

Campus Development Committee
February 8, 2022
1:30pm
Via Zoom

Present: Liza Morris (presiding), Wendy Halsey, Jeri Baker, Paul Winistorfer, Steve Thompson, Vivica Kraak, Annabelle Fuselier, Obianna Ugwu, Rosemary Blieszner, Ted Faulkner, Bruce Harper

Absent with Notice: Ross Verbrugge, Pam Vickers

Absent: Sharan Patnik, Jeff Earley

Guests: Jeff Orzolek, Joe Cooley

Liza Morris called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. A quorum was present.

1. Committee Business

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 5, 2021 meeting's minutes.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 2, 2021 meeting's minutes.
- Liza Morris updated the committee on the change in staffing. Jeff Orzolek Will now provide support for the committee
- Liza Morris reminded the committee of the upcoming deadline to submit nominations for various university awards

2. Membership Updates

- There is currently one vacancy on the committee. The vacancy is from the Faculty Senate and efforts are being made to identify a replacement.

3. Presentation(s)

- Liza Morris Presented on the Capital Project Design Preview – Life, Health, Safety, Accessibility & Code Compliance
 - The project is the first priority of 3 priority projects submitted to the State to enhance accessibility in the North Academic District. The State provided partial funding under the last biennium. Virginia Tech has requested additional funding to complete all 3 projects.
 - This first priority project consist of two two-stop elevator structures. The first set provides a direct accessible route from the Perry Street level/base of Derring steps to the intermediate level at Derring/Cowgill. The second set provides a direct accessible route from the intermediate level to the Tech Square/Burruss level.
 - The upper glass portion of each structure will act as a lantern during the early morning and evening hours, to enhance wayfinding to the route.
 - A question was raised about the ability to enclose the corridor landing of Derring Hall.
 - To consider that as a possibility, an extensive study of the building would need to be conducted. The building is currently on the 6-year plan for a major renovation.
 - The exterior envelope is currently being studied and requires repairs to the masonry building envelope.
 - Lighting and snow/ice removal (especially around railings and entrances) were discussed as potential concerns
 - Both elements will be taken into consideration during preliminary design. The doors in the precast bases are to be inset into the frame. Other alternatives will be considered for the upper doors in the glass portion.

4. Future Site Visit

- The committee would like to do a site tour of the Quarry in April. Wendy Halsey will help with the coordination.

5. Other Business

- Several concerns were raised about the current pedestrian traffic conditions near all of the construction in the North Academic District. Specific concerns included muddy conditions, construction traffic, drainage and accessibility.
 - These issues are currently being addressed through a collaborative effort including Virginia Tech and the Town of Blacksburg. A paved temporary sidewalk and additional lighting have been installed and the drainage issues are being considered for potential solutions.
 - The long-term goal is to provide better connectivity to all of the buildings in that area.
- General concerns were raised about pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic on campus. Specifically, Poor lighting at crosswalks, narrowing sidewalks, bicycle paths
 - These issues will continue to be addressed through a variety of means.
 - An evening safety walk was suggested for the CDC as an annual fall event, as a good opportunity to identify issues.
 - Liza Morris mentioned there had been an annual event organized by others in prior years, but it had not occurred during the pandemic years.
 - Capital projects are able to make site related ADA improvements during construction but they must stay within their limits of work and legislative intent.
 - Other funding sources are requested and periodically available to correct and connect other areas of campus. Plans include the Infinite Loop and Green Links to create a network of accessible routes across campus.
 - A bicycle path is being planned for Washington Street when the street is repaved. Questions were raised regarding the impact to parking, and Jeri Baker confirmed that the bicycle lane would change the on-street parking.
- Questions were asked about the management of the scooters on campus because they have been left blocking sidewalks
 - This is a research project that is being managed by VTTI. They have now designated geo-fence “parking zones” for the scooters that should help alleviate some of the issues. The project runs through the spring semester and the data collected will be used to determine the future of the scooter service.

6. Adjournment

- The next committee meeting will be held on March 1, 2022 and will be conducted via Zoom.
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.