Planning & Development Committee  
Organization Meeting - April 24, 2006


Attending: Elizabeth Jones

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Minutes Recap 2/21/06 & 3/13/06
2. Election of the Chair
3. P&D for the future - Master Plan (Ramesh Vakamudi)
4. Subcommittee Sign-up
5. Other Issues

Agenda Items #1 & 2 - Minutes Recap & Election of the Chair - Phang Tai called the meeting to order at apx. 1:05pm. The group motioned in the minutes from the prior two P&D meetings and motioned to re-elect Phang Tai as Chair. Both motions were approved.

Agenda Item #3 - P&D for the future - Master Plan (Ramesh Vakamudi)

Ramesh gave a slide show presentation of the Master Plan for the campus. He began by sharing with the group that the plan was an update to the 99' plan that predicted 27-28,000 students in the year 2007. He announced that those numbers had already been met! He mentioned that the last plan was called the "Mainstreet Plan" but was now called the "Campus Plan". He also mentioned that the slides would focus on the University as a leading research facility in an urban setting.

Ramesh’s slide presentation was the main focus of the meeting and went over several various plans for GSU’s future expansion including: historic plans (for the areas surrounding the development of M.L.K., Fairly Poplar, Sweet Auburn & Underground Atlanta), campus housing (mentioning one of the largest campus-housing plans in the country at the Piedmont/Ellis location - with 2,000 beds & 1,000 spaces for parking, classroom spacing needs, the new Science Teaching Lab, and the Panthersville Campus Plan.
After the conclusion of Ramesh’s presentation at apx. 1:37pm, he graciously took various questions from the group as follows:

Christine Gallant questioned what the plans for the homeless would be? Ramesh answered that this was actually more of a socio-economic issue, but that there was some information that showed that once the student population took over, there was a trend for the homeless to abandon use of that area.

Tim Crimmins questioned what amount of space would be needed once Sparks Hall went off-line and Ramesh answered only about 120,000 sq. ft.

Tim also asked (in regards to the Humanities bldg.) would this be a good time to implement more art around the various campus locations to highlight what the students were doing artistically, especially with items such as statues and other larger artwork present. Tim mentioned that identification was a key element of the campus and that these items could help the public in its identification of the campus as opposed to clustering several pieces solely around the Arts & Humanities Building.

Charlene Hurt proposed that it may also be a good idea to have an area for special (or more delicate) items of interest.

Sandra Garber mentioned that if there was going to be an outside venue for performers, that it may also be a good area for such artwork. Charlene Hurt mentioned that there was talk of creating a natural amphitheater within the New Plaza area.

James Emshoff reminded the group & Ramesh that if space was allotted for artwork that it should be identified as short term or long term.

Ramesh mentioned that he wasn’t sure if there were enough areas suited to hold/display the artwork, and that he wasn’t quite sure if there was enough time to implement this into the plan, but that he would check into it to see.

The last of the questions & answers centered around the upkeep of the parks around the campus. Beth Jones explained to the group that the City of Atlanta controlled the parks, but that GSU was responsible for maintaining them. She mentioned that the City did (however) pay for the water fountain in the Woodruff park, GSU maintained everything else, including the fountain at Hurt Park.

Ramesh’s presentation concluded at apx. 1:47pm. Afterwards, the group went over the remaining items on the agenda. Phang Tai went over the schedule for the committee’s upcoming meetings and then passed around sign-up sheets for the subcommittees within P&D.
During this time Joan Carson went over updates for the ASUR Committee. She gave a quick introduction of who/what ASUR was, told the group of the revisions from ASUR’s last meeting, and said that she’s have an update on the new list of members by the next P&D meeting.

Siva Nathan went on record to give praise & appreciation to Mary Jane Casto and all her great and hard work with ASUR.

Charlene Hurt as a part of the transformation of the Library the older less popular volumes (pre 1976) would be put into temporary storage shortly. She assured members of the group that if needed these volumes could still be accessed if requested.

Al Baumstark reminded the group that the Fire Safety subcommittee still needed a Chair and encouraged those interested to sign up!

There were no other updates from subcommittee groups, and the meeting adjourned at apx. 2:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lydia K. Woltz

Lydia K. Woltz, Admin. Coordinator