Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council for the Built Environment  
September 23, 2014

I. Attendance

A. Voting Members
   1. Present: David Lunt, Tom Reber, Jorge Vanegas, Emil Straube, Elizabeth Tebeaux, Amanda Mather, Erin Simmons, Brandon Valenta
   2. Absent: Glen Laine, K. Banks
B. Non-voting Members
   1. Present: N. K. Anand, Penny Riggs, Courtney Charanza, Christopher Lyons, Joseph Benigno
   2. Absent: None
C. Ex-officio Members
   1. Present: Karan Watson, James Massey, Ralph Davila, Lilia Gonzales, Kevin Hurley, Matt Fry, Deborah Wright, David Morrison, Richard Gentry
   2. Absent: Jerry Strawser
D. Guests
   1. Shelly Janac

II. Call to Order: Co-Chair Watson

A. Co-Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

III. Updates and Announcements

A. Due to schedule conflicts, the next CBE Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, at 8:00 a.m. in MSC 2406-A
B. Introductions were made of the 2014-15 CBE committee members.
C. Dr. Watson gave a brief discussion on the history, purpose, and member structure of the CBE.
D. Dr. Watson asked that the CBE consider ways for more strategic conversations to improve input and recommendations to the President on what needs to happen in the Built Environment. Examples include a sub-council (such as the Art Policy Review Group that is working on establishing guidelines), form a university task force, or taking forums on the road. These suggestions will be discussed at the next CBE meeting.
E. The August minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.

IV. Presentations by Sub-Councils

A. Memorial Plaza Adjacent to Corps Arches
The Corps of Cadets is seeking approval of a creation of a "Memorial Plaza" adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the QUAD. This plaza would encompass the repositioning of war monuments located around campus. Specifically, World War One and The Spanish American War. The proposed site will also allow for any future war monuments, and serve an aesthetically pleasing and functional focal point for these symbols of Aggie sacrifice and commitment to service. This "Memorial Plaza" will create an honored place on our vast campus that will be well known and utilized to serve as a source of pride for the early contributions and sacrifices towards human liberty by our students, and faculty and staff.

- **Design Review Sub-Council (DRsc)**
  The DRsc reviewed the request from the Corps of Cadets for the creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the Quad. This request is to proceed forward with the project concept. In this request, the WWI and Spanish American War monuments would be relocated to the area across from the existing WWII monument with the creation of the Memorial Plaza. Military related plaques that are currently scattered across campus could be incorporated into the plaza, and any future war monuments could potentially be located within the new plaza.

  This request is in alignment with the Corps of Cadets District Plan (page 19). The Corps of Cadets believes that consolidation of the monuments and plaques to this area would create a destination place and improve access to war monuments for all students and visitors. They intend to use existing benches and install lighting. Paving patterns and landscaping would adhere to campus standards.

  DRsc members discussed possibilities for reinforcing the formality of the plaza design through symmetry and axis alignment with the WWII monument. This could possibly include combining the location of the WWI and Spanish American War monuments into one paved area, in lieu of the two separate paved areas as shown in concept.

  DRsc members unanimously voted to recommend approval of the concept for the creation of a Memorial Plaza, including the relocation of the WWI and Spanish American War monuments, with the following comments:

  - DRsc members expressed concern with the plaza becoming too dense in the future if other monuments are added.
  - Design team should consider reinforcing the formality of the plaza through symmetry and axis alignment with the WWII monument.
  - The DRsc anticipates further review of the project at 100% Schematic Design, in accordance with DRsc procedures.

- **Technical Review Sub-Council (TRsc)**
  The TRsc reviewed the proposal of the Creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches and recommends approval, if it is delayed until the Fall of 2015 to allow utility work to be completed.

  **Facilities Services:**
  The design team needs to ensure that the project does not increase the rate of storm runoff into local creeks.
The project team should coordinate with Grounds Management for landscaping and irrigation concerns.

Utility & Energy Services:
It should be noted that when the Corp Dorm renovation begins, UES will be traversing the plaza area with large scale utility and telecommunication utilities.

The main point we want to convey is that it would not make sense to invest in significant improvements in the Memorial Plaza right before UES performs major excavation to install utility infrastructure. The corridor route maps shows the major piping and infrastructure routing, but there are also other smaller utility lines to residence halls in the vicinity that will likely also have to be installed, resulting in even more excavation in the plaza. Planned schedule for installation of the utility corridor is Summer 2015. Funding for approved project is in place, but date could change if development plans change.

Further development or improvements of the plaza area itself should be refrained pending the completion of this project.

The project and design team will need to follow the TAMU policy on digging on campus prior to any excavation.

EHS and SASE:
Any plaza renovations must ensure that university lighting standards are met for those added features.

Action/Recommendation: The CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President’s approval of the Corps of Cadets request for the creation of a "Memorial Plaza" adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the QUAD.

