CAL POLY MASTER PLAN UPDATE
MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Campus Character and Place Making

MEETING NOTES

Meeting #1
October 24, 2014

Attendees:

Chairman—No appointed yet
Erik Justesen, Facilitator; Bret Stinson, RRM Design Group; Drew Marshal, CRP Grad Student

Jennifer Carrol- Chemistry teacher at Poly
Lane Blankenship –student
Vincente Del Rio- Calpoly MCRP professor
Jim Breabek- Forest Supply owner
Aydim Nazmry-diet and exercise student (no idea about place making)
John Francois- (French) a teacher at Calpoly
George Garcia- alum and architect
Kim Murry- City of SLO planner
Jessica Pelata- Librarian at Poly
Jake Rogers- ASI student
Rob Rossi- local businessman
Debra Lagazoli-ASI student
Stephen Lloyd-Moffett-Professor of religion at Poly
Scott Bloom (in for Preston Allen)- Housing employee at Calpoly

MEETING NOTES:

1. EJ—Meeting kick off, Thanks for serving, welcome and introductions by Committee Members. Overview of purpose of Committees, identified the other committees, Roles of Chair and Facilitator, Appointment forthcoming for Chair, Invite to Open House Dec. 5th at the CP Library, and Dec. 15th at the Ludwick Center, SLO
2. EJ—Overview of Committee Packages, summarized the content of the ppt slides, gave time to committee to review.
3. EJ- Are the existing principles still relevant today? (group looks at handouts) Who uses these?
4. RR-Cost of Ed will have implications for future planning. The costs of bricks and mortar always go up or stay the same. Who is the client in the future? What kind of student, he was older and married. Will technology change the way we teach here?
5. RR-Sense of place was better in 1969! Subsequent development has missed the opportunity to reinforce a sense of place. The understood hierarchy of where you were has diminished as the campus has grown and physically expanded.
6. VDR- Define guiding principles first. How to relate principles to design is where things get lost as people interpret principles differently. Sense of place and character are different. Character transcends the sense of place. Sense of place is architecture, character has

to do with faculty and spirit not so much the physical landscape. The campus has missed some opportunities for place making For example:

    a. What and where are gateways? Cal Poly's are hard to identify. The edges of campus are quite hard and act as barriers. The stadium was a lost opportunity as it could have been better located at the periphery with other sports facilities. Julian's (coffee shop) should not be on the second floor of the library rather is should be on the ground floor with outdoor access. Design quality is poor in some buildings.

7. JB- There are no simple solutions, students wanted the coffee shop at the library. Way finding is a challenge on campus, we need a new approach to way finding something clear and organized.

8. SLM- Sense of place is a human feeling, how you feel when you are there. Students don't feel connected to campus. They do not relate to any one spot. In the event of a tragedy where would you go? We need to make Cal Poly a center for SLO to give back to the people of CA who support us so much.

9. VDR- Disagree, we are here to place make. Sense of place is different, it is your personal feeling.

10. EJ- Should the buildings have more continuity, a central square? Ideas?? What would you do in the future? Do the current principles reflect your notions about the place making?

11. JB- Baker building is a very good example of creating a sense of place, a unifying element trying to bring disciplines together.

12. JC- Baker building is a great example of creating an iconic unifying space, students really feel like they have a place now.

13. JR-Campus is split into the top and bottom. People spend all their time on one side or another depending on their role here. Baker building is a center.

14. LB-Transitional spaces are ignored. Respites are available. The pathways on campus are disconnected. There should be and there are opportunities to create a campus core feeling. The campus lacks gateways, and way finding system.

15. AN- Via Carta design (brick paving) and pedestrian avenues have made a big difference to the feeling of place, continue this treatment to create uniform pedestrian connectors. The campus market created a great gathering place for agriculture students and staff.

16. EJ-As campus grows where will people gather centrally or in smaller diffused centers? Is there a need for a central gathering locations common to the entire campus? How do we bridge the gaps between diffused centers and the notion of a central space?

17. JF- Sense of place, he noticed the hills and old trees when he first came here. This is what does it for him. The landscape is the unifying element/fabric of campus. Having one central place would be good, a place that the entire campus community identifies as the "there" of campus. (principle) Connections to the land, like the hills and setting surrounding campus, poly canyon and the natural areas/creeks are essential for a sense of place. (Principle)

18. KM- How are people using campus? How are students using the spaces? For what they were designed for? Maybe the old 1969 hang outs spots need electric outlets. What binds campus together and makes it cohesive?

