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**The Akron Architectural Group**

**Braun & Steidl Architects § GPD Group § Hasenstab Architects, Inc. § Moody Nolan, Inc. §  
TC Architects, Incorporated § URS**

**AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Community Planning Meeting #1  
Mason Community Learning Center  
Tuesday, December 9, 2003 @ 6:00 p.m.**

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In Attendance

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| M. Salopek.....   | AAG                  |
| J. Wheeler .....  | AAG                  |
| J. Baumann .....  | AAG                  |
| D. Loomis .....   | Akron Public Schools |
| J. George.....    | Akron Public Schools |
| J. Findley .....  | City of Akron        |
| T. Long .....     | City of Akron        |
| J. Berman .....   | Concordia            |
| D. Lombardi.....  | CPT                  |
| M. Snipes.....    | CPT                  |
| S. Lukacik.....   | CPT                  |
| T. Evans .....    | CPT                  |
| D. Bolden.....    | CPT                  |
| A. Babich .....   | CPT                  |
| C. Hewlett.....   | CPT                  |
| C. Isenhart.....  | CPT                  |
| B. Isenhart.....  | CPT                  |
| C. McVan.....     | CPT                  |
| K. Ellerson ..... | CPT                  |
| J. Hafford.....   | CPT                  |
| E. Paszt .....    | CPT                  |
| J. Nicolino.....  | CPT                  |
| K. McKinnie ..... | CPT                  |
| P. Green .....    | CPT                  |
| S. Parsons.....   | CPT                  |
| K. Mulhausen..... | CPT                  |
| J. Naum .....     | CPT                  |

Distribution

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| AAG Project Managers |     |
| M. Salopek.....      | AAG |
| D. Mitchell.....     | AAG |

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| 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    |
| J. Berman .....     | Concordia            |
| B. Hill .....       | Concordia            |

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

- D. Loomis introduced J. Findley, Ward 2 Councilman, and reviewed the existing Mason School and the new proposal of constructing a Community Learning Center on the existing Mason Park. D. Loomis introduced the participants and gave a brief outline of the scope and purpose of the meeting. All participants introduced themselves and their roles. D. Loomis discussed the roles of Akron Architectural Group (AAG) and Concordia and the Principle of Akron Public Schools, teachers, and parents in the project and the importance of this core group growing together.
- M. Salopek discussed the agenda and the project team.
- T. Long introduced himself and noted his role as City of Akron Planning Manager and Director of the Planning Department design staff. T. Long noted that this has been a working relationship with the City and APS over the last three years. He thanked everyone for coming and for participating and emphasized the Mayor s interest in creating Community Learning Centers for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- D. Loomis reviewed what happened at Schumacher last night at the first presentation to the Akron area community. She described spaces within the buildings and some of their features were discussed. These buildings will contain vital items and will help create an attachment to the community. This is the first time anything of this magnitude has been attempted in the Akron area. This is a wonderful opportunity to design and help create Community Learning Centers within the City.
- M. Salopek presented a slide presentation of the project teams and noted that there are really three owners of these buildings .the City of Akron, Akron Public Schools (APS), the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission (OSFC), and that AAG will work in concordance with the Construction Manager, RKPS, to design and build these buildings.
- T. Long introduced the goals and expectations for the meetings and discussed the joint use agreement for the Community Learning Centers and the importance of a unanimous approval by both the APS Board and the City Council and showing unity to the community at large regarding the importance of this project. T. Long stressed that a project of this scale has never been attempted and that we are creating history. He also discussed the importance of the Community Learning Center being identified by each neighborhood, the arrangement of the school on the site, circulation, decisions made on how the buildings are laid-out, and arrangements of rooms all being part of the Community Planning Team s responsibility.
- M. Salopek reviewed the Facilities Master Plan development process, particularly with regard to various stages required by OSFC and how the Review Committee reviewed those requirements

and understood its own special local needs above and beyond the standard. These Community Planning Meetings will continue to tailor the APS guidelines to the individual Community Learning Centers to the needs in that area. M. Salopek also discussed that this is not just a three-month process. The planning phase expected is an approximate two to three month process. The design and document phase of the project is anticipated to be approximately twelve to fourteen months. Bidding of the project is expected to occur over two months, with construction lasting between fourteen and eighteen months. He stated that this Facilities Master Plan overview is 46 new and 22 renovated buildings to serve all APS students. This is a twelve-year plan with four segments. We are currently in Segment One, which has two parts, A and B . Each part has eight schools associated with it, seven Elementary Community Learning Centers and one Middle School Community Learning Center (Jennings).

