

MINUTES
Bluegrass Community and Technical College
Joint Meeting - Board of Directors and Foundation Board
Newtown Campus Classroom Building, Room 105/106
December 5, 2018

Board Members Present: John Albright; Alonzo Allen; Joe Arnold; Linda Breathitt; Pamela Brough; Claudia Goggin; Carlean Hefner; Dr. Joshua Hoekstra; Dr. Brian Houillion; Florence Huffman; Dr. Augusta Julian; Mike Kendrick; David Lee Kennedy II; Kimberly Marshall, Foundation Board Chair; Dr. Laurel Martin; Robert McNulty; Marissa Smith; S. Dudley Taylor; Theodore Vittos; Ron Walker, Jr., Board of Directors Chair; Richard Webb; Mark Willis

Others Present: Randy Brookshire, Lisa Bell, Wayne Cowan, Josh DeSpain, Dr. Greg Feeney, Ron Harris, Alan Lawson, Mark Manuel, JoEllen Reed, Dr. Palisa Williams Rushin, Charlene Walker, Kay Warner

I. Welcome / Introductions

Board of Directors Chair Ron Walker called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m. He and Foundation Board Chair Kimberly Marshall welcomed the members from both boards and expressed their appreciation to everyone for their interest in the campus planning. All in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Campus Master Plan

Dr. Julian began the presentation by stating that a college facilities master plan is completed every 10 years. This is a requirement as a part of reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). It provides an opportunity to consider physical assets and make plans for continued development. She noted how much can change in 10 years, as the Newtown Campus was not a part of the last master plan because those discussions were just beginning at that time.

Dr. Julian stated that the information Ross Tarrant Architects (RTA) is sharing tonight is very close to the final document, but a few items remain. She welcomed Randy Brookshire to talk about the process and to share a status report with the board members.

Mr. Brookshire began by expressing appreciation that RTA has the opportunity to work with BCTC to update the master plan. Information was gathered from the administration, and then surveys were sent to students and faculty and staff. In addition, they hosted meetings in Lexington and at the regional campuses to gather additional input from the community.

Mr. Brookshire stated that the Newtown Campus is being developed in a multi-phase approach over many years as was shown in the separate campus plan created just for Newtown. The plan is to have space to support 12,500 students with 8,000 FTE (full-time equivalents). The existing site has two major phases completed. First was the construction of the Classroom Building, renovations of the Administration and Megowan Buildings, and stabilization of the Laundry Building. Second was the construction of the Science Education Center. He noted that there are some pedestrian conflicts and visual buffers that will need to be mitigated, including the crosswalk between the parking area and the Classroom Building, and the visual barriers along Fourth Street.

Mr. Brookshire said that further development at the Newtown Campus is expected in the next 10 years. Priority items include an addition to the Laundry Building (currently in design), construction of a third large building to support additional campus programs and support functions, and the preservation of the quad-style green space. At that time, moving off the Cooper Campus could be considered if the third building was large enough. The development of the green space will move traffic and parking to the exterior of the campus along Loudon Avenue, which will alleviate pedestrian issues and conflicts.

The Newtown North area was also not a part of the 2009 master plan. BCTC acquired this property in 2012. There was significant work done to demolish and renovate some, but not all, of the existing structures. Current development priorities include enhancement of the entrance to this site, renovation of existing cottage buildings, removal of the perimeter fence and vegetative overgrowth, and enhancement of campus views. No additional buildings are expected to be constructed at this site in the near future. The Legacy Trail that leads to the YMCA is adjacent to this property, so improvements to the look of campus will be beneficial.

The Leestown Campus has changed significantly since the original master plan was in place. There were major changes to remove the roadway through campus, and significant renovation to the M Building and other buildings.

Other priority items suggested include the extension of the pedestrian green space to the front of the M Building, the installation of tree islands in the large, student parking area behind the M Building, an addition to the B Building, and the possible removal of the C and N Buildings to allow for the construction of a new campus building. It was determined that additional parking is not necessary at this time, but adding shade trees to some of the existing parking areas is desired.

