



Public Comments on the OSU-Cascades Master Plan (PZ-18-004)

I'm Bill Bernardy, for the Bend Neighborhood Coalition. We support OSU-Cascades' master plan and want to congratulate the university on setting an example for community engagement in its planning process. In fact, we highly recommend that the City take lessons from the university in how to gather and use community input in a way that's respectful and productive.

Hundreds of community volunteers participated in university task forces and advisory groups, and the plan that has been submitted addresses the community's concerns in substantive ways. The architects and engineers listened and responded with creative ideas that incorporate the interests of the community in many areas, including transportation and public access to the campus and its programs.

In addition to serving on the Community Integration Advisory Group, I chaired the Housing Task Force that recommended a goal of housing 40% of students on campus. To the university's credit, the master plan includes that goal.

Now that the university has prepared plans that address community concerns, it's time for the City to stop pushing off its role in helping to build a campus community. Having a university in town isn't just about buildings and roads on campus — the City has to start the work it needs to do to complement this master plan.

In 2013, the Planning Commission sent a letter to the City Council, saying, "it is imperative that we move now to initiate ... actions ... to integrate this very important new development into our community." This included forming a Town & Gown Committee, hiring a staff member for campus-related work, and adopting policies to mitigate the impact of the campus on nearby neighborhoods and the City as a whole.

After more than 4 years, there has been no progress on these matters by the City, which is a disservice to both the community and the university it claims to embrace.

Other issues that have been raised to the City, but remain unaddressed include: 1) establishing an entertainment district away from campus, so that one doesn't form next to it; 2) developing code to implement the concept of neighborhood compatibility zones, which were called for in the Central Westside Plan, one of which is supposed to be along the campus border on Simpson Avenue; and 3) creating a University District Overlay Zone to concentrate university-related development in the adjacent opportunity area, while protecting nearby neighborhoods.

So, please recommend the OSU-Cascades master plan to the Council. But, please, also insist that the Council address the issues your Commission advised it to nearly 5 years ago, so we can build a campus community, not just a campus.

Bill Bernardy
Chair, BNC Steering Committee