

EFTF Meeting Minutes 9.15.22, 7 pm

Current Status of HMS

- Jason Washington (JW) anticipating significant updates for the October meeting
- No new news to report
- Dan Broder (DB) has been receiving concerns from community about truck traffic through community and has forwarded to Gilbane/Jason Washington
 - o At least one of the drivers was put on notice that his services would not be needed if he could not follow the proper route
 - o Still waiting to hear what other actions have happened – will follow up in another week
- Joanne Waszczak (JW) asked about traffic pattern diagrams – concerned about car traffic during events, first day of school, etc
 - o Current design only uses Oglethorpe
 - o Desire for direct access to 42nd – DB will bring this to JW
 - o Wanted to make sure we are tracking items that need to be brought to JW/PGCPS attention
- Justine Christianson (JC) says the singular access to parking was shown in initial design and concerns were raised but not addressed
- Kat Schooley (KS) says direct access to 42nd Ave would most likely require retaining walls and/or significant ramps that would be hard to accommodate on current site and would also reduce parking capacity
- Dan Muth and Stuart Eisenberg (SE) recall that access from 42nd Ave was a cost issue
- JW inquired about a traffic study and whether the City can access it to review
- Questions (Claire Panak)
 - o Will kids have access to bike racks and will they be near the front entrance for oversight
 - o Which way are trucks actually supposed to go? Never see them go down Oliver – DB will follow up
- JW: bike racks should be located in a way where they do not need to cross car traffic

HES Update

- Tomorrow is BOE agenda release for 9-22 meeting and registration for public comment opens. ACF should be on the agenda and would most likely be in the packet so it will be stated what schools will be included in the ACF Phase 2.
- If HES is on the list, we need lots of people to voice support
- At last meeting, it was clearly stated that new schools will only be built on land that the school system currently owns (not the park, not any other entity) – so there's no ambiguity about where the new HES would be located
 - o What should we say/how should we say it/any opposition?
 - o JC: political tenor of BOE has changed from the first ACF round. People who are opposed to it are no longer on the BOE. There may be some opposition at the county level but so far the success of the 6 middle schools currently under construction is helping alleviate potential concerns. Given the site, very concerned about the swing space plans to provide continuity (HMS situation is untenable)

- Sam Denes (SD): Reminds us that JW said that swing space planning would be submitted with the selections
- JW: need to make sure one of our speakers would need to reassure that the HES parcel does not include adjacent parcels
- JC: Speaking to how PGCPs has a criteria through many planning documents to help make the selections (schools aren't just selected out of the blue)
- JW: Speaking to how other communities could feel like it's potentially unfair that both HMS and HES could go into the ACF. Being sensitive to other needs and not sounding entitled and defensive needs to go into the talking points
 - SE: the lot is in one of the oldest plots of land with very old infrastructure within a city/area that is exploding with development and has a very real need
 - DB: Due to TRIM there was no school construction for many years
 - SE: TRIM always had a mechanism to bypass spending. It was actually politicians who didn't want to put money up to vote
- JW: Any talking points suggestions from DM? re: swing space or other items
 - DM: Focus on the cycle 1 schools (as opposed to isolating Hyattsville ____) and show awareness that issues exist elsewhere too
 - DM: Hard to react to swing space until they present a plan – what kind of stand are we willing to take if the plan sucks? HMS was in a “beggars can't be choosers” situation. We were so happy to get anything and it happened so quickly, there was not a lot to be done.
 - SW: Swing space is important but tone is important – we want everything in cycle 1 to be built and we are happy to see progress and planning for success. Keep it fast, simple, funny, light – might lose politicians otherwise.
 - JW: Talking about building up – how do we say that in a way that's encouraging and neutral/positive or proactive. Some folks don't want the height or density.
 - SW: Remember who you are talking to – BOE issues are not the same issues as within HVL proper and local divisiveness. The more specific to interior issues we are in this forum, the less folks might want to see something happen in our community.
- Questions (CP)
 - What is the planned capacity of an HES rebuild and how does that compare to current student population
 - DB: facilities masterplan said 960 is the minimum size of a new build
 - Have HES and HMS seen a drop in enrollment projections?
 - JC: enrollment has dropped across the board from the pandemic but the numbers are usually pretty good
 - EFMP lists HES replacement for 640 not 960
 - DB: 960 was the recommended capacity for middle schools
 - DB: What is the appetite for a multi-level school and how large would a 640 school be on the current HES site?

- KS: 3 story ES are definitely seen – more in VA than in MD. Topography on site may change the perception of how tall a building actually is depending on the grade and how it meets the street
- DB: Relieved to hear this – there are much taller buildings in the immediate vicinity that are currently under construction and building up doesn't seem out of context
 - KS: don't forget that a school story is larger than a commercial story
 - SE: 15-20' first floor
- DB: JW said that building up to make use of the site that is possible would be most likely