

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

BOULDER CAMPUS PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 1999

The Boulder Campus Planning Commission met on Thursday, December 9, 1999, in the Chancellor's Conference Room, Regent 302.

Members present were: Jim Baily, Al Bartlett, Tom Carson, Anne Costain, John Crittenden, Adrian Del Caro, Archie Demarest, Bill Deno, Larry Drees, Bill Herbstreit, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dianna Keeler, Michael Lightner, Jeff Lipton, Robin Newsome-Suitts, Dale Oesterle, Brook Stableford, and William Arndt.

Members absent were: Noel Cummings, Stephen Lester, Uriel Nauenberg, and Dan Pabon.

Guests present were: Jack DeBell, UCSU Environmental Center; Louise Grauer, City of Boulder Planning Department; Rob Kohrman, Central Administration; Roz Oscarson, Facilities Management; Judith Sanders, City of Boulder Transportation Division; Phil Simpson, Facilities Planning; Michele Van Pelt, Financial and Business Services; Susan Walsh, Facilities Planning; and Martin Walter, Boulder Faculty Assembly.

1. **MINUTES** -- On a motion by Bartlett, seconded by Del Caro, the minutes of the meeting of November 11, 1999, were unanimously approved as written.
2. **CHAIR'S REPORT** -- Oesterle introduced new member Dianna Keeler, who replaces Erin Coker as a representative of the UCSU.

As a follow up to a report when he was BCPC Chair, Jones discussed the MCD Biology Teaching Labs project, which had been proposed for last year's capital construction request list and later taken off. Jones announced that he had received word from the Chancellor that funding had been identified to complete this project.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN** -- Oesterle noted that the BCPC will make its recommendation on this matter to the Chancellor, as may other groups and committees. The BCPC may recommend to adopt, reject, or accept with specialized exceptions. Lipton handed out his proposed motion to accept the Master Plan with a series of suggested changes. He noted that the Master Plan had been in preparation for nearly three years, is intended to be inclusive, addresses many constituencies, and has been through extensive review and revision. He offered his motion to approve, which was seconded by Jones. Lipton's proposed motion is attached to these minutes as Appendix I.

Oesterle said he would entertain written amendments to this motion on the floor.

- Bartlett offered the following amendment:

The Campus Master Plan has a time horizon of ten years, and the contents of the Plan are appropriate for this short time span. The BCPC feels that it is urgent that an appendix be added to the Plan to show numerically the implications and consequences over a longer time span, such as the next 100 years, of the continuation of present trends in such things as growth of enrollment, student housing, annual dollars of contracts and grants, campus employment of faculty and staff, expansion of the area of the campus, density of buildings on the campus, commuting distances of faculty, staff, and students, utility consumption rates, and rates of waste generation. The magnitudes of these extrapolated figures will strongly suggest that the present growth trends cannot continue for another 100 years, and this recognition should figure prominently in the present Plan in future plans.

Lipton said he would not accept this as a friendly amendment, noting that this much information could take considerable time to compile. Baily commented that such numbers projected that far into the future could be easily misrepresented by the public and by the media. Bartlett withdrew the amendment. Lightner noted that such a document would be valuable and could be assembled independent of the Master Plan.

- Bartlett offered another amendment to replace Item 8 in Lipton's motion:

The University of Colorado at Boulder has world-class atmospheric research programs which study the possible harmful global effects of the rising concentration in the Earth's atmosphere of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide. The University also is a major local source of these greenhouse gases which come from plant emissions, and from the emissions of University vehicles, including those of staff, students, and faculty. Because of the prominence of the University in these studies of the global atmosphere, the University has a special obligation in its planning to set an example of civic responsibility by making ongoing major efforts to reduce the University's total annual emissions of greenhouse gases.

The BCPC recommends that the Campus Master Plan should make a prominent expression of a long-term commitment to major programs designed to reduce the University's total annual emissions of greenhouse gases.

Bartlett's amendment was seconded by Stableford. Herbstreit suggested removing the second sentence. With this sentence removed Lipton accepted the amendment as friendly.

- Newsome-Suitts offered the following amendment:

Strengthen the section on the process for review of individual projects as they move into and through the process. Each project should be challenged on the basis of need, financial feasibility, and priority.

Baily noted that there is already language on process in Chapter 5 of the Plan. Carson expressed concern about causing further delay in an already complicated process. Lipton said he would not accept this amendment as friendly. Oesterle asked for a second, and hearing none the amendment failed.