Dudley Taylor asked if there was any other way to provide access to campus beyond the current entrance off of Leestown Road. Mr. Brookshire responded that they have explored that possibility, either toward New Circle or through the National Guard property, but no viable solutions have been identified.

The Cooper Campus has seen some minor improvements in the last decade. This is a transitional campus that we will not develop or invest in further.

Mr. Brookshire noted changes from the last master plan for the Danville Campus. Possible locations for new buildings have changed due to a geotechnical survey that shows some adverse sub-surface conditions. The current planning for the Advanced Manufacturing Center will help to identify appropriate build sites on the campus. There may also need to be associated parking and later a second campus entrance.

The Georgetown–Scott County Advanced Manufacturing Center has been constructed, and additional parking and a loop road were added to the campus. Priority items for the future include the installation of second entrance/exit to campus to create redundancy, expansion of the existing parking, and, when needed, the location of a second building on that site.

Mr. Brookshire noted that the Lawrenceburg Campus has not changed much but the surrounding area has changed significantly. He reported that the priority items for this campus are fairly extensive, including completion of the asphalt paving of the existing parking area, improvement of sight lines around the existing campus entrance, consideration of a second entrance/exit to open up the view of the building from U.S. Highway 127, provisions for outdoor gathering space, and consideration of a buffer at the perimeter of campus and the trail system.

The Winchester–Clark County Campus original plan showed three buildings. The first building was constructed about 10 years ago and the outdoor space has been enhanced. Proposed priority items currently include the construction of a second building with a larger footprint, the expansion of existing parking, and the modification and expansion of the existing walking trail system.

Mr. Taylor asked if there had been any discussion about expansion of the site or the traffic along the road leading to campus. Dr. Julian said there have been comments on the possibility of expanding campus acreage but no commitments. Mr. Taylor also commented that Winchester is close to the Newtown Campus, so it could be some time before a second building is needed.

Pamela Brough asked about the second entrance at the Lawrenceburg Campus, noting that it would help to make the campus entrance more visible and safer. The one road into the campus creates a traffic backup and there is reduced visibility, causing a safety hazard. She suggested documenting that in the master plan.

Florence Huffman thanked the architects for including greenspace in the plan, as it creates a collegiate atmosphere. She asked if there would be some dedicated greenspace at the Danville Campus. Mr. Brookshire said there are plans to add trees along the entrance. He also noted that the Legacy Trail is close to the Newtown Campus property, so there are possibilities for greater visibility of the campus. The spur off of the trail crosses at Loudon Avenue and will connect to downtown. Dr. Julian said we need to make sure we make it safe for cyclists who travel through campus. She encouraged additional conversation with the new mayor to ensure that we make BCTC a welcoming and safe place for everyone.

Chair Walker asked for an update on the Newtown Campus signage. Wayne Cowan noted that the upgraded signage and wayfinding is in process. He will review those updates with the board next year. He added that parking structures will be needed in the future along the back side of the property to accommodate parking needs. Ms. Huffman asked if parking would be free. Dr. Julian responded that is a decision that will need to be determined in future budget discussions and when those structures are deemed necessary.

Marissa Smith asked if there was a plan to increase access at the Newtown Campus. Dr. Julian responded affirmatively. She added that if we want to have a bus stop on campus, we would need to have a conversation with Lextran. Mr. Taylor asked if BCTC could have a student bus rate similar to what the University of Kentucky has in place. Dr. Julian said that the university has a contract with Lextran that covers their students. BCTC began the free bus pass program last year and continued this year. Last year, 444 passes were distributed; this year we have given out about 290 passes. This is a good program for students, and we hope it helps them be successful.

III. Adjourn

Foundation Board Chair Marshall expressed her appreciation for the presentations tonight and for the opportunity to learn more about future development of the campuses. A motion to adjourn by acclamation was proposed by Chair Walker. At 6:07 p.m., with no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned.

03/06/2019
Date Approved by the
BCTC Board of Directors

SIGNED COPY ON FILE
Ron Walker, Jr., Chair
BCTC Board of Directors

SIGNED COPY ON FILE
Dr. Joshua Hoekstra, Secretary
BCTC Board of Directors