

NORTH CAMPUS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

At the end of September, I was invited to a meeting with UNM President David Schmidly, Regent Mel Eaves, and former interim president David Harris. They showed me a bubble diagram – a sketch of how they see the North UNM Golf Course during the next half century. I am including a copy of the diagram with this letter. **Please be aware that this is a preliminary drawing**, a conceptual plan provided to the university. It is a first sketch of how future development might look.

Despite a series of recent assurances from most regents as well as the acting president, **UNM does intend to develop the golf course**. Construction has started on an expansion of the Ronald McDonald House, and soon the Domenici Mind Institute will also grow. However, this is just the beginning. The university is entering into a contractual relationship with Co-operative Retirement Services of America and J.P. Morgan Chase to build a retirement community on the golf course.

On a personal note, I find this very distressing news. The university received this land for free, and neighbors allowed trees to be dug out of their own yard and transplanted on to the golf course. In 1942, Thomas Popejoy wrote that “its facilities are not intended for any one group, but for all who wish to use them.” For 65 years, this occurred. Countless thousands of people have enjoyed this magnificent place.

It is my belief that UNM can earn significant income while also protecting a cherished

green space. We have a series of asphalt surfaces circling the golf course, why not develop this area instead?

The university has posted a link on its website with further detail about the proposed Lobo Village. The address is: http://frem.unm.edu/reo/reo_lobovillage.shtml We have also established a website: www.neighborsforgreenspace.com. This is where you can learn about your neighbors' perspective on the issue.

Now that you know my opinion, I would like to hear from you. Despite our differences, UNM has made overtures to our neighborhood, and is asking for a more collaborative process of development. In this vein, **please come to a neighborhood meeting on Sunday, October 28, 2007 at 5 pm. We will meet at the Law School, in room 2401.**

New Time

On Sunday, November 4th, at 4 pm, UNM President Schmidly has agreed to a town hall meeting with all those concerned about the golf course. It will also be held in the Law School, in room 2401.

Your voice and your values are important. Thank you, Sara Koplik, President, NCNA sarakoplik@hotmail.com 266-0579

p.s. If you would like to adopt or foster a dog, please contact Elaine Price at 232-4719, Foster Coordinator, NM Animal Friends. Also, if you find a wild bird or animal in distress, please call Wildlife Rescue at 344-2500.