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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Community Planning Meeting #3
Helen Arnold Community Learning Center
Thursday, April 22, 2004 @ 5:30 p.m.
At the Vernon Odom Library**

In Attendance

K. Waller	AAG
J. George	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
M. Sommerville	City of Akron
T. Tatum	City of Akron
T. LeGrair	Akron Urban League
B. Tompkins	Media
R. Hotchkiss	APS Staff
B. Cacioppo	APS Staff
D. James	APS Staff
C. Walker	CPT
T. Moody	CPT
E. Chambers	CPT
E. Torrey	CPT
A. Torrey	CPT
W. Tompkins	CPT
J. Calhoun	CPT
J. Calhoun	CPT
B. Harris	CPT
L. Adair	CPT
D. Lewis	CPT
C. Yuhasz	CPT
S. Spooney	CPT
J. Leslie	CPT
C. Wallace	CPT

Distribution

AAG Project Managers	
M. Salopek	AAG
D. Mitchell	AAG
D. Loomis	Akron Public Schools

J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
K. Ingram	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan	City of Akron
T. Long	City of Akron
M. Williamson	City of Akron
D. Krutz	RKPS
L. Jennings	Burges and Burges
B. Williams.....	Akron Urban League

The following is a review of items discussed at the meeting:

1. Jim Beal gave a brief opening. K. Waller began by discussing adjustments which have been made POR in previous meetings. The adjustments were:
 - Create a Staff Dining area by re-assigning 300 square feet from the Teacher Prep/Workrooms
 - Eliminate the Physical Education Instructor Shower and re-assign the 75 square feet associated with it to increase the size of the Physical Education Storage
2. K. Waller opened a discussion regarding the shared campus and how the two facilities will use it. In previous discussions with APS, City of Akron and the Akron Urban League, it was concluded that the best arrangement of the site places the Urban League building along the north edge of the site as a buffer between the activity on Vernon Odom Blvd and that of the school site. The Community Learning Center is to be positioned along the south edge of the site closer to the quieter, residential side.

Ideas regarding the site were shown graphically for the CPT to see their ideas as they were being developed.

3. Parking could be located generally to the west edge to act as a buffer between the large scale volume of the buildings and the residents immediately to the west. J. Beal added that plantings will be used to further enhance buffer between parking areas and the residents immediately to the west.
4. Questions regarding the exact location of the west property boundary and the negative activities on the other side of the property line were raised. K. Waller drew a line on the projected image to illustrate where the property line is. He stated that it is not possible to impact the kinds of negative activity in the forum of a school planning meeting. T. Tatum and M. Sommerville agreed that there are activities which should be eliminated from the vicinity of a school and that there are tools available to the community for improving the area.
5. The Community Learning Center will require adequate areas for children to be dropped off and picked up by way of car as the district hopes to rely less upon busing in the future. Drop-off and pick-up lanes may take the form of a blister or a drive which is buffered from Rhoads and Berry avenues. The site should still be able to accommodate buses as they may be needed for field trips or other occasions which require transporting of large numbers of students.
6. CPT members wanted to know if the buildings would adjoin one another. The facilities for the Urban League and Helen Arnold are not likely to physically connect. Issues such as utilities, access and security are more difficult to resolve if the two buildings are physically connected.

7. A CPT member raised a question regarding sharing of the school's playground. The school's playground will be available for the Urban League to conduct youth-oriented recreation activities after school hours.
8. The issue of fencing in the playground was raised by a CPT member. Fencing will be used to prevent students from wandering in to a street or onto other properties. It is not intended to be a deterrent to keep others out as the site will be available for use by the community.
9. CPT members felt that sidewalks should be positioned in a way to minimize contact between pedestrian and vehicular circulation.
10. The enrollment area for the community learning center has not been determined as of yet. APS will be re-districting the related area in the course of defining where the students at this school will be coming from.
11. CPT members asked about the size of the site and the playground. K. Waller responded that the site is approximately 4 acres and that the playground could very possibly be 50,000 square feet or 200 by 250. More precise dimensions will be provided at future meetings.
12. APS staff members expressed concern over using parking blisters as young children on the driver's side or street side of the car could open the door in to harm's way. The preference is to bring the drive completely on to the site and separate it from the street.
13. Both the Community Learning Center and the Urban League will have dedicated parking areas. However, when large groups are meeting at either of the facilities, it may be necessary for sharing of parking areas to occur. Because several activities will be taking place on the site, the amount of space assigned to each of them must be closely examined.
14. Community members asked why there is so much activity taking place on the site. K. Waller responded that the community, especially children are served by Urban League as well the Community Learning Center. Therefore, it makes sense that they would be located near one another. Additionally, the land was made available by the City of Akron for this use. T. Tatum confirmed the city's desire to see the site used for the community.
15. CPT members expressed concerns of school overcrowding. K. Waller responded that the state does regular evaluations of population trends and growth patterns for school districts throughout the state. Should the area experience a significant increase in the population, the space needs for the Community Learning Center would then be addressed.
16. Questions about the building's size and capacity were raised. Because of site constraints the building will need to be 2 stories. It will have a capacity for 450 students.
17. The next Community Planning Team meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m. at the Vernon Odom Library.
18. Questions about other site components were asked. Additional site features might include landscaped areas between the Urban League and the school.
19. The CPT agreed to submit the POR with the current adjustments identified in **Item #1**. K. Waller added that the Gymnasium will increase to offset the loss of outdoor recreation on the site.

The preceding is AAG's interpretation of the meeting. changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.