

Meeting Minutes

DATE: 10.10.08

TAKEN BY: Sandra Rolph, David Motzenbecker

RE: Neighborhood Impact Study – New Arts Union

10:30 – 12:30 Facilities Conference Rm.

Carleton Faculty and Staff: Steve Spehn, Joe Hargis, Steve Richardson

Neighbor Reps: Milly Worelin, Jerri Hurlbut, and Suzanna Nakasian

➡ Action Items.

- Neighbor input.

LIGHT + NOISE:

- Northfield is very dark at night –Street lights are minimal to meet/exceed dark sky (wildlife) guidelines and due to the observatory on campus. Light design should attempt to minimize light pollution.
- Street lighting and light spilling from new/renovated building should be kept to a minimum. New design should use existing condition as a benchmark to match what residents are currently accustomed to.
- Landscape design should focus on this effort to shield light (and noise) from studios.

ARCHITECTURE:

- The first architectural design (of metal and glass skin) was replaced with stone to tie in with campus architecture (chapel stone). This is an improvement thus far, but neighbor reps expect there to be more discussion with the rest of the neighbors on this topic.
- There is some concern that this may build too strong of a visual connection to the College. There are still neighbors living in the block between the new Arts Union and Campus that prefer the blocks to be perceived as privately owned and not part of campus.

CAMPUS CIRCULATION:

- Some neighbors are concerned about student cutting through private yards between campus and Arts Facility.
- Primary concern is the connections from the Arts Union to the new residence halls (diagonal).
- The new design should direct people out of the new building, up College Street, directly towards campus. Axis towards Leighton should be clear. This path needs to be more desirable than other paths through the residential neighborhood. WOONERF design options and streetscaping were discussed as possibilities in the landscape plan to help achieve this goal.
- Bike circulation needs to be considered as part of this axis. With increasing campus size, more students will likely use bikes to move between classes quickly. This should be separate from pedestrian circulation.
- ➡ The neighbors would like estimates of the number of people moving between the Arts Union and the main campus between classes, and during events. OAA will work with Carleton (Arts Union Program) to present this in upcoming meetings.

CITY PARK USE:

- The City Park is the last green space in the area that is not programmed for specific sports or recreational activities. It should remain open for picnics and family recreation. It should not become ‘Bald Spot II’ for students.

- Residents should continue to feel comfortable using the park with their families. Some kids have already been intimidated by older student on play equipment, etc.
- More 'eyes on the street' will likely reduce adverse behavior in the park.

PARKING:

- 2nd Street parking, now with more pedestrians, increases accident potential for both residents and students.
- Structured parking (replacing the street) will help improve this condition.
- ➡ Illustration of wrapped parking ramps (precedents) are needed to illustrate this concept to both the College and the neighbors.
- There should still be a short term parking option near central campus (Leighton Lot). Maybe meters with max. time limit, etc.

OTHER: .

- ➡ This is the first of 3 meetings with the steering committee (see slide 3). Next meeting TBD for the upcoming weeks.
- ➡ Wiki blog to be set up for neighbor comments before public meeting – OAA.
- The 'DOT exercise' would be a helpful way to illicit comments (both +/-) from the neighbors – include in future meeting. .
- ➡ OAA to assemble a list of variables that are typically discussed between campuses and neighbor groups with respect to campus expansion and activities (i.e. a list of talking points). What are the study variables?