- Oesterle offered the following amendment:

The language of Section IV.E.8.f (IV. Land and Facilities Plan; E. Transportation Plan; 8. Automobile Parking; f. Goals and Guidelines) be changed to include a goal of eliminating all but disabled access parking inside the core campus area, to replace the parking with parking lots and structures on the periphery of the campus, and to fill in the parking lots so eliminated (and the corresponding unnecessary streets) with grass and foot and bike trails.

Lipton said he would not accept this amendment as friendly. Oesterle asked for a second, and hearing none the amendment failed.

- With no further written amendments being offered, Oesterle asked for a discussion of the full motion. Kohrman said that he felt that Item 6, dealing with Athletics Projects, was too specific. Deno suggested adding at the beginning the words "When facilities are proposed such as" Crittenden said that the item was still too specific to Athletics, and situations like this could occur with other projects. Newsome-Suits said situations like this should be routinely addressed in program plans. Lightner said that the specificity to Athletics was good, because this has been a recurring concern of the BCPC. Walter (representing the Boulder Faculty Assembly in Nauenberg's absence) concurred.

Lipton accepted the following changes as a friendly amendment:

When facilities are proposed, such as the Intercollegiate Athletics fieldhouse and stadium improvements that require the relocation of any existing facilities such as the recycling operation facility, the replacement of the facility should be fully funded by the project, and there should be no interruption in campus services.

- Oesterle agreed to accept a proposed amendment from Walter, on behalf of Nauenberg:

A sentence should be added to Item 4 as follows: "Parking facilities should have a lower priority than structures which house people or research and teaching facilities."

Lipton accepted this amendment as friendly.

- Demarest proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by Bartlett. The following sentence would be added to Item 1:

The University should explore with the City of Boulder the possibility of vacating University Avenue between Broadway and 17th Street.

Lightner said that closure of the street would put added stress on Arapahoe Avenue and the area around Boulder High School. Herbstreit felt that this would add a contentious aspect to relations with the City. Lipton would not accept this amendment as friendly. Since it had been seconded, a vote was called, and the amendment failed.

- Stableford proposed that a sentence be restored to Item 6 concerning the Recycling Center and its need for sufficient room for planned expansions and the need for ready access for student employees and class tours. Lipton said that he could not accept this amendment as friendly, because he felt it was inappropriate at the Master Plan level, but should rather be an important part of the program planning phase. Stableford withdrew the proposed amendment.

DeBell continued the discussion about the possible move of the Recycling Center if the Athletics project became a reality. He felt that the Master Plan did not adequately protect the needs of the Recycling Center and its programs. Crittenden again suggested that Item 6 was too specific for a Master Plan and proposed that it be removed entirely from Lipton's list. Lipton accepted this as a friendly amendment.

Baily offered to remedy the concerns of BCPC members about the issues outlined in Item 6 by making an editing change in the text of the Master Plan. In the section on Athletics Capital Improvements, he will add a sentence specifically stating that the relocation of the recycling operations would be part of the proposed new fieldhouse project.

- Oesterle then called for a vote on Lipton's main motion to approve the Master Plan. The motion was approved unanimously. A copy of the final motion as approved is attached to these minutes as Appendix II.
- Lipton congratulated everyone who had worked on the Master Plan, and offered the following motion, which was seconded by Bartlett:

WHEREAS Jim Baily has served with distinction as a member of the Facilities Planning staff since 1985, and

WHEREAS Jim set aside his regular duties in March of 1997 to serve as Master Plan Coordinator, and

WHEREAS Jim has expended considerable time and effort on all aspects of preparation of the new Campus Master Plan, including scheduling and meeting deadlines; working with faculty, staff, students, administrators, and regents at the University; working with consultants, government officials, private citizens, and other interested persons in the community; supervising the preparation of maps, graphs, and tables; and writing the final text; and

WHEREAS, during all aspects of the Master Plan project Jim has exhibited a commendable level of professionalism, sensitivity, and sincere personal dedication to the goals of excellence in campus planning.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Boulder Campus Planning Commission wishes to congratulate Jim Baily for his work on the Master Plan and for his on-going commitment to the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **UNIVERSITY AVENUE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS** -- Deno reported that the move of Journalism to the Armory Building on University Avenue has increased the need to improve pedestrian safety for persons crossing that street from the main campus. As University Avenue is a City street, the University is working with the City to plan upgrades. Deno introduced Judith Sanders from the City Transportation Planning Office.

