



Arizona School for the Arts
Facilities Committee Minutes
 Friday, September 25, 2020 at 12:40 p.m.
Zoom Meeting: 898 2127 5310 Passcode: xGgmK1

Attendance (voting Members in bold)					
Dr. Anthony (Tony) Dietz, President & Committee Chair	P	Dr. Javier Cárdenas, Past President	P	Kevin Allen	P
John Snider, FIC Chair	P	John O’Neal	P	Leah Fregulia, Head of School/ CEO	P
Dr. Drew Maxwell, Operations Director	P	Michelle Ray, SmithGroup	P	John Tran, SmithGroup	P
Rich Newman, M3 Companies, LLC	P	Carolyn Smith, Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary	P		

Agenda Items
3rd Street Improvement Project Update
Facilities Readiness Report
Security Update
Outdoor Education Discussion
The Facilities Committee may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board’s attorney on any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(3) Legal Advice

Minutes

Dr. Tony Dietz called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m.

3rd Street Improvement Project Update

Dr. Drew Maxwell told the Committee that the City of Phoenix has begun the early stages of the 3rd Street Improvement project; unfortunately, not in front of ASA yet. The school’s portion should begin soon and when completed, will provide more safety for the students and more accessibility for bike riders. Drew mentioned that Verizon has added a new cell tower in the area which prompted Tony to ask about a proposal mentioned in an earlier meeting about Sprint possibly leasing space on our roof. Drew said that he had not heard anything back from Sprint since they were purchased by T-Mobile. He did reach out to his contact at Sprint, and got the sense that they had moved on. If Sprint/T-Mobile comes back to speak with ASA, Drew will inform the Committee, but it seems unlikely.

Facilities Readiness Report

Drew presented a report to the full Board on Monday, September 21st regarding ASA’s state of readiness should the school switch to a hybrid learning model. Facilities is ready when the Board is ready; the facilities team has implemented all the changes discussed in prior committee meetings. There are a few things left to do, such as policy refinement. When Leah has a plan for allowing small groups of students back on campus through the Fall, the school will be ready for them.

Security Update

With the known ebb and flow of the homeless population in the neighborhood, there have been a few issues with the West Building on 2nd Street. This is not a student building; it is just used for Administration offices and storage. Facilities has had to add cages and a concrete slab over the water faucets. There has been some damage to the building as well;

the building owner has done some of the repairs for us and the police patrol the area as much as possible. No violence, just some vandalism and people using the water. On the main campus, there have not been any extra issues since we have closed down due to the pandemic. A camera has been installed on West and we see we still have a great relationship with the police who do patrols in the parking lots on weekends and check the locks.

Outdoor Education Discussion

Drew proposed an open discussion to put forward ideas on how the outdoor space can be used for classes particularly in the cases where a classroom is too small for the occupants to be strictly social distancing or when a teacher may feel uncomfortable teaching in an enclosed space because of health concerns. Drew has already had thoughts of using some of the covered parking in the faculty lot with fans or a misting system for hotter days. The ramada area is shaded and can be used when the smaller student groups start coming onto campus in this interim time. Drew has spoken briefly this week with John Tran and Michelle Ray from SmithGroup about the kinds of things they could do with the bands shell area and invited them to present their ideas.

John Tran began the discussion with the thought that whatever additions or changes we make now should mesh with the Master Plan that has been developed over the years. John reviewed renderings of the current campus and the Master Plan to remind the Committee of the future placement of new buildings. John thought it important to review so that we don't do anything now that becomes obsolete in a couple of years. At first glance it seems logical to put shaded areas in the green space in order not to interfere with future construction. Drew said he also thought of using that north green space because it is currently underutilized, but Tony expressed concerns about road noise and asked about the covered areas in the faculty parking lot, raising the question of where the displaced staff would park. Drew said he was not thinking of that space for classes but using it for one-way covered walking space. Should we come back in hybrid model, the arts faculty would not be coming in, freeing parking space, but the main lot and church are possibilities. Leah recommended speaking to Transwestern across the street to see if there was any availability for ASA in their new parking structure. Drew thought it a good suggestion especially if we come back to full campus instruction.

Drew said the VPP team will be working with faculty input to put together a return plan which will give Facilities a better idea how much outdoor space will be needed when they have firmer attendance numbers. The current task for the Committee is to look at the outdoor space and think of creative ways to use it for classes. Michelle asked Drew to think if we are looking for temporary or permanent changes since there were proponents of outdoor learning and people in the school asking for better outdoor spaces prior to the pandemic. Michelle also likes the idea of using the north green space but reminded everyone that the area by the band shell is a retention area.

Using his rendering software, John proposed the idea of attaching lightweight, relatively low cost, walkway coverings to the main school buildings which would work as classroom space as well as covered walkways and would not impact retention space or future construction. Drew reminded John that the gate at McDowell attached to North is for Fire Department access and a fire truck needs to be able to drive unto the walkway unimpeded as it is a fire lane; John said that if the canopy is over fourteen feet, a fire truck could fit underneath. Drew said he would speak to the City about this possibility.

Tony was curious about the impact noise from McDowell might have on a learning environment, especially with outdoor learning. John said it would be worthwhile to think about what programs use that particular structure as there may be classes that can withstand more background noise than others. Drew said privacy fencing in that area with help with audio and visual distractions.

The canopies drawn by John on the two buildings can accommodate two, perhaps three classes at a time. The existing structures can support lightweight canopy material and the concrete is already laid. South building has a garage door to the theatre room and the canopy can reach over that door to allow for indoor-outdoor space. Drew pointed out that the shade structures on that building will benefit cooling costs as well.

Dr. Javier Cárdenas asked Drew about furnishing the outdoor spaces. Would furniture and equipment be brought in and out on a daily basis? If not, wouldn't we need to be concerned about wear and tear from exposure to the elements? Drew said that he would begin to look for outdoor tables that could be stored outside to augment the 120 red chairs that the school already owns and uses outside.

Leah asked John and Michelle for some costs associated with the proposed construction. John said they will do that as well as provide the school with an approximate number of students who can be accommodated in the outdoor spaces using social distancing metrics. John will meet with Drew on campus next week to walk the space and take measurements.

Drew said that he and Leah discussed making the school an even better and more welcoming place for our community to come back to when we reopen.

Tony asked Javier if there was any more guidance on safe social distancing. Javier said that the recommended distance is still six feet, combined with *proper* wearing of masks (don't take them off to talk, don't put them under the nose), are the best mitigation strategies. Surface transmission and surface spread is considered much less likely, the emphasis is person-to-person transmission. That said, surface areas should still be sanitized. Prolonged exposure is as little as fifteen minutes unmasked. Drew said VPP team is working on a plan to have students practice wearing masks at home for full school days before the actual return to campus. As soon as the Board makes a decision about return to campus at the November 23rd meeting school administration will begin rolling out plans for the 2nd Semester return, prepping the campus and community along the way.

The meeting ended at 1:26 p.m.