

**Notes taken at the meeting of the
College Gate Community Council
November 2, 2011
By Gunnar Knapp**

Here are some notes that I took during the meeting of the University Community Council on November 2, 2011. They are not by any means full notes of the extensive discussion. Please feel free to share them with anyone who might be interested.

**PRESENTATION ABOUT THE APU MASTER PLAN BY
MARY ELLEN TUTTLE AND TIM POTTER OF DOWL/HKM**

This was probably the issue that had attracted a large crowd (about 50+ people) to the meeting.

Basically, Tim Potter and Mary Ellen Tuttle talked about the proposed APU Master Plan and answered questions and listened to comments for about an hour and a half. I did NOT attempt to take detailed notes. It would have been impossible to capture all the comments that were made or things that were said in the presentation.

Here are a few of what are the most important things that were said:

January 9 is the continuation of the Planning and Zoning public hearing on the approval of the plan.

Tim Potter invited anyone who wanted to contact him at Dowl Engineering if you have questions about this project. He gave out his office number and his cell number (but I didn't get them written down). But it sounded like he was willing to engage people in the public and to answer questions or hear comments.

They handed out a two-page "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet which addressed some basic questions people have raised about the issue. I have made a separate pdf file of this hand-out. Most of their presentation repeated points made in the hand-out.

Most of the discussion focused around the map shown on the following page of these notes. (I apologize for the poor image quality—it's a picture I took with my iPhone). Most of the discussion focused around the "Endowment Development Priority" lands shown in orange, and in particular the rectangle in the southeast corner.

Tim Potter said that APU had received inquiries from the State about the idea of putting up a building that would hold the large numbers of geological core samples that the state has, and which people come from all over the world to look at, and which are presently housed in a variety of hard-to-get-to and inconvenient buildings.

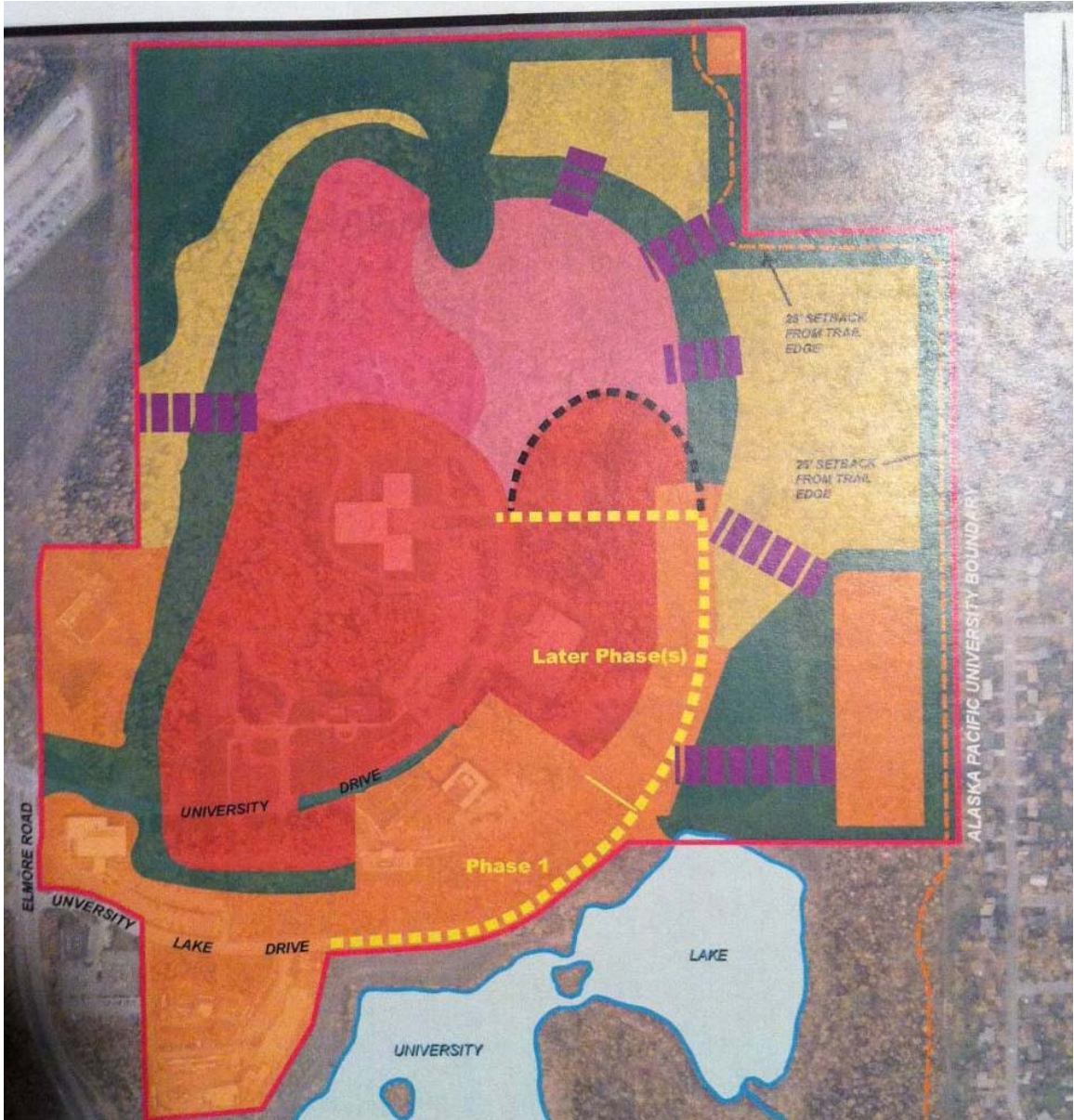
A lot of people expressed concerns about the proposed siting of such a building on this rectangle, including the following:

