Inventory of Public Comments on the DRAFT 2009 Master Plan Update

North Golf Course

- As a longtime resident of the University neighborhood, I was alarmed to see that the Master Plan did not contain a commitment to preserve the North Golf Course and vacant fairways as open space. After attending several meetings between University representatives and the neighborhood association, I was under the impression that the University recognized the value of the North Golf Course as a critical part of the North Campus. UNM has been a good neighbor to the residents of Albuquerque and the development of this beautiful green space would do irreversible harm to the North Campus Community. I hope that the Regents will stay committed to preserving the North Campus Golf Course for the long term benefit and enjoyment of the University community and the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. – Barbara McGuire, Neighborhood Resident; 8/19/2009

- I live on the 1500 block of Wellesley, not far from the UNM Golf Course. We are both UNM Alumni, and my wife has held several jobs at UNM over the years. I would like to see long term preservation of the UNM Golf Course as a green space. It is probably the main feature, in my opinion, that makes the north campus area such a desirable place to live. It generates little or no traffic of its own, can be used by visitors, and proves many forms of use. People walk, jog, play there, and I have even seen falconers use the area to exercise their birds. – Zack Stauber, Neighborhood Resident; 8/19/2009

- As a near neighbor of Main campus UNM, and a frequent user of the North Golf Course walking paths and recreational opportunities, I strongly recommend that you follow the Neighborhood Advisory Committee’s direction and implement the following: 1. Provide permanent, final "hands-off" status to the entire North Golf Course area; this means, do not plan now, next year, the following year or ANYTIME thereafter to use the golf course area for any other purposes than it now has. 2. The so-called Barrens area is part of this highly used recreational open space: do not build roads, parking areas, building or any other structures on this valuable open space - we need it included with the protected golf course, in order to retain the only open and green space nearby to provide some environmentally restorative area near UNM Campus. – Susanna de Falla, Neighborhood Resident; 8/20/2009

- Preserving the golf course as is now will really help keep the community alive. It is rare to find a neighborhood where neighbors have a place to go to walk, run, play, and talk together. People meet one another. It's an oasis for so many city-bound animals. It's a precious place. A lot of alumni would be very unhappy if it goes away, and very happy if it remains. I think you could actually raise money by asking for donations in the name of preserving that golf course. Revenge is always an issue. People love that golf course enough that they would help pitch in to preserve it, I am sure. – Cammie Nichols, Neighborhood Resident; 8/21/2009

- After all the neighborhood meetings, expressed desires of resident, city and state officials, etc. and even professed value of 'campus open space' within the Master Plan itself, the North Golf Course is still labeled as "future reserve lands" (developable). To reiterate, this is not acceptable to a large portion of the city's residents. Their feelings in this regard will not change and will thus continue to place the university at odds with ITS COMMUNITY. It has been made clear that preservation of this open space is its entirety is the only acceptable option. The Master Plan very transparently tiptoes around the subject of the North Golf Course and this crucial issue. – Richard Borkovetz, Neighborhood Resident; 8/25/2009
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North Golf Course (cont’d.)

- I understand some of the stated issues concerning modifications to the trends from the 1990s such as a modified interest interchange and growth in the north campus area. However, I see very little correlation between the plan completed in 1996 and this plan. The plan completed in 1996 has a much more simple and elegant approach in tying the two areas together around a common public space. This feature was significant piece of the old plan. Universities around the world have such features that have become major draws as iconic public space that is utilized by both students and citizens alike. To eliminate this feature would be a significant loss to the university and the city. – Tim Trujillo, Community Member; 8/28/2009

- As a resident of the North Golf Course area I feel that the use of the word "reserved" for the golf course is very weak. Indeed it leads you to ask reserved for what? I see the golf course as it now exists as a heritage golf/open space facility. In the past it has been nipped away to its current configuration but is a long-existing facility open to UNM staff, students and city inhabitants. It is used for track and field events for APS and UNM and irreplaceable. The Regents and the planning committee should pledge to keep the open space/golf course as is in a way to confirm their devotion to the greening of the campus and concern for the environment. – Ellen Evans North Campus Neighborhood Resident; 9/3/2009

- I am writing to voice my concerns about the treatment that the UNM Golf Course has in the UNM Master Plan. The proposed Master Plan fell short on several key areas: The Golf Course and Barren Fairways were described as "reserved lands" Their preservation did not review firm commitment. Parking and traffic management requires additional and substantive study and planning. No articulation of a mechanism for transparent communication between the University and the neighborhoods. While there were areas of agreement on the Master Plan, these three areas are of strong concern to the neighborhoods and are critical to a successful and holistic approach to the future of UNM and the City. – David Treeson, UNM Faculty/ Alumni/ Neighbor; 9/9/2009

- There is no commitment to preservation of the North Golf Course area and barren fairways. The citizens of Albuquerque and their representatives have spoken out very clearly on this issue. If there is no clear commitment for their preservation in the Master Plan, then the whole idea of UNM and community cooperation is called into question. – Keith Rasmussen, Summit Park Neighborhood Association Resident; 9/11/2009

- Sustainability/ Preservation Issues: While the 2009 Master Plan contains the laudable goal of attaining carbon neutrality by 2030, it stops short of making the type of commitments that are necessary to achieve that goal. Preservation, an issue related to sustainability, is also not adequately addressed in this plan. 1) There is no commitment to permanent preservation of the North Golf Course and Barren Fairways. The plan seems to intentionally leave the door open for future development of the golf course by saying, “For the time frame of this master plan, the North Golf Course will remain as reserve lands for UNM” (DMP, 34). 2) With regard to landscape developments, one proposed “improvement” is to introduce “some formal geometry and patterning to the [path’s surrounding the Duck Pond]” (DMP 26). However, the UNM campus landscape is the vision of Landscape Architect Garrett Eckbo. The curves and delineated diagonals match the buildings’ traditional Southwestern style. Eckbo incorporated studies of pedestrian traffic in order to provide fluid walkways for students. He worked to move vehicular circulation and parking out toward the edge of campus, leaving the campus center as a student...
North Golf Course (cont’d.)
safe zone. He also worked to balance beauty with an arid climate and urban growth by researching comparative studies of weather conditions with native plant biology. The landscape architecture of the university is part of the historic character of the place and should be considered carefully before changes are proposed. Improvements that are made to the Duck Pond area should be consistent with and employ Eckbo’s techniques and design principles. RECOMMENDATIONS: Designate the North Golf Course and Barren Fairways as permanent open space lands. Reclaim the Barren Fairways for educational and environmentally sustainable uses. Honor and preserve the traditional landscape design principles of Garrett Eckbo and the historically significant structures on campus. – Isaac Benton, et. al, City Councilor; 9/11/2009