MEETING NOTES OF THE
UNIVERSITY FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD
June 2, 2015

Members Present: Walt Banziger – Vice Chair, Jeff Butler, Neil Jorgensen, Kurt Blunck, Mike Everts, Greg Gilpin, Tom Stump, Chris Fastnow, Brenda York, Terry Leist, Jim Thull, David Singel, Brett Gunnink

Proxy: Brenda York for Chris Kearns, Susan Fraser for Charles Boyer, Walt Banziger for Renee Reijo Pera

Members Absent: Nancy Cornwell, Martha Potvin, Dana Dale, Julie Tatarka, Allyson Brekke, Fatih Rifki

Staff & Guests: Bob Lashaway, Randy Stephens, Sam Des Jardins, Leila Stermans, Josh DeWeese, Tony Campeau, Don Akina

The University Facilities Planning Board met beginning at 3:30 pm to discuss the following:

ITEM No. 1 – Approval of Meeting Note
Draft notes from May 5, 2015 to be distributed before next meeting.

ITEM No. 2 – Executive Committee Report
There was no action from the Executive Committee to report.

ITEM No. 3 – Consent Agenda – No Items

ITEM No. 4 – RECOMENDATION - PAC Recommendation of Sculpture Gift – Abraham Lincoln
Leila Stermans presented the Public Art Committee’s (PAC) recommendation to approve the sculpture gift of Abraham Lincoln from artist Jim Dolan. The PAC used their new criteria to evaluate this piece, and rated the proposal as a 3.4 on a scale of 1-5, therefore they voted to approve the piece. They are concerned that this is the fourth sculpture in a series by the same artist and the artist’s vision has not been approved by MSU. The PAC suggests UFPB invite the artist to participate in developing a plan that would detail possible future art gifts. The rating of 3 on Quality and Presentation represents the PAC’s concern with the details of the sculpture. The rating of 3.5 on Placement and Site location reflects that the site location has not been determined and installation costs are unknown.

Josh DeWeese, a member of the Public Art Committee and Faculty in the School of Art, commented that MSU does need more art, but we need diversity of art, and also noted the cost to install and maintain. Fastnow commented that the rubric is helpful; she identified the most important parts to her are Quality and Presentation, and Promotion of the MSU Public Art Policy’s Mission and Intent, and both of these seem to be pretty low scores. Lashaway commented that the cost issue could come up each time without an identified funding source, and could prevent MSU from getting art. He added that art is a viable part of the mission of the University and we should try to find a way to accommodate this. Leist added that it is beneficial to have a discussion with the artist on sharing cost of installation. Butler noted that the installation cost can be impacted by the location, and that there can be a need for structural engineer or other investigations prior to installation. Stephens asked if it would be appropriate for other MSU campuses; this could be discussed as part of the plan for future art gifts however representatives from other campuses would need to be included.

Fastnow moved to decline the gift and invite the artist to participate in developing a plan that would detail possible future art gifts. Singel seconded the motion. The motion passed affirmatively.

The vote:
Yes: 12
No: 4 (Blunck, Jorgenson, Gilpin, Reijo Pera)
**ITEM No. 5 – INFORMATIONAL - NAIC Project Update**

Walt Banziger and Sam Des Jardins presented three site concepts that have been developed for massing and programming. In all three concepts the parking garage is located on the southwest corner of the site. The concepts have been developed from the discussions with user groups and putting “Engineering on display”. The presentation venue will be an approximately 6,000 square foot flat floor venue with about 350-400 seats. The spaces will include classrooms, Honors College, and labs. The arrangements of these spaces are not set yet, but are being worked on by talking to user groups to figure out adjacencies. The building is roughly three stories high.

The first concept is the “Street concept” which highlights “Engineering on display” with a large corridor (“Innovation Commons”) through the center and includes efficiency by stacking labs. The “Sun concept” has the building massed at the corner of S. 7th Ave. and Grant St., with a wedge shape creating an Innovations Commons space with natural light into the building and a visual corridor between the east and west sides of the building. In this concept, the presentation venue is separated with the plaza between the buildings. The “Makers concept” is also massed toward the intersection, but has classrooms along Grant St. and labs along S. 7th Ave.; this concept also provides users a needed outdoor yard space.

The parking garage will be starting construction around October 2015, and the schematic design is currently in process. Norm Asbjornson strongly believes there should be a connection from the NAIC and the parking garage across Grant St. The design team has investigated options including a canopy for a walk way, a small pedestrian bridge, and a larger bridge that has collaboration space. York commented that the collaboration spaces should consider accessibility. Fastnow added that accessibility should also be considered for the bridge. Blunck expressed concern on the location and distance of the parking garage from NAIC building, the SUB and other buildings on campus. Lashaway responded that the layout is still evolving and location of the garage and other elements may change. Gilpin brought up a security issue to having the passage from the parking garage across the street going through the NAIC, with the extended hours of the SUB. This is an issue that can be addressed, but the NAIC could have late night access for students similarly to other high-student usage buildings such as Cheever Hall.

There will be a 40 foot minimum green space set back to the parking garage and from the Fitness Center. Everts commented that developing the corridors and outside rooms around the building is valuable for people experiencing the building from outside. He added that the Sun and Maker concepts contribute more to this. Stump noted that the Street and Sun concepts are more in line with the original concepts. Blunck and Gilpin expressed a preference for the Maker concept.

Banziger explained based on the timeline for beginning construction on the parking garage, the site development is going to go very quickly. It will be brought to UFPB quickly and often for feedback.

This meeting was adjourned at 4:30p.m.