Sanders noted that this project had been the topic of a public meeting to solicit input and ideas. She presented a list of proposed improvements, including *curb extensions* (viable), *pedestrian refuge medians* (viable), *signals and/or stop signs* (not warranted at this time), *raised features* (not endorsed by the Fire Department), *grade separations* (no funding at present but viable for the future), *change to one-way street* (would require significant study; perhaps in the long-term), and *full closure* (would have significant impact; needs study). Sanders presented four concept alternatives on display boards:

- (1) Curb extensions at 15th Street and realigned crossing with median at 17th Street
- (2) Curb extensions at 13th and 15th Streets and realigned crossing with median at 17th Street.
- (3) Curb extensions with full block medians and realigned crossing at 17th Street.
- (4) Curb extensions with partial medians and realigned crossing at 17th Street.

Sanders noted that changes in this area would also impact the University Hill General Improvement District (UHGID). Currently, UHGID receives a portion of the revenues from the parking meters on this section of University Avenue, and the change from diagonal to parallel parking -- or elimination of parking completely -- would reduce maintenance funds for the Hill.

Sanders pointed out on the display boards that whatever the City does needs to be coordinated with the campus. Campus paths, for instance, need to line up with appropriate pedestrian crossings. The biggest change on the campus side would be the elimination of the sidewalk from the top of the hill between Macky and McKenna through the glen below the Varsity Lake dam. Kaempfer asked about the resultant changes in topography, and Deno noted that the changes were possible, and would greatly improve the situation. Baily said that there are existing retaining walls in the area, and trees which are in poor condition are scheduled to be removed anyway. Deno noted that this area is impacted not only by students during day, but by large crowds coming and going from events at Macky.

Sanders noted that potential changes to the 13th Street intersection could be accomplished in a future phase. For some time there has been a suggestion to move the Koenig driveway to align with 13th Street. Carson asked about jaywalking in this area. Deno said that it had lessened since Continuing Education moved out of the facilities at 1221-29 University. Bartlett asked if the diagonal parking could be changed so that cars backed in.

It was moved by Bartlett, seconded by Del Caro, that the BCPC endorse Alternative 2, with the recommendation that back-in parking be studied further. The motion was approved 7 in favor, 1 against, and 4 abstentions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Minutes submitted by William Arndt.

Appendix I:**MOTION AS PROPOSED BY LIPTON**

Motion to approve the draft of the CU-Boulder *Campus Master Plan* as final (assuming there will be many minor non-substantive edits and typographical corrections) with the following recommended changes in order to strengthen the Plan:

1. The amount of parking in the Grandview micro-master plan should be considered and an emphasis on alternative modes of transportation increased. The University and the City should continue to work together to improve vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation and access for the area.
2. The appearance and aesthetics of the proposed Grandview parking structure as seen from below the bluff should be more strongly considered.
3. The *Campus Master Plan* should strengthen its emphasis on the use of xeriscaping and the use of drought tolerant plantings in order to minimize the use of raw water resources and maintenance.
4. The *Campus Master Plan* should encourage a greater use of alternative modes of transportation to help reduce vehicular use and to retain the student, faculty, and staff bus pass programs. In addition, it should be added that a transportation hierarchy should be maintained of: (1) pedestrians and the disabled, (2) bicycles, (3) mass transit, and (4) automobiles.
5. Proposed facility program plans for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics should receive careful financial review and feasibility analysis. These facility plans should not detract from academic priorities or consume an inappropriate amount of Campus debt capacity.
6. If the proposed Intercollegiate Athletics fieldhouse and stadium improvements require the relocation of the existing recycling operation facility, the replacement of the facility should be fully funded by Athletics, and there should be no interruption in campus recycling services. The new site should have sufficient room for planned expansion, and the new facility should retain ready access for student employees and class tours.
7. In the section on hazardous materials, it should be added that CU-Boulder should minimize the production of hazardous waste through education, inventory, tracking, and the intra-campus exchange.
8. In the section on outdoor air quality, it should be added that CU-Boulder increase the use of vehicles incorporating the use of innovative technologies such as electric and hybrid-electric for propulsion where feasible. This section should also state that the Campus should strive to minimize CO₂ production by campus and related activities.
9. In the sections on solid waste management or site accessories, it should be added that outdoor trash containers should be replaced with solid waste stations, allowing for disposal of both trash and recyclables.

10. In the section on campus infrastructure, it should be added that the environmental impacts associated with the acquisition, production, and distribution of campus utilities should be minimized.

Appendix II:**MOTION AS APPROVED BY THE B C P C**

Motion to approve the draft of the CU-Boulder *Campus Master Plan* as final (assuming there will be many minor non-substantive edits and typographical corrections) with the following recommended changes in order to strengthen the Plan:

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