

Minutes of Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

Meeting of October 8, 1975

Committee members attending:

Spider Burbank (chairman), Chuck Albertson, Anne Alderson, Bill Knauss, Jeanne Hahn, Frank Motley.

Others:

K. Burnell Hill, Michael Lemmon, Jani Stonington, Raoul Duke.

Bill Knauss had several written proposals from the Office of Facilities:

Stairway and sidewalk on south side of Lab building

Facilities cited a severe erosion problem as the reason for building a sidewalk and stairs down the slope to the loading dock. The EAC agreed that the problem existed, and the consensus was that an EIS would not be required.

Removal of snags in parking lots, along pathways

The next proposal concerned the removal of about 20 dead trees that posed a safety hazard to pedestrian traffic. Concern was expressed about giving blanket authority to cut any tree that could conceivably pose a threat to passers-by. The EAC eventually decided to ask for more specifics on the trees covered by the present proposal, and to handle future cuts on a tree-by-tree basis.

The Steve Herman Memorial Snag is not affected by this proposal.

Ropes course - K. Burnell Hill

Burnell proposed to construct a ropes course, for experiential education purposes, at a site adjacent to the cleared area north of Driftwood Road, about where the trail to the beach does the Big Bend. Upon elaboration by Burnell on some of the specifics of the project, the EAC felt that an EIS would definitely be in order, especially in view of the somewhat fragile nature of the area in question (a ravine). It was suggested that when preparing the EIS, Burnell consider alternate sites and methods of construction.

Brush clearing on abandoned section of Overhulse Road

Facilities requested comments on a proposal to clear brush from the west-side ditch on the abandoned stretch of Overhulse. Reasons given were weed and Scotch broom control, as well as drainage problems. Some EAC members questioned whether the brush clearance would be worth the trouble, since Facilities plans to eventually install a culvert and fill the ditch. Anne Alderson expressed concern about how the clearing will be done, i.e. if spraying of herbicides would be involved. EAC asked the Office of Facilities for more information on the topics mentioned above.

EAC Meeting (cont'd)

Landscaping of the loop

A local consultant has been asked to draw up plans for landscaping of the entrance to the loop. Several EAC members voiced doubts about the necessity of the project, particularly in the absence of a Master Plan to guide such an undertaking. After some discussion, the EAC voted unanimously to recommend the following: Since no effective Master Plan (and an EIS on it) exists for the campus at the present time, and in consideration of the non-pressing nature of this particular project, planning for the landscaping of the loop area should not go ahead, and all further proposals of this type should be funneled through the EAC to determine their necessity, until such time as the new Master Plan is put into effect.

New faculty member of EAC

A new faculty member is needed to fill the vacancy left by Richard Cellarius, whose term expired at the end of September. Spider said he would send a memo around to all faculty, asking for volunteers.

Cedar shakes for Organic Farmhouse

Bill Knauss reported that students working on the Organic Farmhouse project had located a fallen cedar on campus, which they wanted to use for shakes for the Farmhouse roof. EAC approved, no EIS necessary.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room, 2306D.

Minutes prepared by Chuck Albertson

Distribution: EAC Members
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Richard Cellarius