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The Akron Architectural Group

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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Planning Meeting #1
Jennings Middle Community Learning Center
Thursday, January 8, 2004

In Attendance

D. Mitchell.....	AAG
D. Spehar.....	AAG
D. Loomis.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Taylor.....	Akron Public Schools
F. Cheatem.....	Akron Public Schools
E. Bugner.....	Akron Public Schools
D. James.....	Akron Public Schools
C. Bannerman.....	Akron Public Schools
P. Long.....	Akron Public Schools
P. Lewis.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Crossland-Wells.....	Akron Public Schools
M. Floreani.....	Akron Public Schools
B. Kunos.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Cook.....	Akron Public Schools
S. Hall.....	Akron Public Schools
D. Horrigan.....	City of Akron (City Council)
T. Long.....	City of Akron
J. Egan.....	City of Akron
R. Donatelli.....	City of Akron
J. Berman.....	Concordia
P. Robinson.....	CPT

Distribution

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

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

- D. Loomis introduced the principal participants and gave a brief outline of the scope and purpose of the meeting.
 - D. Loomis made a special introduction of Ward Councilman Dan Horrigan. D. Horrigan addressed the importance of this project for the community and expressed his excitement about being involved in the process.
 - All participants introduced themselves and their role.
- D. Loomis emphasized the importance the Community Planning Team’s input during the design and planning process. She emphasized that everyone must be committed to this process for its duration in order to ensure a successful Community Learning Center that meets the specific needs of the community.
- T. Long introduced the Goals and Expectations for the meeting and stated that there would be a great reliance on the community for their experience and resources. It was important to note that this was a core group which would bring expertise and more participants to the CPT.
- D. Mitchell discussed the master plan, particularly with regards to the various stages and the timeline. He explained the Ohio School Facilities Commission’s (OSFC) facility evaluation process and the parallel evaluation process that APS and the AAG performed. It was important to note that the team should stay consistent throughout the remaining phases of the project and not just the initial 3 months Program of Requirements (POR) phase. D. Mitchell noted that the existing building will be utilized during construction of the new Community Learning Center and as “swing space” for temporary relocation of other school’s students during later phases of the project.
- At this point, J. Berman introduced the Most Powerful Learning Experience Activity. After J. Berman gave her example, the team broke into groups and members related their learning experiences. At the end of the activity, the lesson to be learned was that learning was not restricted to what happened in school – there were wider experiences in the community. This translated into the importance of the Community Learning Centers.
- D. Spehar explained the OSFC Program of Requirements (POR) document and how this had been derived. Copies were distributed to all together with a copy of the Educational Specifications for Middle Schools which had been developed in conjunction with APS to supplement the POR. Variances from the POR to tailor the program to the specifics of APS were discussed.
- An open question and answers period followed during which many questions were asked. D. Mitchell and D. Spehar explained that these are the types of issues that need to be brought to the AAG’s attention and that future planning meetings will begin to address the specifics of the building design and site planning. The following represents some of the more detailed discussions that took place:

- The estimated completion date of Jennings is in the year 2006. Ideally the Community Learning Center would open at the start of the school year but other milestone dates can be accommodated.
 - It was requested that the new facility's gym be equipped with an operable partition to allow it to be divided into two teaching stations. Currently Jennings has two gyms although the original is much smaller than the newer gym.
 - It was confirmed that new natatoriums are not in the current Master Plan for the entire district.
 - The number of classrooms was questioned for the student population. D. Mitchell explained that the OSFC calculation assumes an efficiency of use through scheduling to maintain an appropriate ratio of classrooms per student.
 - It was recommended that the building's placement on the site should provide for future expansion and some type of future link to Patterson Park.
 - D. Horrigan stated that there is a plan to repair and widen Dayton Street which, if possible, should be coordinated with the construction of the new Community Learning Center.
 - Many indicated that Dayton Street does not currently have sidewalks and they requested that adequate new sidewalks be provided for students.
 - It was asked if a study has been done to verify the condition of the property. D. Spehar explained that geotechnical studies and site surveys will be performed during the early stages of design.
 - Standard amenities in Classrooms, Art and Music rooms were discussed. D. Spehar stated that each participant should review the spaces identified in the POR and make comments for the next meeting such as desired room sizes, storage, etc. This information will be evaluated along with the OSFC's guidelines.
 - Security and parking during construction and in the future while both buildings remain open were discussed. D. Mitchell stated that these are the type of issues that will be considered when investigating locations for the building.
- J. Berman discussed the Community Learning Center concept and the types of partnerships that can be formed. Some examples were illustrated, particularly with how different communities have addressed their issues.
 - D. Mitchell requested that the Team do some homework before the next meeting. First, a questionnaire was provided to F. Cheatem which is to be completed with assistance from Jennings staff and is to be returned to J. Taylor by January 22nd. Second, Team members were asked to review the distributed documents and bring questions along with new Team members to the next meeting.
 - The next two meeting dates were set: January 29th at 5:30pm and February 12th at 5:30pm.

The preceding is AAG's interpretation of the meeting. Any 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.