

Task Force 5
12/15/14

Attendance:

Lynn
Whitney
Doris
Victoria
Brooke
Tim
Chris
Phil
Brooke G.
Dr. Smith (proxy for Dr. Jackson)

The goals for today included discussing Phil's space map, campus space, and inventory of space (ponds, fields, etc.) The committee briefly looked at *Space Planning Book* by Tony Brown and Daniel Hanes and looked at Chris' handout, "University of Northern Iowa Space Utilization: Open Spaces, Recreation, and Athletics". It listed the types of facilities that the book listed, and the calculation of UNI's goals comparing number of students and acreage. About half of the types of facilities that UNI has weren't listed in the book.

UNI has 10 flag football fields that are also used for softball. One season is flag football, the other is softball. UNI has one designated soccer field that is only used for soccer. Tennis courts are in a bad position and a possible serious issue. It was suggested that redevelop the courts and relocate them because of flooding from the nearby creek. \$750,000 is the estimate for tennis courts.

- It was suggested that the tennis courts be inside, especially due to price and climate.
- The courts get a lot of use from UNI tennis clubs, pickleball, general community, and varsity from all using the same space.
- Consideration should be given to growth in the future. Will the plan for a 6 courts be enough? UNI currently has 8.
- It is important to consider where the tennis courts go.
- It is hard to use tennis courts for anything other than tennis.

A micro-master plan could discuss the issues with the creek to Redeker and 23rd St. There were talks of possibly creating a new 22nd St. by the towers, and the road moving north to make a single crossing. The towers seem like they are off campus, creating disconnect with the campus as a whole. 27th St. and Ohio are also problematic.

- Possibly move tennis courts now to move forward with moving streets?

Funding for this project – the idea was brought up to find a donor to put their name on it. USTA might grant us with funds for courts as well. USTA could give us funds to make different types of courts like clay, grass, etc.,

- University of Maryland, College Park, for example.
- Possibly get competitive and community perspective to see what we need and what we lack.

The “official” softball field isn’t used – it doesn’t comply with league requirements and is too far away from other intramural fields to use it. The city, though, does use it.

- Approximately \$1.3 million to update it to a regulation field.

Baseball field is still in use. UNI tore out the bleachers because they were in bad shape. No public seating, just bring your own lawn chair. It was brought up that there was a need to get DI baseball back on campus.

Bender Field is used for ultimate Frisbee teams. It’s used heavily by men and women’s teams (about 60 students) Monday – Thursday.

Rugby has two fields next to the soccer fields.

UNI has one cricket field called North Farm Field. Half of the people that use it are UNI graduate students and the other half are John Deere employees. It is the only spot for cricket in the city. It was supposed to be used for youth baseball, but youth baseball popularity has decreased. It’s in the middle of the potentially new Cedar Falls High School.

- Think long term about the future of cricket.
- Considered the best field in the league (8-10 teams)
- Possible future movement to John Deere property.

Track is not listed in the book.

- Possible artificial surface with a track for multipurpose.

Park with a shelter – west campus includes picnic shelter for the future. It was brought up about the need for shelters on campus because students go off campus for this. College Hill is the closest thing to a park.

Trails (unpaved) – 1 of 4 would be on the west side. It’s prairie now. We have grooming for trails, and talks for a possible snowmobile for cross-country skiing, 5ks, walking, etc.

- Our trails don’t connect well with transit. Some transit and trails may be crossed in open space to better the transportation.

The ponds are city ponds. We don’t actually have any ponds on campus. The city ponds by our campus have been good to use for education purposes.

There are 3 creeks: by Hudson Road and tennis courts.

Connectivity of campus – make sure students feel connected in all parts of campus and the university as a whole. 75-80% of students are pedestrians, skateboarders, bikers.

- Possibly be on top of our agenda, as an academic and safety standpoint.
 - o Safety of Hudson Rd. and tunnel.
 - o Grade separation is beneficial
- Transportation mode split on 27th St. by west fields; no connectivity with campus.
 - o There are a lot of runners and may be dangerous with traffic especially by the hill with increased vehicle speed.
 - o There may be grants from city/state for transit trails.
- Grade separation on 27th St. by event centers.
 - o 27th St. is going to be made into 4 lanes.

The relocation of CFHS really changes field usage numbers. UNI would lose a lot of fields like rugby, soccer, cricket, etc. The replacement of those fields would greatly improve program usage.

- Consider turf v. grass

Soccer would be moved back onto campus – good for the student body. Unfortunately, soccer is against the use of artificial turf (lower body injuries) so the idea of natural turf may be reconsidered. Half of the athletic conference does play on artificial turf.

Actions

- Find function of area by Campanile, W19th St., and Campus St.
- Get the concept plan for tennis field by Center Dr.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15PM. Our next meeting is scheduled for
January 12, 2015, at 10:45 AM in WRC 175.