



Date: September 15, 2009
Project: Rainier Beach Community Center & Pool
Subject: Public Outreach Meeting #2

Introduction of Presenters:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Stan Lokting, ARC Architects
- Paul Graves, Counsilman-Hunsaker Aquatics

Project Schedule:

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

Overview:

- Stan discussed the local and regional context and important site attributes.
- Stan summarized what public and design meetings have occurred and what we have learned from them.
- Stan presented the major design considerations and the evolution of the design options to date, including more in depth analysis into the three plan options that remain.
- Paul discussed the pool options and the various elements that could be included as part of the aquatics portion of the design.

Program Comments during Overview Period:

- There is concern about decreased community services in the Rainier Beach area.
- There is concern in the community that the fee structure of the new facility be both in-line with similar facilities in the region and priced such that people in this neighborhood can afford to use it.
- People voiced the feeling that the leisure pool seemed disproportionately large and wanted to make sure that the building still feels like a community center and not a leisure center.
- A concern was raised that both the citizen design advisory panel and the construction team that eventually builds the building be composed of people racially similar to the make up of Rainier Beach.

Group Discussions:

- The audience was randomly divided into three groups for a more intimate discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the three options.

Design Comments during Group Discussion Period – Blue Group:

- GENERAL
 - Overhead garage doors or operable walls are desirable between the natatorium and the exterior of the building.

- The family center is a desirable service in the community. How can it, or some aspects of it, be incorporated into the project?
- In general, the rooms feel small.
- In all options, there should be two gyms, or at a minimum, a covered court in lieu of a second gym.
- The far NW end of the parking seems far away in each scheme.
- A second story now, or the ability to expand into a second story in the future, is desirable.
- In general, it was desirable that smaller rooms have operable walls so that they can be made larger.
- An outdoor spray or fountain feature that is a free amenity to the community was a popular idea.
- Generally, it is good to keep noisy uses consolidated in one area.
- **OPTION B**
 - In option B, there was a feeling that teens and daycare were too close together.
 - In option B, the pool is taking up too much space. It seems to be more like a "leisure center" at the expense of community services.
 - There was some question, in option B, as to whether or not the water slide should be a feature on the South façade of the building.

Design Comments during Group Discussion Period – Yellow Group:

- **GENERAL**
 - It will be critical to stay within budget for all options.
 - There should be parent seating at the leisure pool; small tables and chairs.
 - Windows into the art room will be important in all schemes.
 - Facility should have lots of storage.
 - The multi-purpose room should have interior operable walls.
 - The idea of two pools is great.
 - Parking oversight and security is critical.
 - An outdoor spray or fountain feature that is a free amenity to the community was a popular idea.
 - The main corridor should be a minimum of 15 feet wide.
 - A tall water slide that is indoor/outdoor was described as a benefit.
 - The art room should be larger and have access to the plaza.
 - There should be low cabinets in the art room.
 - The lap pool should be cooler; the leisure pool warmer.
 - A racquetball or squash court should be added to the program.
 - An outdoor water feature, such as at Miller, would be desirable in each option.
- **OPTION A**
 - The multi-purpose room and kitchen have a beneficial relationship to one another as well as to the rest of the building and site. Also, the patio is a benefit to both the multi-purpose room and the lounge.
 - The green space on the East side of the building seems wasted as it is shown.
- **OPTION B**
 - The buildings view over the parking lot is a benefit.
 - The administration offices should be relocated to the building perimeter.
 - The daycare's exterior entrance is advantageous.
 - There was concern that the gym will overshadow the smaller spaces.
- **OPTION C**
 - There were concerns about the level of exposure of the multi-purpose room. Could landscaping be a noise barrier between multi-purpose room and street?
 - Both pools having access to South light is desirable.

- Plenty of green space near daycare is important.
- Having an entrance directly from the street is beneficial.
- The patio on the south side of the building should be larger.
- People liked the flair of the building at the multi-purpose room.
- Classroom sizes should be larger.
- Visibility and lines of site are very important within the building.
- A portion of the pool that is 12 inches deep is important for kids play.

Design Comments during Group Discussion Period – Red Group:

- GENERAL
 - A running track elevated in the gym, on the roof of the building or on the grounds would be useful to parents who have dropped off children at the facility.
 - A small skate park might be a good use for the area where the site is currently pre-excavated at the existing gym.
 - A patio and indoor/outdoor connection is desirable at the gym, natatorium and multi-purpose room.
 - Direct access from the locker rooms to the both sides of the natatorium is desirable.
 - An outdoor spray or fountain feature that is a free amenity to the community was a popular idea. Both on the plaza and outside the daycare.
 - Should there be a direct, indoor connection between the middle school and the community center.
 - The main hallway in all options seems too long.
 - By making use of the previously excavated areas of the site, additional money could be saved and instead put into improving other aspects of the center.
 - Picnic tables would help to activate the plaza as well as other outdoor areas.
 - For the senior population, a short distance between the parking-side building entrance and the locker rooms and pools is favorable.
 - The patio on the south side of the building could function as a performance stage for the plaza.
- OPTION B
 - The daycare having a direct, indoor connection to the rest of the facility functioned best in option B.
- OPTION C
 - There is not enough green space along Rainier Avenue.
 - There should be ADA parking immediately adjacent to the parking-side entry.
 - The parking area seems distant from the main building entry and potentially unsafe. Parking area should be more visible from inside building.
 - Noise from Rainier Avenue would be distracting to people in the multi-purpose room. It would be better to have a backdrop other than Rainier Avenue for the multi-purpose room, perhaps switching it with the gym.