

UK Master Plan Update

Community Organizations Meeting Minutes

Location: King Alumni House
Date: September 17, 2012

Attendees:

Jeff Fugate, Downtown Development Authority; Knox VanNagel, Fayette Alliance; Walter Gaffield, Fayette County Neighborhood Council; Beverly Fortune, Herald Leader; Graham Pohl, Board of Architectural Review; Bob Quick, Commerce Lexington; Sheila Ferrell and Jason Sloan, Blue Grass Trust;

Sasaki Team: Greg Havens, Philip Perlin, Andy McClurg, Mary Anne Ocampo, Maggie Dolan, Martha Tarrant of RossTarrant

I. Master Plan Overview

Greg havens of Sasaki provided an overview of the master plan process including project goals, timeline and work completed to this point. Dall Clark provided an over of the status of the new housing plan.

II. Discussion of Master Plan Update

Tom Harris led a discussion of questions and concerns about the Master Plan. The following were highlighted regarding topics to be thought through during the planning process:

Previous Planning Studies

- Will there be ongoing dialogue with Omar Blaik during this process? (The university responded by stating that UK respects his work and desired him to be a part of this update but both parties were unable to agree on terms. The university plans to build on his work and has already supplied his report to Sasaki.)

Parking

- What are the plans to make up for the current parking that will be lost when the new housing is built along Martin Luther King? Singletary Center events put a strain on parking in this area. (The University is doing an in-depth look at parking during this planning process.)

Housing

- Will all of the housing plans that we saw in the presentation be carried out? With the economic climate and capital dollars being tight, will these be feasible? (The university is looking into all possible alternatives for funding. The public/private partnership with EDR is an example of this.)
- I am pleased with the plans for making Avenue of Champions more pedestrian friendly and greener as well as the intimate environment of the planned courtyards.
- Are the 9,000 beds to accommodate growth or the current population? Will this create a situation that will leave empty housing adjacent to campus? (The beds will accommodate current needs as well as modest growth. The goal is to encourage freshman and sophomores to stay on campus in order to give them a better chance to succeed.)

Adjacent Neighborhoods

- Is UK considering buying housing in adjacent neighborhoods and renovating? UK could make a little bit of money off of the sale? (Yes, that is one of the things that is being considered, although there would most likely be no monetary gain in it for the University.)
- What are they doing about the infiltration of students in the Elizabeth Street area? This is a pathway to and from football games that leads to problems in the neighborhood. (The President is emphasizing changing and enforcing the off-campus Student Code Of Conduct.)
- UK needs to collaborate with landlords, the city and the neighborhoods to keep the neighborhoods from deteriorating in terms of the number of students per home and their conduct.
- Does UK have a certification program for good or great rental companies? (Yes, and this may be strengthened in the future.)
- The transition area along Woodland should be looked at in the plan. Something is needed in the area from Greek Park to the Woodland retail center that attracts students to come off campus and use the retail.

Other

- Care needs to be taken not to create stormwater problems with any new construction of buildings or parking on campus. There have already been problems with some of the recent private sector developments. (UK has met LFUCG standards for stormwater management for many years now. We recently received a FEMA grant to construct a detention facility on Limestone that benefits the neighboring properties and not really UK.
- Art and design features beyond just greenspace should be encouraged in the new development plans.
- Is UK considering the link between Transy, downtown and UK in their plans? (Yes. Sasaki is doing the Master Plan for Transylvania University as well. They are thinking of the possible links in terms of several corridors, such as the Jefferson Street corridor.)

Minutes prepared by Judy Needham.

These are intended to be a record of the general issues discussed and are not meant to be a quotation of any individual(s) attending the meeting.

cc: Campus Master Plan Website