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Constitutional Park

Karen Cedzo, speaker

Series: University focus

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Karen Cedzo reported on the Constitutional Park on campus. Work has been progressing steadily. On May 10<sup>th</sup> the university Physical Plant started moving dirt and the project went out to bid. H and H Construction of Fairbanks won the contract from a field of four bidders. UAF turned over the site to H and H on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Since that time the construction company has been laying cables for the light installation and forms are being placed for the concrete work. Trees, flowers, shrubs and grass will be planted at the end of the summer and the park will be dedicated sometime in September. Over the years a serious problem of drainage has hampered improved to the area between the Fine Arts Building and Wood Center. Efforts to improve the drainage has been underway for years with little luck at finding a simple solution. In 1980 Jim Parks from the statewide office of Facilities Planning and Construction began to work on a new approach to drainage in that area. He proposed that the elevation of the area be raised and a park created. He designed a park for the area that would accomplish the movement of water in the right direction and a pleasant environment for faculty, staff, students and visitors who cross the mall area regularly and frequently each day. Former chancellor Howard Cutler gave the go ahead on the park and campus beautification money was set aside for construction of the park. Chancellor Patrick O'Rourke provided additional impetus to create the park and a campus committee was created to work with the landscape architect hired for the project from Land Design in Anchorage. The committee stressed the seriousness of the drainage problem and they aimed to create a park which could be used for a variety of purposes and by a wide range of people. Cedzo talked about the progress of the park construction.

Cedzo reported on activities on campus including those related to the Golden Days celebration and the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.