Responsible Party: Co-Chair Watson

B. Parsons Mounted Cavalry Site Renovation Project Proposal

The Corps of Cadets is requesting a renovation of and additional construction for facilities that support the existing Parsons Mounted Cavalry site. The completion of this project will greatly enhance the mounted Cavalry's ability to achieve its mission in support of the Corps and the University. It will also bring much needed safety, health and code improvements to the operations at the PMC "Green".

- Design Review Sub-Council (DRsc)
The DRsc reviewed the request from the Corps of Cadets for improvements to the Parsons Mounted Cavalry (PMC) site, located west of FM 2818 at the F&B Road intersection. The improvements include replacement of exterior fencing, building renovation, demolition of existing buildings, construction of new barns, and relocation of the parking area.

The existing perimeter fence was built by cadets in the 1980’s and is unsatisfactory given the heavy traffic on FM 2818. In addition, PMC has reached an agreement with Animal Science
and the Polo Team for the use of 18 acres which adjoin the existing PMC site. The additional acreage will provide much needed pasture area for the horses. New interior fencing around the expanded perimeter of the PMC site is intended to prevent feral hogs and stray dogs from entering the site.

The proposed perimeter and interior fencing is comprised of woven horse wire enhanced with an electric interior wire, with welded steel corners and H-braces. This is not in alignment with the white vinyl fencing used around the AgriLife and Veterinary Medicine areas on the east side of FM 2818. PMC representatives are sensitive to the university’s desire to present a cohesive look, but believe the white vinyl fence is not appropriate for their needs in terms of functionality, and believe their budget is insufficient to install both types of fences.

In alignment with the October 2, 2012 DRsc recommendation for the Equine Facility, DRsc members believe that the white vinyl fencing is an essential part of the university’s branding to denote the agricultural areas of the campus, and believe that this is appropriate for all university agriculture areas in the future. It is the intent of the sub-council to pursue the use of this fencing as a long-term goal.

The project proposal also includes the addition of a 120’x60’ pre-engineered metal building with an attached 120’x60’ covered area. The proposed facility would be accessed off F&B Road, which will become the main entrance. One side of the new facility will be air-conditioned and will provide saddle and tack room areas, restrooms, small office area, meeting room, and storage space for ammunition and weapons. The adjoining side will be a large covered open area for grooming and tacking horses and cadet physical training. The existing tack room facility will be demolished, and the existing wagon will be upgraded. A new parking area and entrance will be constructed off of F&B Road. The parking area along 2818 will be removed as part of the project.

DRsc members unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Parsons Mounted Cavalry site improvements as proposed, with the following caveats:

- Installation of the white vinyl fencing at the perimeter along FM 2818 & F&B Road in addition to the fencing as proposed.
- Exterior color of the pre-engineered metal building is to be consistent with other facilities in the area, such as the Equine Complex. Color samples should be provided to the DRsc Chair for final review and approval. Final color selections and exterior materials, including window glazing, shall be submitted to the DRsc for approval, in accordance with DRsc procedures.

- Technical Review Sub-council (TRsc)
  The TRsc supports the proposed Parsons Mounted Calvary Site Renovation and recommends approval, provided the following issues/concerns are addressed and funded.

Facilities Services:
The design team needs to ensure that the project does not increase the rate of storm runoff into local creeks.

The project team should coordinate with Grounds Management for landscaping and irrigation concerns.
The project team should ensure that the facility is designed to minimize, as much as practical, the effort needed for future maintenance. It is preferred that items requiring maintenance be easy to service, be easily accessible from ground or floor level, have generous clearances and be easy to isolate from energy sources with minimal impact to the rest of the facility. Elevated items requiring maintenance that are difficult to service by ladder or lift should have permanent maintenance access platforms with permanent stairs or ladders, built-in fall prevention, and davits for hoisting parts and tools.

Utility & Energy Services:
Domestic Cold Water- UES has a 6 inch domestic cold water line near the site and for fire protection purposes, the project needs to connect the fire protection system directly to the UES 6" domestic cold water line.

Sanitary Sewer- UES has a sanitary sewer lift station located near Dick Freeman arena. The project needs to connect to the sanitary sewer service at this lift station. If there is insufficient fall, we can discuss alternatives.

The project and design team will need to follow the applicable TAMU UES Design Standards and the TAMU policy on digging on campus prior to any excavation.

The project will need to apply for the disconnection/connection to utility services.

EHS and SASE:
The enclosed portions of new buildings must include a fire alarm system and a fire suppression system.

A security system(s) and access control must be established as necessary to satisfy requirements for storage of ammunition and cannons.

Exterior lighting must satisfy university lighting standards for safety and security.

