

HMSC Master Planning Committee Meeting
February 17, 2012 10:00am
Library Seminar Room, HMSC

Attending: Renee Albertson-Gibb (Hatfield Student Organization), George Boehlert (HMSC), Maryann Bozza (HMSC), Rick Brown (NOAA-NWFSC), Brett Dumbauld (USDA-ARS), Don Hilliard (Ship Operations), Don Mann (Port of Newport), Bruce Mate (Marine Mammal Institute), Walt Nelson (EPA), Candace Rogers (HMSC), Shawn Rowe (Oregon Sea Grant), Cliff Ryer (NOAA-AFSC), Maggie Sommer (ODFW), Gil Sylvia (COMES), Derrick Tokos (City of Newport), Gary Walker (Oregon Coast Aquarium)

Not represented: OSU-CIMRS, Guin Library, Newport Community Rep., NOAA PMEL

Introductions

George Boehlert opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Committee representatives and guests introduced themselves.

Planning Traffic Flow Changes and the Potential Move of OSU Facilities: George Boehlert explained that a plan is being developed to relocate the HMSC Facilities shop from its current location in the West Wing of the Main Building to a new spot by the south gate entrance to the property by student housing. A new building would need to be constructed that would house the facilities workshops, storage and a shipping & receiving area. Delivery and mail trucks, which currently deliver to the back door of the Main Building, would instead deliver to the new shop. The dumpsters would also be located there. This plan would help solve the truck traffic problem around the current shop area and make that area safer for pedestrian and bike traffic. The space in the West Wing could then be converted back to wet labs, which was the original use for that area. A preliminary building design for the shop done by OSU's Lowell Fausett was shown.

Also presented by Boehlert were ideas for future changes and additions to the HMSC property that included:

- Student housing – potential growth area west of current housing;
- Marine Mammal/ Marine Genomics Building – a new building south of the Guin Library, already discussed and approved by this committee;
- A possible additional building (use undetermined at this point) – south of the current Facilities shop, in the location where the OCCC Aquarium Science Building was slated to be constructed;
- Move parking lots to the edge of campus - west of student housing, south of RSF, and southwest of current Facilities shop;
- A possible “in-fill” building - on the current parking lot between the Library and the NAL/RSF buildings;
- Another west gate entrance to the property - north of the Dining Hall. This would become the main staff entrance to the property. Through traffic usage of the current west gate would be ceased. That entrance would become mainly used for access to ODFW; and
- The current south gate to the property could be designed either as one-way traffic exiting the facility or alternatively closed entirely. The main truck entrance

would be positioned for access to the facilities building.

The HMSC Director's Office is planning to hire engineering and traffic flow consultants to plan the engineering aspects of the new building plus modifications of the HMSC internal road system. The committee was asked for additional ideas and input on what parameters should be set for the study.

Discussion: Comments, questions and discussion on the proposed building and related issues included:

- Shawn Rowe would like to see bus parking for school groups addressed plus possibly a designed area where school groups could have lunch. Currently most go back to their bus for lunch. This suggests expanding the traffic study to include the front lot.
- Rich Brown asked if 3-story parking structures could be designed that could also serve as vertical tsunami refuges. Cliff Ryer questioned whether 3 stories would be high enough based on current tsunami estimates.
- Gil Sylvia suggested that the study address whether the proposed site for the Facilities Shop is the optimal location and whether a location along Marine Science Drive should also be identified by the engineering and traffic study.
- Considering that HMSC has limited areas appropriate for buildings, Don Mann asked if it is feasible for current, older buildings to either have a second story added or torn down and rebuilt as 2 story buildings.
- Gil Sylvia thought an entire campus traffic study that included motor, pedestrian and bike traffic would be best rather than one focused only on the impact of the new shop location.
- Maggier Sommer noted that the high volume of public traffic to the ODFW building needs to be considered.
- Gary Walker thought the south gate location for the shop a good idea. He said that OCA already uses that same area (SE 25th Ave) for deliveries to their property. He noted that many trucks deliver to both properties so this might actually lessen the distance trucks need to travel in the neighborhood. He raised the question though, whether the new location might cause more work and time for the HMSC facilities crew for transporting materials and staff to on-property projects.

