



**Laurelhurst Community Center
Expansion Project
Public Meeting #6
March 10, 2005
Meeting Notes**

PAT members present: Nate Benjamin, Kathleen Hebert, Alan Hovland, Joe Herrin.

Guests present: Jeannie Hale, Michael Suver, Julian Suver, John Bender, Lisa Russell, Jamie Lieberman, Kaylene Anderson, Ron Graves, Steve Kelley, Wendy Kelley, Steve Holloman, and Nils Pohlmann.

Staff Present: Karen Lynch, Parks Public Relations Specialist; Dan Johnson, Parks Project Manager; David Yim, Community Center coordinator, Catherine Hart, VIA Suzuki.

Welcome and Introductions – Dan Johnson

Dan welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He reviewed the project phases to date. He expressed that Parks has partnered with the community on this project. He noted that an upgrade can be done to the IT connection at the community center during the expansion project. Dan mentioned the Landmarks Preservation Board approval process and that the full Board preliminary approval presentation is scheduled for April 6, 2005. He said the Board's comments early on were similar to what the Design Commission, PAT and community have expressed. He indicated that the project will go out for bids the autumn of 2005, with the construction budget not available until early 2006. He expects that the community center will be reopened in the autumn of 2006.

Dan reviewed some recent project events:

- Full site survey
- Hazmat survey of the building
- Soils Drilling to determine load bearing capabilities of the soil under the addition. This will determine foundation design criteria
- Dan introduced Catherine Hart of VIA Suzuki and turned the meeting over to her. Catherine showed schematic "illustration" from the last meeting, saying that it received pretty good comments and reviewed some basic comments from the Design Commission, the Landmarks Board and the community. The community was not positive about the 2,500 square foot new multi-purpose room, so Suzuki went "back to the drawing board". Suzuki

re-reviewed the site; two big trees near the building could use more breathing room; the new addition (2,000 square foot multi-purpose room) is somewhat rotated which allows the kitchen to be larger than the prior proposal. The maximum occupancy of the new 2,000 square foot multi-purpose room will be 123 people; she reminded all that the current multi-purpose room will be used differently after the expansion, and that part of it will become a fireplace room with an approximate 40-person maximum occupancy. The remainder will become the lobby.

There was a discussion of how the new lobby space will be a “crossroads” between the new building .The new multi-purpose room will have two sinks and countertops for coffee service.

Question: Is the local community expansion required ? Is it required to have a space for 100+ people, i.e., to accommodate weddings, etc.? Is this the City’s desire or the neighborhood’s?

Comment: Concern is about events/noise at night.

Answer: The community center has a strict 10 p.m. noise ordinance and it is enforced.

Jeannie Hale, Laurelhurst Community Club, commented that the Community Club cannot meet the needs of this community to have events; it is too small. She mentioned that this neighborhood also serves the Five Corners area and parts of Sandpoint, and said “we can’t keep people out”.

Of the non-PAT members at the meeting, one person lives directly across from the community center; several others who attended do not live on the perimeter.

Dan said Parks is doing what voters approved in 2000, but on a much smaller scale , given the escalation in construction materials.

A resident stated that his opinion is that the voters who live in the neighborhood have come to the meetings and he feels that they don’t want the expansion.

The perimeter neighbor said that he is all for the expansion and an improved space. He said his opposition is not about being afraid of change; it’s more about having increased traffic and a loss of “community feel”, plus more noise.

Dan said that as part of the planning process, Parks has to do a transportation survey, which is about to happen. The community will have access to that information.

A community center staff person said that he doesn’t feel that rentals will increase that much, but their programming limits will be improved, which is the good news.

Another resident said “thanks” for scaling the project back. She also inquired about the maximum occupancy of the multi purpose room; that it generally will not be 123 people if it is a banquet-type set up. She also wants the play area to be as useable as possible during the construction.

Dan responded that, typically the play area is under the supervision of the Sector Manager, Kerry Lasko. Dan will forward these comments/concerns to him.

Dan suggested going back to reviewing the details of recent design changes:

Main floor:

- Entrance: stays the same
- Restrooms replace current kitchen
- Offices: stay the same
- Stairwell: stays the same
- The lobby, fireplace room and kitchen will each use about 1/3 of the main floor of the existing building.
- Possible cooking classes could be programmed into new kitchen
- New kitchen also set up for catering uses and will have natural light
- New multi-purpose room will have small deck with great views to the SW
- The space between/connecting existing building is an atrium space; the roof will be flat.
- Elevator shaft is now interior to building versus previously being exterior
- There are now more clerestory windows
- Part of the stairwell, which currently leads down to the women’s restroom, will be gone; the other side will stay
- **Downstairs:**
 - Dumpsters will be concealed (versus now sitting outside) and will have quiet plastic lids
 - 2 activity rooms (400-600 square feet)
 - lots of storage

- Exterior restrooms will no longer be triangular in shape and will have new stainless steel fixtures
- some covered outdoor space
- Landmarks Board has to approve any change made to the exterior of the building and out 10 feet from building perimeter.
- Dan: still working on the configuration of space for the Janitor room to include supplies and floor maintenance machine.
- Mechanical Room has an exterior entrance so that no maintenance equipment will have to come into the building
- Windows in the Pottery Studio will be returned to original size
- A Family changing room will be included in the design

Also, the existing boiler has been inspected and can be re-used

A concern was voiced by PAT members on the materials chosen for the **exterior**:

- Roof : probably synthetic slate for new roof + green flat roof
- Windows – not certain yet
- *Looking at variety of building materials*
- Walls, still looking for the right material.
- Inside lobby: polished concrete floor, most likely
- Multi-purpose room: sprung wood floor; vaulted ceiling

Comments:

- Dumpster location could still be a problem; plan is to put permeable surface next to the large tree; will there be access for a garbage truck to back in for the dumpster?

Dan responded that he will find out the requirements for trash removal access.

A suggestion was made to widen the access road for possible use by cars.

Dan expressed concern about cars driving in and out of that area which may cause damage to the tree roots; he explained that we would need a large amount of fill to create lower level parking with code compliant accessibility.

Next Steps:

- Ask Karen Keist, Landscape Architect, to look at parking plan refinement.
- AI suggested having an actual plan to protect the important trees which could be impacted; Dan responded that the contractor will take full responsibility and will be monitored.
- Dan will look into the parking lighting requirements and also the garbage truck access.
- Question: can the parking loop be widened to the north versus to the east?
- Joe Herrin agreed to contribute suggestions for how to incorporate brick on exterior.

Dan noted that the design drawings and meeting notes would be posted on the project webpage.

Adjourned - 8:30 p.m.