

**Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, February 28, 2019**

**Present: Cole Arntsen, Sean Brown, Briana Cronk, Prathamesh Deshpande, Robon Edwards, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Beka Horsch, Judy Klutts, Gail Kotajarvi-Gerard, James Langsford, Dan Liebau, Patti Luokkanen, Keith Machiela, Wesley McGowan, Jay Meldrum, Matt Painter, Benjamin Petrie, Travis Pierce, Laura Putwen, Zoe Quinn, Elizabeth Rose, Chris Roy, Brenda Rudiger, Max Sexauer, Eric Waara, David Zei**

**Welcome – Robon**

**US-41 Reconstruction 2021 Presentation – Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)**

Joe Kauppila, Project Manager and Trevor Sholten, Lead Designer presented to the Student Commission. This is a general overview of the area the project will cover.

- East End of Montezuma (Going from three lanes to two)
- College Avenue (Going from two lanes to three)
- Townsend Avenue (Going from four lanes to two)

Eric Waara, Houghton City Manager was also present to answer questions.

Comments and questions included:

- What is the timeline?
  - It is a large project so it will take the whole season.
- How will traffic be re-routed?
  - This still needs to be determined.
- Will trees be cut down?
  - Trees ten feet from the sidewalk may be okay but if any of them are cut down there will be replacement planted.
- If sidewalks are narrower will there be room to walk in the winter if there is a lot of snow?
  - Unless conditions are like this past Monday (Blizzard of 2019) sidewalks are plowed daily.
  - Lights and sidewalks will be moved back only 2 ½ feet.
- Three lanes on College Avenue are going to add to the maintenance.
- The City of Houghton wants to engage the community along College Avenue. This is an opportunity once in a generation to make changes/enhancements.
- When it gets closer the City will reach out to residents.
- What about cycling?
  - There just isn't enough physical space on College Avenue (driveways, snow removal, etc.)
- It is so busy to try and cross College Avenue
  - They are trying to determine how to encourage people to cross College Avenue sooner (near the bank rather than farther along College Avenue)

- Would like to see a sidewalk by the Administration Building because people come to Winter Carnival and just stand on the road to look at the snow statues
- Are there any plans for signage/signaling for traffic to keep moving by Wadsworth Hall?
  - None right now
- It was questioned if it was possible for individuals to get the designs.
  - They could get a pdf file now but when it gets closer MDOT can't share contractual plans publicly because the project will be going out for bids

THE MDOT REPRESENTATIVES ENCOURAGED THE INDIVIDUALS PRESENT TO FILL OUT THE COMMENT FORMS REGARDING THE PROJECT

### **Recycling Efforts on Campus – Jay Meldrum**

Jay Meldrum, Executive Director of the Keweenaw Research Center (KRC) and the Executive Director of Sustainability attended the meeting. He reported that he will be at the March 28 meeting to discuss recycling, composting, and a lot of initiatives that are already in place on campus.

He reported they are currently working on a getting a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). It would involve more recycling bins and composting on campus.

Jay commented that recycling starts with individuals and would like to see more students involved.

### **Updates**

#### **Signage Committee Report – Robon**

Robon reported for Travis that this project continues to move forward.

#### **Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group – Travis, Dan, Robon, and Marc**

Robon reported that students from the Student Commission are planning to meet with the President on Wednesday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. After discussion it was determined that Prathamesh Deshpande, James Langsford, and Elizabeth Rose are the students who will be attending the meeting.

It was commented that the committee could possibly discuss the name of this committee since it could be misleading. There are students who have put motors on their bicycles and this seems to be more dangerous to pedestrians than just a regular bicycle or skateboard but if the term non-motorized is used, they would not fall under the policy.

**Library Extended Study Hours – Pattie**

At the last meeting it was questioned if longer hours could be implemented in the 2019 fall semester (not just the week before finals). Patti commented that the current schedule was setup up based on past usage but she will discuss this with Library management and report at the March 28 meeting.

**New Items****Student Study Rooms in the Library - Pattie**

Pattie reported that often during peak times in the Library all the rooms are booked but not being used. Student s book the rooms but then do not show up so they look to be unavailable when they are really not.

Patti reported that they have a new policy for the first floor Library study rooms. In the future, students will not to be able to reserve the rooms but rather they will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. She asked for comments and the general consensus from the students present was that they don't reserve the rooms but if the rooms are empty they use them.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the MUB, Superior Room, B001.