Memo Concerning the Library, and Harvey Lake

University of Texas at Tyler

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TEXAS EASTERN UNIVERSITY
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May 24, 1978

MEMO FOR DISCUSSING PRELIMINARY PLANS
FOR LIBRARY ALSO SIDEWALKS AND GRADING AT
THE UPPER DAM AND ON THE LAKE
SIDE OF THE BUSINESS BUILDING

Since receiving copy of the preliminary plans
for the library on May 12 have spent most of four
days going over the plans and specifications, but
mainly checking clearing, grading, and sidewalks
both new and old.

The plans and specifications have not been
developed far enough to make a thorough check, but I
think to the point we can make some appropriate com-
ments before the architect proceeds with the working
drawings.

Since the clearing, grading and sidewalks
around the library and business building tie into
each other and similar conditions prevail, would
like to cover this part of the plans and work first.

1. It is most unusual and contrary to all good
construction and practices to lay concrete side
walks in advance of clearing and grubbing the area and pro-
viding proper drainage. This is generally what is
being done between the library site and on the lake
side of the business building almost up to the Green
House.
2. Rather than doing the grading first, the side walk has been laid out dodging trees and using a maximum grade of one foot in twelve or about an 8% grade, the maximum permitted for handicapped students. This has produced a side walk looking back from the East end of the Business Building that resembles a Park Rolly-Coaster.

3. As to clearing, it is not possible to see the lake or other buildings from the back of the Business Building. In fact it is not possible to see more than 50 to 75 feet from the side walks out into the thicket area. I am afraid we will be confronted with objections from the students such as we had on the walkway between the parking lots and later had to clear the area and provide lights. While the subject of clearing has not been resolved (my letter on the Master Plan of January 10, 1978), I am still registering my strongest objections to having our campus and particularly areas around the buildings cleared and opened up to where it will be as safe as possible against mugging, rape, accidents, fires, rodents and skunks.

4. I was opposed to the earth mound in front of the Business Building and more opposed to the one proposed in front of the library with the up and down side walks and steep grades on each side.
5. In regard to the side walk and side slopes on the dam, I took level readings on both sides of the dam and have shown on the original drawings the changes that have been made and the condition it has produced which resembles somewhat a railroad embankment. With a 2 foot increase in height at the ends of the dam and 1 foot increase at the center, the side slopes should be restored and raised on both sides using a 4 to 1 slope as shown on the revised drawing.

6. I have no objections to the location of the library or the floor elevations, but do object to the continuous steep slopes around the side walks leading to the building. I have marked some minor suggestions for changes on the plans and will mention these if time permits.

7. On sheet A-1 why use a side entrance and why not one on the lake side. Don't understand the side walk arrangement on the Southeast corner.

8. When we were going over the schematic drawings question was raised about not having a skylight. They have shown one on the cross-sections, but not on plans.

We have enough glass in the building without putting in a skylight, now, that would have to be removed when the fourth floor is added.

9. In checking over the floor plans notice
the location and size of some of the rooms and presume that the staff's studies have made preliminary sketches to determine location of special equipment, shelving, furniture, storage, etc.

10. Other than the comments I have made, would see no objections to proceeding with the working drawings, but after these have advanced to the stage of construction details and other important information not shown on these preliminary plans and specifications, we should have another opportunity to review them.

H. J. McKenzie

P.S. -

If I may share with you a few other comments and suggestions -

(a) With the North Loop road paved and due to the sharp curves and short sight distances at a couple of locations, would suggest center striping and speed signs provided at the earliest possible date.

(b) We can never get it done cheaper and would suggest installing curb and gutter and paving over the lower dam and to connect with North Loop. This decision would have to be made now before oil topping is placed.

(c) Before our working drawings for the library are completed, think we should complete our Master Plan drawings to avoid if possible changes after construction.

H. J. M.