecture – Eric Wendlandt & Jim Gabriel
OJB Landscape Architects – Alex Nagel

BUSINESS ITEM – APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved without further comment.

COMMENT ITEM – BIRCH AQUARIUM LIVING SEAS & HUSBANDRY PROJECT SCHEMATIC DESIGN (Rae Hartigan, Aaron Cooley, HGW Architecture & OJB Landscape Architects)

Rae Hartigan explained this project was introduced to the Committee last month as part of the presentation of the Aquarium's planned capital improvement program that will be split into multiple projects. This project will renovate the interior of the Hall of Fishes (now called Living Seas) exhibit and renovate and expand the Husbandry Arts spaces. Hartigan explained this project will provide long needed facility upgrades and new back of house space to support the aquariums animal husbandry needs, enhance the visitor experience, and educate the public on the mission of the Aquarium and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The schematic design is being presented for Committee comment to the Design Review Board (DRB).

Alex Nagel explained this project will target the northwest portion of the facility and improvements to the Husbandry Arts space could overlap a small portion of Open Space Preserve Restoration Lands.

Jim Gabriel explained the Living Seas component of the project will be all interior work at the Hall of Fishes exhibit that includes refinished walls, floors and ceilings, new exhibits and entryway enhancements. Gabriel explained the Husbandry Arts space will receive interior and exterior work, including an upgraded interior space for lab support (350 SF), an upgraded husbandry shed (1,200 SF), a new coral culture greenhouse (400 SF), an upgraded chiller and heater enclosure and an outdoor gathering area with approximately 1,200 square feet of decomposed granite gravel and 600 square feet of shade. Materials include painted stucco walls and steel, standing seam metal roofing, fabric tensile shades and colors reflective of the site's natural environment. Building heights do not exceed 18.5 feet. The Husbandry Arts space will be a semi-private space to support enhanced experiences for small groups and staff opportunities for rest and gathering.

Nagel elaborated on the existing project site, describing there are currently Eucalyptus trees, Coastal Live Oak and Torrey Pines at the facility's northwest corner. The Husbandry Arts space will plant three new Torrey Pines, along with native and endemic planting. Hardscape materials will include decomposed granite gravel, boulders and stone slabs. An 8-foot Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) barrier made of wire rope mesh will be required to protect the greenhouse and will be strategically positioned to avoid any obstruction of western ocean views.

Todd Pitman shared comments from the Open Space Committee's (OSC) review of this project. The OSC urged the project team to include native planting and tie back into existing efforts on campus, particularly the student-led effort to become a "bee friendly" campus. The OSC reminded the project team that planted areas within and abutting the OSP must be completely native species, preferably local endemic plants where possible. The OSC also reminded the project team of the sensitive nature of the Aquarium and surrounding landscape that will require carefully pre-defined construction methodologies and monitoring measures to ensure protection. Furthermore, the OSC suggested the design team provide a cross-sectional visual of the site's western slope to

better communicate the intent and impact of the fence and trees planted. OSC members also asked the project team to stay mindful of universal design principles in this public, slope-side setting. Lastly, OSC members voiced their appreciation for the design's inclusion of a shade structure.

Hartigan shared comments from the Marine Sciences Physical Planning Committee's (MSPPC) review of this project: the MSPPC reminded the project team that stormwater management should be designed to avoid any impacts to the sensitive habitat that is downslope of the project.

At discussion the design team confirmed the decomposed granite gravel gathering space is approximately 1,200 square feet, and the shade canopy is approximately 600 square feet. The project team also followed up on a question from last month's presentation regarding solar power for the facility: the University is not targeting this location for solar power, but does not object to the project providing solar. Robert Clossin noted that the existing BAS facility does have rooftop solar PV already installed. The design team is now looking at adding solar to improvements in the South Courtyard (separate from the Living Seas and Husbandry project). The Committee voiced their appreciation of a rest area for staff. The Committee also reiterated the importance of the OSC's comment on considering constructability with the adjacent open space in order to foresee potential impacts to sensitive habitat or Open Space Preserve, and determine solutions well in advance. Finally it was noted that before construction the project will require a coastal development permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission, who may provide further input into the design.

The Committee was supportive of the Birch Aquarium Living Seas & Husbandry project schematic design, and provided the following comments:

1. The Committee requested the project team carefully define construction methodologies and monitoring measures well before the project start to mitigate any additional impacts to trees, sensitive habitat or Open Space Preserve.

BUSINESS ITEM – RIMAC EXPANSION & RENOVATION (April Alarcón)

April Alarcón shared upcoming upgrades to RIMAC alongside Rich Mylin and Matt Smith. Alarcón explained RIMAC is in the La Jolla campus, within the North Campus neighborhood. The facility is targeted for renovation and expansion to accommodate the growing campus population, increase space availability and enhance recreational offerings. In the 4-floor facility, levels 2-4 will be renovated and levels 3 and 4 will be expanded. Alarcón elaborated on the expansion, explaining the building footprint will increase approximately 5,300 square feet at the northwest corner, where there is currently shaded seating and queuing space for the facility. The project will need to continue to provide this existing amenity within the new design. The expansion will shift the entrance at level 3 west, closer to Ridge Walk, and expand upper level 4. Alarcón explained this project will return to the C/CPC for comment on schematic design at a future meeting. The project is within the Coastal Zone and will require Coastal Commission review and a coastal development permit (CDP).

At discussion, Smith shared the project is anticipated to be phased in order to successfully continue RIMAC's operation through construction. Smith confirmed the design team is considering impacts to entrance access and queuing, in coordination with the Campus Events Office, for campus wide events such as Commencement and

Sun God. Mylin confirmed that entrance access and queuing for Athletics events will not be impacted as they will continue to utilize the entry on the northern edge of RIMAC, not the western edge that is to be expanded. Smith shared that enhanced bike parking is not currently part of the program, but can be brought to the design team. The project aims to start Summer 2024 and is anticipated for completion Fall 2026.

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