19. RR- We are going to have a significant change in student housing as it grows. Hierarchy has been lost, the center of campus is not strong. We need a strong central gathering place with clear strong connections to other secondary centers focused around colleges. More trees should be on campus, trees as landmarks, and respites.

20. SLM- Poly has great neighborhoods. But there is no cohesiveness, sense of place is a connection a human emotion, students may be connected to their discipline but not campus as a whole. Other campuses have a center, a place where everyone knows to go to meet.

21. PA- Find ways for the community to come to campus and understand "what is where" and how to get around. (Way finding) people get lost now. Better avenues for people to follow. Mustang way doesn't connect to anything obvious, we need connections between

places are broken. The entry to campus is key. There should be clear entryways to iconic spaces. (principle)
22. EJ- What is going to make this happen? What set of principles could clearly set this as a guideline?
23. PA- The archway at the stadium is a primary entry. California and Highland entrances are very important but don't serve as gateways.
24. JP- The views are an important element (hills). Campus pathways should all feel like pedestrian ways not roads and service corridors. Way finding lacking. There is an industrial feel to campus, buildings have just been plopped down, with only one main entry (library).
25. JR- To students the campus feels disconnect into upper and lower campus. ASI and Admin occupy the upper campus and unless your work in these two areas you don't feel as connected as you do to your college. Campus circulations is very disjointed, with no clear and direct paths. Access to the campus is troubled as there is no parking terminal at either California or Highland. The campus feels secluded from the town which exacerbates the town gown issues. (principle)
26. JG- The top and bottom nature of campus existed back in his time too. In the event of tragedy students will go to tech (Facebook) rather than a physical space. Spaces between spaces are important, gathering spaces to get people to interact. Students as customers, they need a place to learn. How do we create these spaces to facilitate collaboration between disciplines? (principle)
27. PA- are districts on campus beneficial? Do they cause disconnection? Do we need this or should disciplines be mixed up?
28. RR- buildings should be flexible, multi use. Studies are going to be more interdisciplinary. Hands on experience outside of you major are beneficial. Campus used to be like a little village. Now big buildings take away from that. How can we bring back the old feel of campus?
29. VDR- Interstitial spaces here are very important. Baker building corner should have been designed with social space at street level as it is a very busy corner. Suggests the following principles: Identity, legibility, robustness, visual appropriateness, and linkages. (principle)
30. JF- Incorporate natural pathways, work with nature. Poly Canyon Village missed an opportunity to be more connected to the natural creek area. The design style is cold, future buildings and spaces need more humanity and warmth. (principle)
31. ALL- Most feel that PCV is too cold, no soul, needs warmth and connection to surrounding natural areas.
32. EJ- Summary of comments thus far in the discussion: Campus lacks a basic hierarchy of spaces and a clear structure of how to navigate it. A center for everyone is desirable. Humanizing the campus was mentioned a lot both in the pedestrian and pathways and in the building styles and connection with nature. There is both a need for district centers (colleges) by discipline and a need for a central gathering space with clear connections and pathways between. Remove asphalt on core campus walkways, make them more like Via Carta, with paving stones. Also, incorporating the views from campus to the surrounding Morro's and planting more trees are desirable. Buildings should be more human at the ground level, more humane architecture and design. Room for variety in architectural styles with a strong fabric of landscaping, amenities and pavement forming a unifying connection.
33. VDR-We can have stand-alone architecture as long as it connects.
34. JB-How do you change the feeling on campus? A better sense of arrival to a unique institution. (principle)
35. KM- highlight linkages both internal and external. Town/gown relations is very important, what are the ways to improve this through physical design?
36. SLM-Cohesiveness = no soul. The mission is the heart of SLO, different neighborhoods also have their own spaces but the center is the mission. We don't have that on campus. Most collaboration happens on benches and lawns.

37. RR- How disciplines work together is important, how can we create an interaction of disciplines that enriches learning?
38. EJ- Next time we should focus on emerging trends on campuses. What are the latest trends in physical design and place making? What would be helpful to you? Think about how is education might change, the effect of technology vs bricks and mortar?

39. The next meeting of the Campus Character and Place Making Master Plan Advisory Committee will be held November 14, 8-10 am.