

Third Ward Neighborhood Plan Update

Steering Committee

Meeting #3 NOTES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

North Conference Room, City Hall (North Wing, 2nd Floor)

203 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, WI 54701

Attendance:

Steering Committee members Peter Hable, Ann Francis, Peggy O'Halloran, Susan Miller, Amy Pleski, Kevin Rosenberg, Gloria Song; City staff Ned Noel; Others Mike Rindo, UWEC, Jeremy Gragert and Sally Ronstrom.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Updates

There were no major updates from those in attendance.

2. Discussion with UWEC

A. UWEC Master Plan

Mike Rindo, Assistant Chancellor for Facilities and University Relations presented UWEC's plans for campus growth. Their 2010-2030 Campus Master Plan Principles state they will:

- Concentrate Academics in Center of Campus
- Solve Student Housing Shortage
- Create a Sense of Place Throughout Campus
- Preserve and Enhance Views On and Into Campus
- Establish the Campus Edge
- Welcome Visitors to Campus
- Commitment to the Community
- Preserve and enhance the neighborhoods surrounding the university

B. Projects

Mr. Rindo provided information on completed projects such as W.R. Davies Center and Centennial Hall, along with current construction projects such as their involvement with the Pablo Center at the Confluence, Garfield Avenue redevelopment, Towers renovation and a new

Suite-Style Residence Hall. The Sonnentag Event and Recreation Complex is still in design phase, funding has not been determined nor the exact details of the site plan development. A future Admissions and Alumni Welcome Center will be located near Roosevelt Ave. and Park Ave. They have designed this to respect the adjacent properties in Third Ward. It should be built by 2020.

C. Student Housing

Mr. Rindo discussed on and off campus housing. Historically for the past 20 years, they have not been able to meet the student resident hall occupancy needs and so they contract with area hotels. They have about 3,700 units but the goal is to be at 5,000. In the future, they plan to replace older on-campus halls with more modern suite style halls. Adjacent off-campus housing is often blighted and not healthy or desirable for students so they have created new student rental housing off-campus such as with Haymarket Landing and Aspenson Mogensen Hall. They will be conducting a housing demand study to better understand the need and solutions.

D. Parking

Members of the steering committee addressed student on-street parking concerns and associated traffic within the neighborhood. Parking continues to be a nuisance to many residents. A lack of enforcement was cited as well since some students park their vehicles past 24 hours. Heavy student parking causes snow removal problems and inability for residents to use on-street parking or for visiting guests. The newer 8 foot stall separation rule from driveways has only pushed student parking farther into the neighborhood. Pedestrian safety crossing State St. was also a shared concern. Improvements could be made during its 2019 reconstruction (south of Garfield Ave. to Hamilton Ave.).

Mr. Rindo stated he is aware of the parking problem and the university will be undertaking a parking study soon. It should be done by spring of 2019. They will meet with the neighborhood association to better understand concerns. He said the university has to pay for parking from a separate local utility fee fund and so parking cannot be free. If they don't have to build more parking that helps reduce expense.

Attendees brainstormed possible solutions such as the university providing a smaller shuttle service to outlining university parking lots (e.g., Bollinger Field), the City instituting a resident-only parking permit/rear-view mirror hanger program, marketing transit and bike share programs better (e.g., listed on back of BlueGold student ID card). Improved bicycle connections into campus were also noted such as providing a better link via Putnam Park off of State St.

3. Neighborhood Survey Review & Discussion

Due to time constraints, the item was moved to discuss via email. Members thought the survey should be redesigned however to capture current affairs better.

4. Plan Next Meeting

The meeting is to be determined.