- Mason Elementary has a proposed student capacity of 400 and a proposed building size of approximately 55,000 square feet and is to be constructed on the Mason Park site. D. Loomis stated that currently, the old building will not be torn-down and its future possible use is under consideration.
- M. Salopek reviewed the project planning milestones and indicated that the involvement of the Community Planning Team through the POR section as well as continue their involvement with us through the design, bidding, construction, ground breaking, and dedication of these buildings. J. Wheeler indicated that a committee is an integral part of the planning for these projects and that this is just the beginning of the process. The committee should attempt to draw-in additional members and concerned citizens, teachers, parks and recreation people to be involved in this committee. T. Long also added that people that do not necessarily have students attending Akron Public Schools, but that are interested in the use of these buildings as community centers should also be tapped to participate.
- D. Loomis spoke about the program development process and that the new buildings have the opportunity to make so much more of the spaces than currently exist. It is also important to note that although this is a district-wide program and this POR creates a standard, the new buildings will not be cookie-cutter and that input from the teachers and community will be an integral part of the design process. D. Loomis also described this as a new process and that we are continuing to try to present better. There is a brief after action review sheet that everyone should fill out.
- T. Long added that we have learned from other projects and that it will be wonderful to visit other communities, such as Canton City Schools, that have recently completed schools of different designs. This committee should design for the future and we have to figure-out how to provide this. The architects will need to build-in flexibility and it will be the community planning team's responsibility to aid in developing specific requirements for this school.
- M. Salopek reviewed the upcoming meetings and the roles of the different groups. Community Planning Teams Two and Three need to be decided.
- J. Berman conducted the Most Powerful Learning Experience. After she gave her example, the team divided into small groups and members related their learning experiences. At the end of the activity, the lesson to be learned and discussed was that learning is not restricted to what happens necessarily in the schools, but that there are wider experiences in the community. This translates into the importance of the Community Learning Centers.
- M. Salopek discussed what is in the specific buildings and some of the individual rooms. Included in this new building is a POR of a 400-student model. D. Lombardi stated that currently, Mason has 405 students with special education classes of different varieties taking the total student count

up to 430. This should be taken into consideration because he believes that the projected enrollment requires enlargement of this facility and will definitely be more costly.

- M. Salopek indicated that as designers, we will provide them with building layouts that accommodate flexible spaces and plan for locations for future additions if student populations should fluctuate or rise in the future. T. Long stated that since this is a specific known, it will be the AAG's task to come into the next meeting with answers on how the demographics were prepared from the OSFC guidelines and what possibilities should be looked-at by the AAG and Community Planning Teams.
- J. Wheeler described the OSFC POR document and how this relates to the master plan that M. Salopek discussed. The description and breakdown of bracketing for specific spaces revealed square footage comparisons to requirements of the OSFC and the alterations and additions made by the APS in its master plan facility assessment. Educational specifications were distributed and discussed as an overview of the individual areas. Variances reflect how the APS POR was tailored to meet the specific needs of the APS. Examples were reviewed in the bracketing of special education, classroom number, size, and the addition of community kitchens.
- M. Salopek reviewed site standards and that all the sites are completely different. Mason's design will be specific to the future site and there will be two equipped playgrounds (K-1 and 2-5), a large green play space, a hard surface play area, safe bus loading, separate parent dropoff, staff parking (on-site where possible), convenient visitor entrance, and a recognizable front door. M. Salopek indicated that the layout of classrooms needs to be reviewed. Schools that he has been involved with have created a wide variety of layouts for classrooms from quads to a typical double-loaded corridor with classrooms on both sides. Teachers present requested a list of new schools in the area they can look at. J. Wheeler suggested that a group tour be arranged with destination schools worked-out with the APS architect and the AAG.
- J. Berman discussed what a Community Learning Center is and the types of partnerships that can be formed. Some examples were illustrated, particularly how different communities have addressed their specific needs. Some of these partnerships are between schools and communities, programming partners within the schools, and capital partners outside the schools. J. Berman reviewed pictures of different schools around the country and how they have planned and met their specific needs. She reiterated that this is only the beginning of the process and that involvement of the Community Planning Teams is vital.
- M. Salopek requested that the team perform homework before the next meeting. A simple questionnaire will be provided to the school principal for distribution. The completed questionnaire should be returned to the APS architect assigned to the project at least two days ahead of the next meeting.
- The next two meeting dates were discussed. Meeting #2 will be January 8, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting #3 will be January 22, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

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.