WELCOME
J. Spencer Kinard, Board of Trustees

Mr. Kinard welcomed the community forum attendees and reiterated the three primary issues of the night’s meeting: 1) a quick update on the future Utah Museum of Natural History, which is not far from breaking ground; 2) update on Research Park; and 3) discussion of the Universe Project, which is not as far along as many of the other university building projects. In addition, he assured the audience that community members’ voices are welcome and whatever is suggested will be considered and, as much as is reasonable, will be taken to the planners. This has already happened with a number of suggestions stemming from public meetings.

UTAH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (UMNH) UPDATE
Sarah George, Executive Director, UMNH

Sarah expressed excitement—on behalf of the university as well as the city—and anticipates opening the newly built UMNH in winter of 2010-2011. Construction is slated to start in August 2008. The process of relocating the Utah Museum of Natural History included coordinating an in-depth environmental impact statement (EIS) with the National Park Service in spring 2006, many public input sessions, traversing across the state to get input on the design and the experience the public wants, and reviewing feedback from hundreds of people.

The new museum will be built on a 17-acre site and confined to an area within the site that will preserve the native habitat in the best condition, the oak woodland on the southwest corner and sagebrush/bitterbrush habitat upslope to the east. Native seeds, bulbs and insects have been “banked” to reintroduce once construction is done. In addition, when finished, no portion of the site will be fenced. Also in keeping with the natural experience, outdoor interpretive areas will be free to the public. Waikara Way will provide entry to the museum, and will include two eastbound traffic lanes, a sidewalk and dedicated bike lane. Museum administrators expect to meet parking needs while minimizing impact by breaking the parking lot into segments and landscaping with native plants. The museum will also take advantage of 800 parking stalls in the Williams lot by building a connector road between the two locations. University shuttles already link the hospital with the Williams building, so they will loop around to the new UMNH, connecting campus and downtown with the museum via UTA buses, TRAX, and campus shuttles. In July, improvements will be made to Waikara Way above Colonnade.

Sarah also noted that the entire project has been undertaken with input of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Association. The Association asked for trail improvements, such as providing sitting areas, bike racks, places to water dogs, free access to restrooms, and trail rebuilding, especially the bushwhacked areas. During construction, safety is a key issue so the actual building site will be fenced. The main Shoreline Trail will be open after hours and on weekends. During weekdays, they will close the trail and re-route people to the west. There will be informational signs posted on the trails and updated on the museum’s web site: www.umnh.utah.edu. Heavy equipment will be routed through a widened lane up to the site and Red Butte Gardens during construction. There will be a concrete barrier between the two lanes that will keep construction traffic from regular traffic during the day. At the request of a neighbor, Charles Evans will make sure the architects note that vehicles should remain on state roads when egressing Research Park. Specifically, not to move on Sunnyside Avenue when either entering or egressing Research Park or the construction site. Sarah explained that the four pipelines through the site will remain. There is a 60- or 80-foot easement, which makes the narrowest point of the trail 15 feet. The pipeline is patrolled regularly and the museum site is above the pipeline in case of breakage. The UNMH building is designed to take the topography of the area into consideration and conforms to the contours of the landscape. It includes “green” features such as native plants, relatively little water consumption, irrigating with rainwater and snow melt caught in cisterns, and using local and recycled materials wherever possible.

NEXT COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING:
Thursday, August 21, 6 p.m.
Hinckley Caucus Room, 255 Orson Spencer Hall.
If you have an agenda item, questions or comments, please contact Kate Ferebee in the University of Utah Public Relations office at 585-9244.

For past newsletters from Community Forum meetings, go to http://www.utah.edu/intranet/neighbors. For more information or to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, call 585-9244.

