Sasaki Presents Draft Master Plan

Sasaki presented the Draft Plan during their April 10 & 11 visit. The alternatives that were proposed in February have been refined, and additional details have been added. The two concepts that they originally proposed have been consolidated with more than one option being shown for specific projects such as the Funkhouser Building, Kirwan/Blanding complex and Rose Street. The plan was presented to campus senior leadership and other advisory committees for their review.

The Sasaki team presented the draft at a combined meeting of all neighborhood associations adjacent to campus on April 10 at the King Alumni Building. There were approximately 54 engaged neighbors in attendance. An Open House for all faculty, staff and students was held the following day at the Student Center. Approximately 45 people attended the open house to review the plan and ask questions of the Sasaki team. Once again, the feedback we gained from these meetings was very beneficial.
Euclid/Aylesford Walk

During their most recent visit, Sasaki conducted a Charrette with LFUCG Planning staff as well as representatives of this neighborhood that focused on the Euclid Avenue corridor from Woodland Ave. to Rose St. and included the Aylesford neighborhood block to the south of Euclid Ave., extending to Rose Ln. In order to employ a more thoughtful dialogue on land use, a small group of representatives from UK, LFUCG and the area in question were brought together to begin discussions. Follow-up will continue on a broader scale as ideas are considered.

Greg Guenthner was invited to represent residents of Aylesford. Greg sits on the University Neighborhood Advisory Council (UNAC). Also representing the residents of Aylesford was Mike Meuser, a previous, but long time resident who has been involved with planning initiatives in that area for many years. Graham Pohl represented the business community and added expertise as an architect as well as a Euclid Avenue business owner.

Also in attendance were Reverend Alfred DeGiacomo and David Uckotter from the Newman Center who shared information on their ideas for expansion to the Rectory property at the corner of Linden Walk and Rose Ln. Derek Paulsen, Chris King and Jim Duncan joined in to aid in our planning coordination efforts with LFUCG.

The expansion of Greek housing along Rose Lane was considered as well as the areas along Transylvania Park and Aylesford Place. Options for mixed use, including retail, were considered at the corner of Woodland and Euclid. The consensus was that retail on this corner may not be a good fit, but rather the west side of Woodland would most likely be the best place to transition to residential use and to begin the gateway to the UK campus.

Parking was also discussed and it was decided that options would be studied further and changes would be made accordingly to the parking shown in this area of the Draft Plan. The idea of preserving some of the homes along Transylvania Park as Chapter Rooms for the Greek community with residences behind these was thought upon favorably. Much was gained from this Charrette that will help guide the direction of the Master Plan.

We’d like to thank all of these contributors for their willingness to take the time out to help us plan for growth. The Sasaki team and the UK Master Plan team are grateful for the information that was passed along to us and for the responsive conversation concerning possibilities for the future as well as the discussion of the history and present uses in this area.
Getting the Word Out

We have conducted over 50 meetings related to the Master Plan to date. These include our initial meetings with adjacent neighborhoods, landlords, business owners, the Greek community, the faith community and others. Several meetings were held with the University leadership as well as with LFUCG Planning throughout the process. Meetings with UK faculty, staff and students were also conducted in various venues over the last several months. And early on in the project, Sasaki met separately with the Dean of each College at UK to gather information on their needs for the future.

Once the alternatives were presented by Sasaki, members of the UK Master Plan team spent several weeks conducting meetings with various colleges and organizations on campus to be sure everyone was aware of the ideas that were being brought to the table and to give the opportunity to ask questions about the plan and process. Groups included UK Budget Officers, Human Resources, University Senate and University Relations just to name a few. There were also about 15 other groups which you can see in the full listing under the Schedule Tab on our website at www.uky.edu/masterplan.

Being a Better Neighbor

As part of our continuing efforts to keep the lines of communication open with neighbors, Keith Ingram of Facilities Management and Scott Clark of Athletics contacted neighbors from Columbia Heights and Hollywood to give them the details of the first track meet that was held at the new facility on April 19 and 20. Scott offered to be the point of contact for nearby residents in case any unforeseen disturbances occurred during the meet.

All in all, the first meet went very smoothly both for the athletes as well as the neighborhoods, with no complaints. Since the Friday evening portion was cancelled, we didn’t get to experience night time conditions yet.

We believe this communication is helpful to both us and our neighbors and hope to continue throughout the season. Maybe we’ll get some new fans at the meets because of it. Come on out!