



Date: June 9, 2009
Project: Rainier Beach Community Center & Pool
Subject: Public Outreach Meeting

Introduction of Presenters:

- David Graves, Senior Planner - Seattle Parks
- Dave Rutherford, Principal - ARC Architects
- Stan Lokting, Principal – ARC Architects
- Patricia J. Soto – Councilman Hunsaker Aquatics

Project Schedule:

- Next two Public Outreach meetings:
 - Conceptual Design – September 15, 2009 at 6:30pm
 - Schematic Design – November 17, 2009 at 6:30pm
- Design and Permits in 2010
- Construction in 2011

Site and Neighborhood Review

- Dave talked about placing emphasis on neighborhood's great diversity of both people and cultures and the importance of embracing this in the design
- Dave also discussed site analysis and its influence on new design in areas such as transit & pedestrian circulation, connection to schools, parks, plaza & waterfront, sustainable design & climate (wind, sun, water, views), noise & activity on and around the site

Community Center Activities

- Stan presented slides of various community center activities categorized into these areas: Sports, Fitness; Kids, 'Tweens & Teens; Meeting & Learning; Events; Art & Culture; & Outdoor Activities.

Aquatic Activities

- Trish also presented slides of aquatic center amenities such as: Waterslides; Interactive Play Structures; Water Vortex; Current Channel; Lap Lanes – walking & swimming; Spa Pools; and Spray Features.

Small Group Breakout

We divided up into 4 groups, discussed possible activities and ideas, and received great input from the public. The following is a summary of the written notes taken in each group.

- ***What is important to you in the current Rainier Beach Community Center & Pool?***
 - Pool Uses: Water Aerobics, Swim Lessons, "Women of the World" Program
 - Multipurpose Space & meeting rooms
 - Teen programs
 - Computer Room

- Gymnasium
- Grandparent support/kinship group
- Martial Arts class
- ***What would you bring you to this new building?***
 - What would make this place yours?***
 - Dance classes, dance events
 - Self Defense
 - Gender Specific classes
 - Tutoring classes
 - Classes for 55+, social activities, games
 - Midday classes for Young Kids and Moms
 - Crafts, pottery, art
 - Better Locker Rooms for all activities, family changing rooms
 - Indoor Soccer
 - Weight room
 - Aerobics, pilates, yoga classes
 - Indoor Elevated Track
 - Rock Climbing Wall
 - Badminton, pickle ball, tennis, ping pong
 - Community Kitchen
 - Organic gardening – education tool
 - Catering space
 - Cooking classes
 - Rental Space for parties, weddings, events – revenue for Parks
 - More Pool Activities
 - Party Rentals
 - Lap Swimming times
 - Therapy pool
 - Diving Boards
 - Water Slide
 - Comfortable pool deck & adjacent eating area
 - Sauna & Spa
 - One group felt that it is more important to lap swimming, lessons, and water therapy than children play. They said children can play in any kind of water.
- ***Additional Design Concerns and Ideas***
 - Security & Safety
 - Transparency
 - More places for adults to sit outside so less crime
 - Integrated, not prison-like
 - Parking – not enough, not secure
 - Secure Bike parking
 - Staff should not park in the closest spaces to the entry
 - Natural daylighting & ventilation
 - Connection to outdoors
 - LEED certification – educational tool for community youth
 - Spectator seating for activities and events, pool included
 - Community kiosk in the lobby for events and activities upcoming
 - Large, gracious, welcoming lobby with visibility to many other spaces in the building and to the parking lot
 - Lawn seating for movies and performances
 - Incorporation and display of public art

- More money spent on low maintenance, green building materials and less on toys and features
 - Reuse of wood trusses and columns in new bldg
- Healthy juice bar/snack bar
- Lots of storage, storage, storage
- Quality landscaping at exterior and low maintenance
- Street presence – parking to back or side of bldg
- Pool as found art space
 - Tile design at bottom interactive for games and play
- Flexible, multi-use spaces & meeting rooms
- Intimate reading space-“Quiet” space

Meeting Conclusion

- Each of the 4 groups reported discussion points back to everyone
- ARC Architects and Seattle Parks thanked everyone for attending and gave reminders of upcoming meetings and PAT deadline.
- Contact David Graves of Seattle Parks with any follow-up questions, comments, concerns.

Additional emails have been received from the public and included the following comments.

“There is absolutely no privacy in the women’s dressing room. It would be nice to have some stalls, even if they only had curtains that you could close. I am a senior citizen and would like to take advantage of the center for exercise and to have a social outlet.

“The women’s locker room, however, is quite crowded at that time because of a very large group in the Stretch and Flex class. I enjoy the pool and the women in the locker room very much. A little more space and a few more lap lanes would be greatly appreciated.”

“Our family goes swimming to an indoor pool about once a week during the “winter” months. While we used to head up to Mountlake Terrace in the past, we discovered the Federal Way Community Center pool and have fallen in love with it. Have you and/or the design team visited the Community Center pool in Federal Way? It is an awesome facility and one that is desperately needed in Seattle: for an inexpensive entrance fee a family can spend the entire open swim duration at a pool that has something to offer to everyone: from toddlers to teenagers to us parents.”

“There are no Seattle based regulation pools to play [waterpolo] on a legitimate level (sanctioned games, tournaments). The pools are too shallow and too short. Ideally, 25-30 meters of length and 2 meters of depth would be needed. There are many of us who believe the sport would flourish here with such a pool. Rainier Beach might be the perfect place to start with a water polo pool,

Board from the meeting showing where attendees live.