Tsunami preparedness; recommendations for conceptual approach to HMSC growth: George Boehlert gave some background on the recommendations from an OSU engineering class "Intelligent Transportation Systems" that focused on HSMC and communication systems for tsunami preparedness. The committee was asked for comments on one recommendation in particular, *6.1 Reduction of Personnel on Peninsula*, which states "The best way to reduce the risk to people on the peninsula is to get them off of the peninsula. This can be done by moving non-essential personnel, stopping construction on the peninsula, and relocating the student housing". Boehlert stated that a possible site would be land around Oregon Coast Community College.

Discussion

- Bruce Mate said that MMI has discussed locating their new building elsewhere, other than at HMSC. But the consensus of his staff was that they wanted to be in the inclusive environment of HMSC. He feels that being in another location might make them academically and culturally cut-off from the HMSC campus.

- Maggie Sommer stated that ODFW has internally discussed moving off the peninsula. She pointed out they already have two office locations elsewhere.
- Dann Mann thinks that HMSC will eventually outgrow this site and that a long-term plan should be developed since the issue will continue to come up for decades.
- Derrick Tokos said to keep in mind when considering other possible locations there are other risks in the event of a strong earthquake, for example unstable slopes. The City recognizes these risks and has chosen to focus their planning on preparations for safe tsunami evacuation. Studies have determined that our “safe haven hill” is a reasonable, although not perfect, evacuation site for HMSC.
- Roy Lowe said USFWS official policy is that no new USFWS buildings are allowed in tsunami zones.
- Maggie Sommer believes that at some point a transition off the peninsula will become necessary. She questions putting more money and buildings at HMSC because of that fact. ODFW staff often hears comments from the public asking why their office is located in a tsunami zone.
- Don Hilliard stated moving students off-site would be a logical, necessary first step. He stated that since students in the dorms are here 24/7 they are the most at-risk group.
- Walt Nelson thought that relocation is an idea that needs to be considered. He pointed out that predicted sea level rise in the next few decades will also become a problem for the current HMSC property.

Round Table Updates:

Maryann Bozza: Gave a reminder that HMSC Marine Science Days is 4/14/12. Asked the committee to help get the word out. The focus will be on research with no festival components. It will be a simpler and most likely smaller event than was Sea Fest.

Rick Brown: NOAA’s NMFS will experience sizeable cuts as required by President Obama’s budget. The west coast divisions alone will be cut \$5,000,000.

Walt Nelson: EPA’s budget is stable. Studies are currently being done on consolidating lab locations. Newport EPA might be vulnerable since it is a smaller lab.

Don Mann: The Port’s terminal project will be completed this year.

Derrick Tokos: There is growing community support to develop a partnership to rebuild HMSC’s estuary trail. George Boehlert added that erosion has become severe in several spots along the trail.

Don Hilliard: The *Oceanus* is scheduled to arrive next Tuesday. Both the *Oceanus* and *Wecoma* will be at the HSMC dock as equipment is transferred from one ship to the other. This coming season’s research schedule is very full for the *Oceanus*.

Maggie Sommers: ODFW will be contracting an engineer within the next year to start retrofitting the ODFW building (walls, roof etc.).

Renee Albertson-Gibb: The HsO holiday raffle raised \$1300. Half will be given to a

local charity, the other half to finance HMSC student travel to professional events.

Roy Lowe: USFWS expects around a 2-3% budget cut for the coming year.

Shawn Rowe: Sea Grant's funding is level. There are a number of new exhibits in the Visitor Center. Although last year's visitor numbers were down by about 10-12%, donation totals were up 20-30%.

Candace Rogers: The HMSC annual fund raiser soup kitchens are off to a good start with around \$350 raised so far.

George Boehlert: His official retirement date is 9/30/12. The search for a replacement will begin once the position description is updated.

Don Mann: The Port will dredging at two sites this year. He also gave an update on the removal of the dredge pile from the NOAA MOC-P property.