Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the  
Council for the Built Environment  
October 10, 2014

I. Attendance

A. Voting Members
   1. Present: David Lunt, Tom Reber, Katherine Banks, Jorge Vanegas, Emil Straube, Erin Simmons, Brandon Valenta
   2. Absent: Glen Laine, Elizabeth Tebeaux, Amanda Mather,

B. Non-voting Members
   1. Present: N. K. Anand, Courtney Charanza*, Christopher Lyons, Joseph Benigno
   2. Absent: Penny Riggs,

C. Ex-officio Members
   1. Present: Karan Watson, Jerry Strawser, James Massey, Ralph Davila, Lilia Gonzales, Kevin Hurley, Matt Fry, Deborah Wright, David Morrison, Richard Gentry
   2. Absent:

D. Guests
   1. Marty Scholtz

*office/organization representation for the Vice Presidents, Agencies, CPI, USC, GSC and SGA have voting and non-voting members; in meetings where the voting member is absent, the non-voting member assumes voting status.

II. Call to Order: Co-Chair Watson

A. Co-Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

III. Updates and Announcements

A. Due to schedule conflicts, the November CBE Meeting will be rescheduled. Location and time TBD.

B. Request to Modify Bike parking Appeal Process

   Transportation Services requests permission to modify the process for obtaining approval for installing new bike parking on campus. Prior to establishing standards for the style of bike rack and concrete pad for new parking areas, each new bike parking request was submitted through the Council for the Built Environment to ensure the look and style of each was appropriate.

   Now, standards have been established so one bike rack style is used and pads are uniformly designed in concrete. As future designs will follow these standards and guidelines, it is proposed the process for installing new bike parking on campus be updated to include requests be routed through Transportation Services and approvals be routed through the proctor of the adjacent facility and the University Architect. Documented procedures for utility locates and other appropriate processes will continue to be followed during the planning stages and before approval is requested or work is started.
Action/Recommendation: The CBE voted unanimously delegate the process of installing new bike parking on campus to Transportation Services.

Responsible Parties: Co-Chairs Watson and Strawser

IV. Presentations by Sub-Councils

A. Parsons Mounted Cavalry (PMC) Site Renovation Project Proposal

This project was presented at September’s CBE meeting but was tabled until further information was received. (See September Meeting Minutes for details)
- Land Use Agreements
  Land use agreements between the Corps and Rec Sports (both within Student Affairs) and between the PMC and Department of Animal Science were received.
- Costs of Vinyl Fencing
  Worst case scenario for the cost of the fencing is approximately $25,000.

Action/Recommendation: The CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President’s approval of the Parson’s Mounted Cavalry Site Renovation.

Responsible Parties: Co-Chairs Watson & Strawser

B. Digital Garage Signs

Transportation Services requested permission to install two signs near the intersection of Lubbock Street and South Bizzell Street to indicate space availability in nearby parking garages. Optimal locations for the signs are the median on South Bizzell between the Commons residence halls and the golf course parking lot and the northwest side of the Lubbock Street-Bizzell Street intersection.

Currently, vehicles cue on Lubbock Street in front of the Commons residence halls and down Spence Street to access Central Campus Garage when it is at capacity. As spaces become available, vehicles are allowed access to the facility. Providing the information to customers before they make the turn onto Lubbock Street will provide better service, enabling them to choose another option if Central Campus Garage is full and will result in better traffic flow for buses and cars accessing parking lots in the area.

Another contributing factor prompting the request is the planned closure of Commons Circle, an area currently used as a turnaround by customers who make the turn onto Lubbock Street as described above and decide to no longer wait until space becomes available in the garage. When Commons Circle closes, it will become crucial to educate customers when the garage is full BEFORE they turn on Lubbock Street as there will no longer be an easy option for them to exit the area without waiting their turn to pass through the gate to the garage.
The signs will adhere to the bronze standard to coordinate with existing way finding signage on campus. The cost of the signs and installation will be funded by Transportation Services and will require minimal disruption to pedestrian traffic and no disruption to vehicle traffic.

- Technical Review Sub-council (TRsc)
  The TRsc supports the proposed Request to Install Digital Signs and recommends approval, provided the following issues/concerns are addressed and funded.

  Facilities Services
  Facilities Services supports this project. The project team should coordinate with Grounds Management for landscaping and irrigation concerns.

  University Police
  Height of the sign -- would it hinder seeing a pedestrian crossing behind it?
  Placement of the S. Bizzell sign -- would it be far enough away from the intersection?
  Promoting U-turns at the intersection of Lubbock St. and S. Bizzell.

  CIS
  Will these digital garage signs need campus network connections? If yes, a request will need to be submitted to CIS for the installation of Data lines.
  Will there be pathways (conduit) to each sign back to a central location? CIS prefers separate pathways for Data to be installed independent of any power lines.
  Concern as to what network (and how) the Digital Garage Signs will be provided data connectivity.