Discussion:

- The horses and trucks currently exit the premises on 2818 where there is heavy traffic. This will change the exit to F&B where there is less traffic.
- In the documentation, “PMC has reached an agreement with Animal Science and the Polo Team for the use of 18 acres which adjoin the existing PMC site,” however, it was not submitted in writing from either entity. The PMC, which falls under the Division of Student Affairs, is not an entity that has been delegated space. The PMC has an agreement with Animal Science to utilize the space. Therefore, an agreement, in writing, is needed from Animal Science and/or the Dean from the College of Agriculture.
- There are concerns about finding the funding for the white vinyl fencing. Funds are not available to adhere to the DRsc’s recommendations. The discussion was open to how to proceed.
  - White vinyl fencing is aesthetically pleasing but is not effective for agricultural property.
  - Fencing would only be along 2818 and not the entire 18 acres.
  - There is no data on what the actual cost would be to install the fencing. Who would fund the cost of the fencing?
Action/Recommendation: The CBE voted unanimously table the project until costs and funding sources are outlined, and until documentation has been received from Animal Science and Student Affairs on who has assignment to the land as well as the agreement for PMC’s usage of the land.

Responsible Party: Co-Chair Watson

C. Kyle Field Stadium Renovation – West Side Monuments
   The DRsc reviewed the Core Values Monument and the conceptual design for the Founders Monument.

Core Values Monument
The intent of the Core Values Monument is to highlight the history and tradition of Texas A&M. The proposal is for a 24 foot tall allegorical sculpture by artist James Muir to tell the story of Texas A&M’s core values.

DRsc members voted to recommend approval of the Core Values Monument with the following caveats:
- Re-evaluation of space around the monument to be able to view it as a single gesture before viewing of the details. Suggestions would be the removal of the surrounding trees and providing sufficient spatial distance from the Founders Monuments.
- Provide greater formal clarity and conceptual cohesion of the monument by constructing the entire monument and details in limestone with the exception of the figures and book, and through elimination of the abstract elements such as the columns (the six and the four).
- Elimination of the rough cut ashlar stones surrounding the monument.
- The DRsc still has concerns with the interaction between the limestone and bronze. The suggestion is to utilize a leuders limestone and consider a treatment of the limestone.
- Concern on the interactive concept of the piece and suggest engaging Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). After consultation with EHS and given the likelihood that individuals will climb, special provisions and reinforcements will need to be incorporated into the design of the bronze elements. Special attention needs to be considered at the arm extension, and the joints/connection points of the figures to one another. In addition, the design should discourage would-be climbers from going above a reasonable height. While it may be impossible to prevent some individuals from climbing higher, a comfortable climbing height should not afford easy access above the 3’ pedestal or the extended hand/arm (7-8’).
- Details regarding the plaque should be submitted to the DRsc for review, which shall include size, verbiage and exact location. The plaque must be reviewed against the Texas A&M Plaque Policy.
- Provide a hose bib for cleaning and maintenance in close proximity to the sculpture.

Since these DRsc recommendations were provided to the project team, two additional elements have been added to the monument: an additional tier and an A&M logo. The artist has emphasized their necessity to the balance, symbolism and composition of the piece. Please note that the artist is still detailing the ring bas-reliefs in bronze for two reasons. One, in order to read as a gold ring and two, he does not believe stone will work as well artistically, visually or symbolically.

Discussion:
• There is an issue with a single female being represented on the monument.
• Could the Book of Truth be eliminated? The artist feels very strongly that the Book of Truth is imperative to the concept and vision. However, it appears that “truth” is introducing a 7th core value. Also, it could be construed as a religious reference.
• Is this appropriate for placement at Kyle Field?
• Why are particular majors represented to represent each of the core values? All Aggies have these core values.
• The height of the statue is a safety issue.
• The statue has already been commissioned by the 12th Man Foundation.

Founders Monuments
The intent of the twelve founder’s monuments is to honor the large monetary donors of the stadium in a significant way. The proposed monuments are to be constructed of a pre-cast or limestone base with brick above, similar to the stadium. In the middle of the masonry will be a metal piece which would preferably depict a bas-relief of the donor couple. If this is not possible, then it could depict a symbol or wording to describe what is important to the donor in regard to TAMU. The monuments are approximately 10’ high, but can be reduced in size.

DRsc members voted to recommend approval of the concept for the twelve Founders Monuments with the following caveats:
• Recommend approval of the concept with a request for the opportunity to provide early input in regard to artist selection and further development of the monuments. Consideration for design revisions such as the removal of the brick surrounds.
• Re-evaluation of the location and scale of the monuments to provide spatial distance from Core Values Monument such as holding the plane of the parking garages (if approved) in order to define a “courtyard” space around the Core Values Monument.
• Coordination between the Founders Monuments and the Core Values Monument so they appear to be of the same artistic vision.
• Recommend not using portraits of the founders, but the sub-council is open to selection of a symbol or some other means to honor these donors in a significant fashion.

Discussion:
• How many statues are being put up at Kyle Field? It appears the West End is being cluttered with statues.
• The size and location of the monuments are taking up walking space between parking and the stadium.
• The University has other large donors who are not recognized in a similar way.

Action/Recommendation: The CBE voted unanimously to NOT recommend the President’s approval of the Core Values Monument at Kyle Field and the conceptual design for the Founders Monuments.

Responsible Party: Co-Chair Watson

V. Meeting adjourned 2:20 p.m.