Inventory of Public Comments on the DRAFT 2009 Master Plan Update

Campus Landscape/ Open Space

• What happened to the 1996 Master Plan that connected the north and south campus with green open areas - free from automobile traffic. That plan had limited automobile traffic and seemed much more in line with the other goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030. I liked that plan much better. – Jim MacFarlane, UNM Staff/Alumni; 8/28/2009

• (Pages 22-23) The campus historic resources survey, research and analysis summarized in the UNM Getty Heritage Plan concluded that the dual pillars of campus historic character are the architectural idioms established by John Gaw Meem, and the modernist landscape design developed in the aftermath of the 1960 Warnecke, which removed streets from the heart of the campus. The 1962 landscape master plan by internationally renowned landscape architect Garrett Eckbo represents the most important of these landscapes stretching from in front of administration building, across the Duck Pond and Smith Plaza to the College of Education south courtyard, Union Square (North of the SUB) and the first phase of the Cornell Pedestrian Mall to the South edge of the SUB. We feel this important legacy should be acknowledged in the Landscape Architecture Principles (22), and that a Goal, Objective and Strategy(s) be developed (23) to outline the preferred treatment of these landscapes. The UNM Campus Heritage Plan discusses approaches and principals for reconciling landscape preservation with changing needs, such as our current need to conserve water. We would be happy to work with you, based on the ideas in the heritage plan, to develop these additions to the plan. – UNM Historic Preservation Committee/ Richard Chapman, Chair; 9/8/2009

• I'm a student at UNM. I was looking through the proposed update, and the only part that immediately struck me as unnecessary was "renew the Duck Pond area and Smith Plaza with new fixtures, lighting and water features." I'm never on campus at night, so maybe Smith Plaza is in need of some new light fixtures, but I really don't see a reason to fool around with the Duck Pond. New water features sounds as if they would use up more water, which would just be a waste. Even if that's not the case, I think that the Duck Pond is great just the way it is. – Victoria Scheidler, UNM Student; 9/10/2009

• I agree that Smith Plaza is "featureless". However, this master plan should determine what purpose it should serve and not just stick a fountain in the middle, Also, trees are far more effective to cool a space than a high maintenance water feature. As campus density increases, perhaps this is a building site (maybe underground, with a landscaped top - Univ. of Arizona Mall). In any case Smith Plaza deserves more discussion in this master plan report. – Bob Notary, UNM Staff; 9/11/2009

• Regarding the 1996 master plan: I appreciated Regent Gallegos's relevant question during the August 11 meeting: What has happened to the open-space corridor that was agreed upon in the 1996 master plan? I heard no discussion that did justice to or even addressed the careful thought that went into the reasons and planning for that corridor. Is it, as parking appears to be, another casualty of a myopic preoccupation with capital projects? – Frances Strong, UNM Staff; 9/13/2009

• Pedestrian Pathways: We support the increase of East/West pedestrian routes especially from the student housing to the SUB and DSH to Zimmerman plaza (needs better bicycle/pedestrian options). However we also appreciate that the New Mexico style of circuitous architecture in that it inspires interaction with others, privileges locals over outsiders, and does not emphasize
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Campus Landscape/Open Space (cont’d.)
the linear, efficient Germanic values that dominate in American culture. – GPSA, Andrew Marcum, UNM Students: 9/11/2009