



Date: November 17, 2009
Project: Rainier Beach Community Center & Pool
Subject: Public Outreach Meeting #3

Introduction of Presenters:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Maureen O'Neill, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Stan Lokting, ARC Architects
- Kenichi Nakano, Nakano Associates Landscape Architects
- Trish Soto, Counsilman-Hunsaker Aquatics

Project Schedule:

- David introduced the project and reviewed the schedule. He noted that the process for artist selection has begun and will be completed by the end of the year.
- Design and Permits in 2010
- Construction in 2011 - 2012

Plans discussed:

- Stan reviewed the scope of the previous public meetings and the small outreach meetings to various community groups.
- Stan reviewed the site diagrams and the plan concept of 3 main volumes that open out to welcome the community into the center.
- Kenichi presented his firm and noted recent work in the neighborhood including the library. He described the parking and events plaza to the north, the seating / stage and connection to the plaza to the south, as well as the rain gardens along Rainier Ave.
- Kenichi described how the parking area will drain to the middle and rain garden grasses will filter the water naturally. To the east of the building, rain gardens are being considered to hold storm water and filter it as well.
- Stan discussed the north program areas - the multipurpose room, kitchen, fitness, daycare, and gymnasium. Then described the east program areas – the teens, games, computer/study, meeting, and arts rooms.
- Stan described the exterior design, the solar water panels, and the green roof. Stan explained that the design team will be studying how the south wall of the pools can maximize heat gain, retain heat, provide daylighting, and provide privacy when desired by program needs.
- Trish described the 3 pools: competition, warm recreation pool, and spa. There are step entry into all pools, and space of modalities in spa.

Public Comments and discussion:

- There were questions on the amount and location of ADA parking. There is concern about the distance for disabled folks to get to the locker rooms and pool. The new facility will be ADA accessible and will have at least 4 parking spaces, possibly 6, all located close to the entry.
- It was noted that there needs to be some visibility from the lobby for the access van pick-up to be easily accommodated.
- Suggestion for a shower on the pool deck.
- There were concerns about the acoustic separation of spaces. Stan clarified that the design team will include acoustic experts as the design progresses.
- There was a question on the size of the multipurpose room. This room is about 2,700 sf and can hold about 144 people at round banquet tables. For comparison, the existing MP room is 2,400 sf.
- There was some discussion on the proposed solid street wall along Rainier Ave. Currently the design shows glass above approximately 10' with views of the trees and sky. Several folks expressed concern that this was too solid, was not a welcoming design, and does not follow the 'eyes on the street' CPTED principles. The design team will continue to study this design to achieve a welcoming façade as well as screening for special events and presentations.
- The design team was encouraged to make the south wall of the pools really strong design element. It was asked to be clear in the design about 'What makes this building unique and special.'
- There was much support for a water feature at the south plaza.
- There was discussion about the planning for a 2nd story. Maureen O'Neill explained that Parks is set up to manage only about 20,000 sf for a typical community center with minimal staff. A 2nd floor is difficult to manage for programming and security from Park's experience. Parks is not planning to expand this facility.
- Gardens were discussed. Stan explained that the green/ planted roof would be for storm water management only and would not be accessible to the public. It was suggested to think about possible edible plantings to be used. Maureen O'Neill added that the New School is creating a garden to the west of the school that may be shared with Parks. A community garden for seniors was suggested.
- Atlantic Street Center was discussed. David explained that ASC was given over a year to work with Parks to be included in the new center but were not able to provide a firm commitment. Space in the new building will be available to ASC, as rentals are open for all, but they will not have any dedicated space.
- There was a discussion on costs. The design team is currently working with the cost estimator to complete the schematic cost estimate. More information will follow. Several community members expressed a desire to be involved in fundraising. Parks will provide some information on fundraising opportunities and budgets.

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