Research Facility Subgroup Meeting Notes

August 30th, 2017

Case Study Discussion:

* University of Utah Research Park is currently undergoing a retrofitting-based master plan update. Currently exploring what niches they do well and building on those
* POM provides rare opportunity for space for collaboration between Utah’s major research institutions and local businesses and industry
* ‘Research park’ more of a place for businesses/companies to and for universities to conduct collaborative research/have a collaborative space
  + Be realistic about what universities will or will not want to collaborate on
* BYU/SLCC are partnering for a Herriman project, UVU is working on a Thanksgiving Point campus
* Different universities are able to commit different amounts of time to research depending on the school’s goals and systems
* Some details are so specific that we’re unable to work them out as a small group, but big-picture planning and preserving needs to take place now
* Chunk of prison site for public purpose (university research, park space, etc)
* Do something innovative beyond the status quo, something not tackled by North Carolina or Utah’s research park

What are our goals/outcomes?

* Adobe wants to create an ecosystem that can attract more talent and grow more talent from within
* Create something that puts us more on the map, branding
* Creating something that synergizes well and is not a disparate set of satellite courses etc., collaborative co-working space
  + Sends a message beyond just the surface level of what is going on
* What can each one of us bring to the table that others can’t?
* Address Utah’s workforce needs
* Streamline existing and new pathways and programs to under/graduate education
* Amenities in a research park are key to creating a successful facility/park
* Technology/research transfer
* Company growth is encouraged just by having a core research area/destination
* Students proximate to research proximate to jobs
* Convenience of having various jobs close to each other for meetings, collaborations, etc.
* Incubation space for smaller companies to get established
* Two focuses: growing workforce and developing new companies
* What is the technology that will get the federal government to invest in this research park?
  + May invest in multi-university centers for universities if not entire research parks
* Create a brand-new Utah research facility model that other regions will be copying after, not copying something from another region to begin with
* Locating graduate programs near the internships and careers that they feed into (POM as current population center of the Wasatch Front)
* Collaboration beyond universities, including residents, companies, industrial, etc.

How do we achieve these goals?

* Utah’s secret sauce is that we’re so willing to collaborate & work together to achieve desired outcomes
* Decide what these goals look like when it comes to real estate, need to begin deciding what land is needed where
* Balancing out these major goals with smaller, individual company needs
* Need an explicit, realistic road map for this research facility so we can identify all the hoops we need to jump through
* Tweaking student curriculum so that it is rigorous, challenging, and prepares students for their careers
* Plan (as best we can) for what we wish we had done looking back in 70 years
* Identify amenities needed to accommodate future employee cohorts – mixed-use, less of a focus on automobile traffic, housing closer to jobs/campuses
* Explore ways to create incentives for companies to locate at the park
* Do we try to let this happen organically or do we establish a framework for this to grow within?
  + Need to establish incentives if we’re trying to establish a set framework
  + Establishment of a strategic vision, led by either the state legislature or another specific group
* Crediting boards tend to be more rigid than our institutions and may be a limiting factor
* U of U Lassonde-like live/work space and more cutting-edge university strategies are the future
* Creating an opportunity for people like single moms to have the amenities they need to get an education while, for example, working and taking care of a family

Scenarios discussion:

* Designate a piece of land, possible prison site, that state controls/brokers with incentives that will benefit the state and local workforce development
  + Needs an anchor, maybe a major employer or university
  + One-stop-shop collaborative entity that helps it grow/vision
  + Intelligence community/cybersecurity/languages/big data analytics focus? Building off of existing investment in NSA facility to create a regional identity
    - Everything will be connected by the internet of things, will need security solutions for that
    - Not entirely cybersecurity focused, just anchoring idea. Need to allow innovation and additional companies
    - Other theme: autonomous vehicles, smart infrastructure in the face of growing population and develop on west side of Utah Lake
      * Need a focus that we have a competitive advantage and have existing programs/companies
  + Prioritizing workforce for companies like Adobe that are sprouting out of POM
    - Adobe can play off of cybersecurity focus because they are heavily in that sphere already
  + Planning for a theme that will be able to take off beyond any individual university of employer
    - Letting free market take off beyond that theme