Action/Recommendation: The CBE voted unanimously to recommend, with the noted caveats, the President’s approval of the installation of two digital garage signs near the intersection of Lubbock Street and South Bizzell Street.

Responsible Parties: Co-Chairs Watson and Strawser

C. Engineering Education Complex & Zachry Renovation - Schematic Design Stage

The Design Review sub-council reviewed the Engineering Education Complex and Zachry Renovation project at 100% Schematic Design. This project was previously reviewed by the DRsc on June 20, 2012 for concept and project approval. It was reviewed by the CBE on July 10, 2012 and approved by the President on February 24, 2014.

The project includes renovation to the existing Zachry building, located along University Drive between Spence Street and Bizzell Street, with an addition of approximately 200,000 square feet to provide a total of 533,000 gross square feet. The original total project budget was $125 million, and the new total project budget is $168 million.

The interior design is organized around an atrium and staircase space, and allows for many layers of transparency and natural light through the use of skylights. The programmatic spaces within
The building include faculty and administration, education centers (classrooms), common amenity spaces (fitness center, recreation center, and technology support center), laboratories, grab and go café, and building support spaces. To accommodate these spaces, Zachry will be completely renovated, which includes elimination of the basement parking and an expansion to the north and south. A fourth floor will be added to the building. The goals driving the exterior design include the creation of an innovative facility that promotes transparency, engages pedestrians to be drawn into the building, and is viewed as “elegantly complex.” The proposed exterior façade wraps Zachry to provide a new face and helps organize the entries into the building. The existing pre-cast concrete will be removed and use of curtainwall and vertical limestone banding provide the main components of the exterior design. The exterior façade incorporates focusing elements which comprise the “middle” portion of the façade.

The DRsc reviewed the proposed facility against the Campus Master Plan (CMP) design principles. The design as presented complies with many of those principles but does not meet all of the guidelines in totality. The building complies by reinforcing the street edge along University Drive; keeping within the recommended building height of 3-5 stories; articulation of base, middle, top; consistency in use of materials, such as limestone and champagne finish of metal overhangs; and connection between interior and exterior. The DRsc’s recommendations address the concerns for those elements that are non-compliant.

The DRsc unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Engineering Education Center – Zachry Renovation project as proposed, with the following caveats:

- Further refinement of the exterior design. While many of the CMP design principles are met, DRsc members feel that there are architectural elements that read as “busy” and the achievement of “elegant complexity” is lost.
- Resolve confusion of exterior design to provide more rhythm and harmony to the façade as discussed in the CMP guidelines.
- Building entrances get lost within the facades and more clarity and detailing is needed.
- Further study of the contextual relationships to Jack E. Brown and ETED along University Drive is needed.
- Redesign of exterior hardscape and landscape may be necessary if the proposed Engineering District Plan is not approved.
- Further review of the design (detailed landscape and hardscape plans, samples of exterior materials) should be presented to the DRsc at 100% Design Development in accordance with DRsc procedures.

Discussion
- Parking
  - Transportation Services has been involved in the planning of moving the parking to accommodate the new growth as well as the loss of the existing parking.
- Maintenance
  - Due to the amount of wildlife (pigeons, bats) the canopy and ledges needs to be addressed. The council is aware of the issue and are investigating solutions.
- Timeline
  - Project will commence in Spring 2015 with an estimated completion of Fall 2017.
- **Students**
  - Students will be relocated across campus. Greenhouses are being renovated for classroom space. After studying classroom availability, there are enough classrooms during the 8-5, Monday – Friday time frame except for the 300 seat classroom. This is still to be resolved.
  - Approximately 98% of the Graduate Students and Faculty have already been moved.

**Action/Recommendation:** The CBE voted unanimously to recommend, with the noted caveats, the President’s approval of the Engineering Education Complex & Zachry Renovation schematic design.

**Responsible Parties:** Co-Chairs Watson and Strawser

V. **Miscellaneous**

Dr. Watson asked the committee to consider a strategic planning process for beyond 2020. The State requires a 5-year strategic plan and there is currently one through 2015. Dialogue has begun for the strategic plan for 2016-2020. However, what is the vision beyond 2020? The council could have a very important role in planning how to procedurally prioritize projects in the capital campaign. Many facilities are in need of major renovations – not just classrooms, but recreation areas, residence halls, research facilities, etc.

A temporary (2-3 month) Task Force will be formed to begin a dialogue for procedural guidance. The Task Force will formulate a draft strategic planning process for the built environment which will be presented to the CBE for editing and completion.

VI. **Meeting adjourned 8:50 a.m.**