

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

May 16, 2022 @ 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom

Attendees: Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Erin Irish, Melissa Meisterheim, Isabella Mullins, Laura Ponto, Mary Trachsel, Jenna Wischmeyer

Absent: Amber Crow, Sam Schauer, Emily Schmitz

Liaison(s): Stratis Giannakouros

Ex Officio: Glen Rogers, Tony Senio

Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

Guest: Michael Kearns, Adele Vanarsdale

1. Call to Order

2. Announcements – Open to all present

- Blake will be transitioning to a new position focused on sustainability within the College of Law: Director of the Hubble Environmental Law Initiative
- Please consider signing up for a 2030 working group

3. Impromptu new business for this agenda – Open to all present

- None

4. Liaison updates

- None

5. Guests

- Michael Kearns – Interim Assoc. Director- Design Management | Asst. Dir – Quality Management
 - Provided an overview of the design of a project that has been planned
 - Need to make sure plan fits our design standards on campus (standards are 800+ pages, very thorough)
 - Sustainability is not a standalone standard, rather, it is spread throughout so that it is easier to maintain compliance
 - Keepers of standards but are not authors of the standards; there are many stakeholders (hospital, athletics, etc)
- Adele Vanarsdale – Director, Campus Project Planning Summer meeting scheduling
 - Provided an overview of the process for planning fixes/changes on campus
 - Currently working with each college to create individual master plans to contribute to the wider University master plan
 - Plans incorporate core values of the university, including, for example, sustainability and accessibility
 - Protecting natural areas,
 - Considering impacts on neighbors
 - Recognizing the river as an asset and protecting it
 - Shared goal between University, Coralville, Iowa City – need to emphasize importance to upstream communities as well
 - Army core involvement comes into play when we execute our plans, but it may be important to engage this group regarding ways to impact upstream river related decisions
 - Reducing dependence on motor vehicles
 - Sustainability focused themes within the master plan
 - Framework plan

- Land use plan
 - Broken into many groups: residential, medical, research, undergraduate academic, etc.
 - Open space plan
 - Should occur by design not default
 - Includes gateways into our campus, land surrounding buildings, and land not connected to buildings
 - Current focus: our open space plan should receive as much attention as the facility plan
- Example Projects
 - Nonfiction building
 - Wrestling practice facility
 - The James (Finkbine Project) – amenities geared toward active senior living
- Upcoming Projects
 - West campus academic building (communication, health and human physiology, PT)
 - Needed to facilitate UIHC 10-year plan
 - Will involve demo of south quad building
 - Art building revitalization
 - 1936 building (one of the first), has been sitting since the flood and the plan is to restore it; spring 2024 will need to house programs so updates will allow for that but a full plan will go on after this
 - Park Road Development
 - With Manville Heights as a partner looking to developers for ideas
 - Taking into consideration the proximity to the arts along with City Park and plans the city has to improve City Park
 - Will avoid student housing but could be family housing, will focus on maintaining green space
 - Hot water heating systems will be utilized for the first time for the art building and west campus academic building
- Questions
 - Will the old art building take advantage of the proximity of the river?
 - Landscape services, Jenna, Stratis will be involved in discussions about utilizing the space around the river as best as possible
 - Lagoon Shelter House
 - This was used to rent canoes, etc. in the past – will it be kept?
 - Yes, there are plans to restore this given its historical significance on campus
 - Rec services are interested in paying homage to the history of these structures
 - Can you comment on the plan for demo for old buildings?
 - Taking down a building is a complicated decision
 - The deconstruction vs demolition decision process determines what, if anything, is salvageable
 - We do salvage items: use door elements and window elements for example
 - Recycling also occurs: concrete goes to quarry for example
 - When facilities are funded by donors, does this impact design standards?
 - Agreements are crafted so that the University can maintain a seat in the decision-making process
 - The University can sell the land and then there is no say, however, the if we maintain the land then our standards apply. There is language that allows the University to maintain involvement in decision making if we keep the land.

6. Next meetings: TBD

7. Adjournment