

HPC Meeting
Monday, April 2, 2018
11:00am – 12:30pm
Waters Room, Zimmerman Library

Attendees: Pat Hogan, Al Sena, Portia Vescio (minutes), Kim Feldman, Francisco Uviña, Leroy Duarte

Guests: – Mimi Burns, Jitka Dekojova, Dekker Perich Sabatini
Maria Probasco, Office of Planning, Design & Construction
Casey – Aquatic Consultants

Item 1: Pat Hogan explained purpose of HPC and Tier structure of UNM property for guests. Al Sena is trying to get information gathered by June 30. PPD wants a feasibility study on what is appropriate for Duck Pond. Mimi Burns said they are looking at turf, irrigation, lighting, trees, wildlife, etc. to understand the existing conditions of duck pond. Sustainable sites initiative, evidence based design for determining condition of landscape. Stakeholder meetings four times during process. The first one is about to happen. Concept design focus on taking feasibility assessment and working with UNM to prioritize things that need to be taken care of and can be utilized and work well. How do we do this within context of history?

Casey made his first site visit on day they were draining pond and noted the lack of circulation lack of depth, high number of fish and ducks in pond. From basic fisheries standpoint not quite all the components for healthy lake there –the pond needs to be deeper, have more sloping and more circulation. One idea is to connect the pond to an irrigation source because anytime it rains all fertilizer, poop, etc. runs into duck pond and has nowhere to go. He believes this can be addressed in way that maintains historic context while preserving health of pond. Francisco Uviña is concerned this would change character of landscape, but Casey clarified that it would be under the pond where changes are made effort would be made to maintain the current shape.

Al Sena pointed out that this feature is a community attraction and beloved by all, PPD is very aware of its importance. They can still make improvements to general safety (i.e. - lighting) and keep features that make it wonderful place intact. Mimi Burns said her firm received list of functional goals from UNM and is willing to share with HPC. Francisco Uviña wants to look at characteristics and when they were added and keep true to time period. Mimi agreed there has been change over time – the addition of trees, memorials, artwork, etc. She compared the Duck Pond to Central Park in that they are both evolving landscapes. What are character defining elements of landscape what do they mean now and how to we take that information and use it? Pat Hogan pointed out that the HPC is usually presented with plan that is fully developed and it is good that we are involved from the early stages while the plan is still developing.

Kim Feldman pointed out the Duck Pond is used frequently for wedding photos. If it is under construction that may sway the decision for people to get married in chapel or on campus.

Mimi Burns asked HPC members what are people's thoughts on the duck pond. The Duck Pond is the center of the university experience and can become a place of solitude in midst of all the bustle of UNM. People form memory of what park looks like and it can be invasive when someone comes and destroys part of your memory. Intimacy. Living breathing entity. Oasis in concrete and asphalt buildings. Having water in middle of campus, creates shelter around life, school, helps find serenity hope, do critical thinking. River not really approachable for people, duck pond more centrally located for people to come visit. One of places alumni always come back to visit and is a recruitment tool. Landmark – used for directions, etc.

Al Sena reminded the committee to keep in mind access for emergency vehicles. Mimi Burns indicated that the firm will have multiple items or improvements that could take place. There won't necessarily have one concept that will come out of it. The HPC should remain engaged throughout process. Maria Probasco will send email with contact info and run communications through project manager who disseminates to different teams. HPC wants to keep an eye on what's being proposed because we don't want the Duck Pond to lose eligibility for National Register.

Item 2: Pat Hogan asked committee members to review the Getty heritage plan. The tier system for buildings does not incorporate the heritage zones. Except for Smith Plaza all zones contain both landscape and buildings. The HPC needs to consider the landscape and buildings as a unit when considering changes to either. Is a bit odd because several of the historical buildings date from the 1930s buildings and the landscape is from the 1960s when the campus was closed to traffic.

Item 3: Pat Hogan sent email to Bob Estes at HPD asking what they've decided to do with Smith Plaza. They are not opposing the plan and will not try to hold up renovations. Hogan suggested inviting them to the next meeting to ask HPD what do they expect from HPC and if expectations match our understandings. That will also be a good time to bring them into duck pond conversation.

Item 4: Pat Hogan reported that the poll for a meeting time change had 9 responses: 7 okay with 9am, 6 okay with 10am meeting. Is there a better day? The meeting tends to run long and scheduling is more forgiving if we go long into the lunch hour. For this semester one more meeting that we will keep at 11am.

Other business: Kim Feldman sent DH Lawrence lecture information to HPC members. Al Sena mentioned that UNM is part of a grant to thin lands to help with fire prevention near the Lawrence Ranch in Taos. Francisco Uviña said his students will be presenting their findings and recommendations on the Pump House. Will let HPC know when. He has also been approached by an undergrad student wants to write a grant on pump house to do a national register nomination.