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University of Utah

Resolution from Community Council

The Sunny sklde Eastside Neighborhood Council formally submitted a resolution to Mike Perez and Snnis Nolnd, and notified meeting attendees that they will likely vote to support the recognition of President Michael Young. They suggested that a member of the administration visit different community meeting councils as has been done in the past. Mr. Kinard said that at the beginning of the academic year, the Board of Trustees sent a letter to all community councils expressing interest in attending meetings. He said only one council responded: East Central. The Sunny sklde Eastside representative said she did not remember the letter and it must have been prior to her joining the council, but the invitation is open to university administrators. Mr. Kinard reiterated the sentiment he had expressed to her partner in the past, which is that he would be happy to attend any of their meetings and they need just give him a call.

Request for Feedback

Eric Brown, Planner/Staff Architect, Facilities Planning
Eric asked for feedback about the project document that was handed out at the annual community forum meeting in February. He would like to know whether the design of the document is helpful or if neighbors would like more/information. Anyone interested in providing feedback can contact Eric in writing to Betty Martin in the Facilities Management office at 1795 S Campus Drive, Salt Lake City, UT, 84112. Call (801) 581-6570 for more details.

Calendar Highlights

“Neighbors are invited to attend our summer brown bag lunch series, “Wednesdays on the Green,” which offer live music from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch or pick up something at the Union and enjoy an hour of local music on the Union Patio.

JUNE

2-4 Student Summer in the Institute, 581-8913 for info.
3 School of Medicine Seminar: Genomics and Infectious Disease, EHS Auditorium, 4 p.m., 581-0462 for info.
4 Wednesdays on the Green* - Loss by Reason, 12 p.m., SSB Plaza (between Union and Student Services Bldg), 581-6773 for info.
5 Wednesdays on the Green* - Eddie Zen, 12 p.m., Union Patio, 581-6773 for info.
5-6 UNM One World Family Festival, UNMNH, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 581-6286 for info.
6-8 Urban Life, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., 581-4100 for info.
7-8 Utah Museum of Natural History, 581-4303
11-13 Summer Institute in the Human Services, 581-8913 for info.
12-14 ASP Summer Institute for Teachers, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., http://www.ed.utah.edu, 581-8225 for info. and registration.
16 Wednesdays on the Green* - Gary Gerber, 12 p.m., Union Patio, 581-6773 for info.
17 Campus-wide TA Orientation, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
19 UNP Partners in the Park 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Riverside Park (Jons Terrace)-739 N 1400 W SLC, UT, http://www.partners.utah.edu, 801-972-3596 for info.
20 Fall Semester 2008 classes begin
22 Real Salt Lake vs. Colorado Rapids, 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS & ACTIVITIES

Utah Museum of Fine Arts, 581-7322
Africa: Arts of a Continent is a permanent rotating exhibition that focuses on cultures of the Dogon of Mali, the Baule of the Ivory Coast, the Yoruba of Nigeria and the Kuba Kingdom of the Congo. Africa: Arts of a Continent also incorporates several ancient Egyptian burial objects from various dynasties and explores the importance of the Nile.

The journeys through Asian Art exhibition showcases objects from the world’s largest continent, illuminating the development of art in India, the Himalayas, Southeast Asia, Java and China. Runs through Dec. 20, 2010.

A Fragile Empire: Rome and Her Glass – Come gaze at the UMFA’s own collection of glistering Roman glass and learn about the important role of glassblowers in ancient roman society. Runs through Dec. 31.

Utah Museum of Natural History, 581-4303

With over 15 computer interactivies, hands-on displays, and videos, Putting DNA to Work brings the science of DNA out of the lab and into everyday life. The high-tech exhibit lets you discover how patterns in the human genome hold vast possibilities for solving pressing issues of our time. Runs June 14 – Oct. 12.

Red Butte Garden, 581-4747

With over 100 acres of gardens and natural area, Red Butte Garden is the largest botanical center in the Intermountain West that displays and interprets the regional horticulture. The Garden is open year round for visitors to walk through the gardens or hike through the Natural Area. Red Butte Garden also offers four seasons of educational and recreational programs including concerts, festivals, kids programs, nature outings, classes and workshops.

Athletic Events, 581-8171

For athletic information visit http://athletes.tannyson.com