- The building would ruin the view from the bike trail and the homes along Wesleyan drive
- There wouldn't be enough of a buffer area between the building and the residential area and bike trail to the east.
- It would be impossible to really keep the soccer field a functional soccer field with a building like that to the west of it (in part because road access would be needed to the building)
- It would make more sense to put the building in a more central location on the APU property.

In response, Tim Potter noted that:

- APU has a need and a right to use its lands for endowment development income.
- Any building would be well designed and the community would have input into that
- Nothing in the Master Plan would change any of the PLI land status of the lands
- If people want part of the APU lands to be a permanent green belt, then the municipality ought to reimburse APU for that.

At the end of the meeting, the APU president, Dr. Barth, thanked people for their input and said that he would certainly take the comments into consideration.



PRESENTATIONS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Bettye Davis' staff member brought a newsletter. The senator is very grateful to supporters of Denali Kid Care who attended the rally. She hopes for continued support during the legislative session in January.

State Representative Berta Gardner spoke briefly. She is engaged in work related to suicide prevention, and oil and gas taxation regimes. She hopes people will volunteer to be officers for the community council. Roads will be an issue that will come up. She is looking into the question of why contractors aren't coming to Community Council's and saying that they need permission from DOT before coming to talk about a project.

Elvi Grey-Jackson spoke briefly. She is one of the assembly members who represents part of this district. At the October 25 meeting the assembly passed an ordinance that allows the taxi-cab industry to include some of the increases in the gas prices in the fares. The Assembly had a work session on the Mayor's proposed budget for two hours. Work sessions are coming up various subjects and budgets. The fireworks ordinance is being reviewed by the safety committee. The assembly also passed a resolution dealing with the School District. We spend a lot of time approving board and commission appointments. Thanks to the people who apply and serve! Discussion followed about various topics, including the parks budget, a proposed lobbying contract for Dan Coffey, and the port budget.

Max Gruenberg spoke briefly. Under the proposed redistricting plan he would be running for part of this area. He is working on some proposed legislation that would simplify the probate process. The realtors are discovering that their annual license fees are going up dramatically. This is an issue of concern to legislators. The Division of Occupational Licensing may be overcharging certain professions.

Assemblyman Dick Traini discussed an issue relating to the criminal procedures related to people charged with felonies; also about issues related to bath salts or "plant food" or "ivory snow." Next Tuesday is the second hearing on the budget.

Rep. Sharon Cissna reported that the Seattle-type scanning is moving to Anchorage in 3-4 weeks. For many people this is a big issues, but for some people this is a really big deal. We've lost a right to travel and be treated respectfully. We are having a hearing on the 16th of the month. 11:00-1:30 will be the hearing. Alaskans travel by air eight times as much as people in other states. U Med Fest will be Saturday November 19 at the Northway Mall. There will also be a U Med neighbors meeting in March to discuss issues.