

The Akron Architectural Group

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

AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Robinson Community Learning Center - Community Planning Team Meeting #2 Thursday, March 24, 2005

In Attendance

J. Wheeler.....	AAG
J. George.....	APS
J. Beal.....	APS
K. Martin.....	APS
R. Hotchkiss.....	APS
T. Bialota.....	APS
D. Bent.....	APS
S. Holiday.....	APS
J. Naidu.....	APS
J. Miles.....	APS
M. Ambrose.....	APS
S. Roebuck.....	APS
J. Shealey.....	APS
T. Long.....	City of Akron
T. Tatom.....	City of Akron
M. Hayes.....	Resident
W. McReynolds.....	Resident

Distribution

AAG Project Managers

D. James.....	APS
J. Beal.....	APS
K. Balchak.....	APS
R. Blum.....	APS
L. Duncan.....	City of Akron
M. Williamson.....	City of Akron
T. Long.....	City of Akron
D. Krutz.....	Ruhlin
L. Jennings.....	Burges and Burges

L. Jennings and J. Beal opened the meeting. The following discussion ensued:

- People in attendance were mostly teachers.
- There are some community functions going on in East Akron.
- We are continuing to try to bring together more of the community.
- Allen Elementary in Canton was briefly reviewed. Of note were the following items:
 - Mounting heights of tack and dry erase boards.
 - Concern about smell, cleaning, and expense of open restrooms.
 - Chalk boards are preferred.
 - Primary classroom observation with one-way glass?
 - Open locker versus lockers with doors.
 - Suggestion of drawers in lieu of base cabinets in classrooms. Sinks and drinking fountains were nice.

L. Jennings spoke about this focus group and the need to generate a working discussion of the issues. He reviewed his questionnaire (attached). Some comments from those present were as follows:

- Akron is working hard to improve itself. Small improvements and development are being seen.
- The University of Akron improvements....townhouse development is positive.
- Economy creates difficulty to obtain skilled job in Akron.
- Certain parts of the City are not considered safe.
- There are concerns about children's safety traveling to and from school.
- Cleanup of neighborhood has occurred. Perception of the neighborhood problems is not as bad as reported.
- Churches are the strength of the neighborhoods
- More transients and transient employment exists today.
- Keep the wall.....community ownership....City beautification award. It has never been defaced and the community has shown its pride and capability to come together.
- Principal feels very safe. Safety is relative. The neighborhood is proud and has fought to keep the school open.
- Councilman stated that Council is working hard to keep Akron upgrading and instilling community pride. He is fighting for C.D.G.B. neighborhood money for new housing and renovation. This new school is going to be the center/hub of the community.
- Teachers of Robinson have taken ownership and have an intrinsic pride and reward from their jobs.
- Upset with national teaching climate. Parents are not held responsible. Charter schools have recruited and played upon parents' fears.
- It is all about marketing....not results.
- We need to perform marketing for the new schools.
- Show the progress as the construction happens.
- We need to stop the loss of students.

Demographics of Neighborhood

- 55% Female
- 20% Nine Years Old and Younger
- 15% Sixty Years Old and Over
- 13% White
- 84% Black
- 32% No High School Education
- 29% High School Education / G.E.D.
- 21% Service Jobs
- 31% Office (Clerical)
- 33% Blue Collar
- 24% Two-Parent Families
- 76% One-Parent Families
- 70% Working Mothers
- 30% Lived in Neighborhood for Five Years

T. Long stated the importance of grassroots ownership. This opportunity means preparedness. We have that opportunity now with this Community Learning Center.

Community Needs Assessment

- Daycare for working parents (early morning and evening, preschool)
- Social workers on staff. We need East Akron partners during the day and evening.
- Positive male role models. Butch Reynolds Program.
- Physical education facility...YMCA...recreational programs. Joy Park is outside playground only.
- Play facilities for groups / planned activities....soccer field use.
- Park aspect....non-structured activities / walking.
- AMHA and Findley Urban League at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center.
- The parenting center - non-profit.

- Multi-faith based services (tutoring, reading).
 - Hoban High School - Community Services
 - Good Neighbors
 - Mt. Zion Grandparent Program
- Senior care and programs.
- Parenting and nutrition program.
- Substance abuse programs? (AA)
- Adult G.E.D. / literacy programs.
- Voting in the school is a good thing.

J. Beal noted that the first roll-up-your-sleeves meeting will be April 7, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. He stated that we need community and teacher involvement in order to respond to the needs and use of the buildings.

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.