

Community Meeting Notes - June 1, 2011

LIBRARY

Vision

- Gateway to the world/knowledge. A Learning center of the future
- Anchor/destination
- Unique to neighborhood needs. A place to gather and meet
- Cutting edge technology. Media center (e-books). Web Access/Digital Access/Wi-Fi access
- Intimate
- A place to browse, a knowledge tool
- Electronic, flexible and new
- Large enough to accommodate all new and existing residents, including immigrant populations
- Small, highly interactive and accessible
- Don't duplicate with surrounding libraries
- Co-locate with regional service center

Location

- Centrally and conveniently located
- Walkable distance to library - surrounding libraries are not within a walkable distance. Within a 20 minute walk from the surrounding community
- Accessibility especially at night
- Close to housing
- Proximity to Public School. Easy access for kids
- Locate at Civic Green

Specific Activities

- Children's Activities. Story time.
- Research
- Broader hours to cater to a diverse group (young and elderly) . Open later/24 hours
- Social Interaction . Book Clubs
- Library could have a theme or special focus -Regional Application
- Multi-generational programs
- Computer Classes
- Video Conference capabilities
- Show movies
- Focus needs (History/African American/Cultural)
- New Acquisitions, not old collections
- Public Events
- Indoor / Outdoor Activities
- Hi tech/bio tech industries presentations

- Josiah Henson Institute could be a part of the library

Program/Design

- Meeting rooms for library type functions (Authors and book signing, friends of the library, study groups). Programmable spaces/shared spaces. Small meeting rooms for tutoring and literacy . Flexibility in use. Study space
- Conference room
- Children's reading room
- Work stations. (Telecommuting)
- Community center
- Drop off box.
- Should be a green building
- Use of the roof as outdoor reading space
- Light, air, gardens, food, trees
- Indoor/outdoor reading
- Accessibility and foot traffic
- Need some parking near the library. Bike parking
- Visible from the street level
- In a walkable area
- Pavilion in the green
- Coffee shops, everyday uses
- Size 15k to 20k

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Vision

- Unique, Part of my community. For Families - diverse activities. A draw for kids.
- Service surrounding residents
- Building should be used throughout the day
- Combine with Regional Services Center.
- Library/Rec Center combined
- Collocate with swimming center. Work together with aquatic center
- More than physical exercise (Classes, meetings, etc)
- Clean energy
- Universal accessibility / "Super ADA"
- Prefer outdoor space rather than Rec Center - Most weight rooms are empty, most people join private gyms
- Private development should provide more of recreation program
- Aquatic center (MAC) is currently overcrowded. Separate Rec Center from existing pool facility

Location

- Locate away from Wall Park
- Should be located at Wall Park or somewhere else
- Locate near Wall Park
- Close to Library
- Link with Rec Loop

Specific Activities

- Activities' for various age groups (Friday night dance)
- Children Activities, Preschool programs
- Senior activities: (aerobics, class space)
- Clubs -Choral groups
- Classes: Karate, dancing, gardening, nutrition, yoga, art, ballroom dancing
- Sports: Provide adequate facilities like tennis courts, basketball courts and swimming pools to avoid over crowding
- Rent meeting rooms/kids parties

Program/Design

- Meeting space for flexible uses. Flexible space (flex room/flex floor). Rental space for parties and meetings
- Indoor and outdoor usage
- All purpose court
- Work out rooms/gym. Individual and group workout. Spinning.
- Don't need machines
- Sports Courts: Badminton, volleyball, racquetball, handball, basketball (Indoor and outdoor), Tennis Courts (Indoor and outdoor), squash, ping pong
- Ice Skating(Winter) / splash park or rollerblading (Summer).

- Game room, cards
- Senior Center
- Tot Lots (Indoor and Outdoor)
- Parking - (public event set up). Bike racks
- Size: 30k facility for 60,000 people

CIVIC GREEN

Vision

- Create a "Living Amenity" a fund could be created from private sector contributions for on-site programming. A place to de-stress and relax. Could be the heart of the public area. Town Square. Destination Point. Gathering Place
- Bring soul to the community.
- Open space for civic gathering: Center of activity. A meeting point for the community
- Needs a programming mechanism
- Create a destination for White Flint
- Open, visible, lighted and safe
- Softscaped
- Peaceful
- All inclusive
- Big green space. Double or triple size from 2 acres
- Precedents: Like Rockville Town Square (size and use), with active things, movies and children. Like Farragut Square

Location

- Connected to Recreation Loop and trail system. Near public amenities
- Surrounded by buildings
- Central, close to Metro. Easily accessible through public transit
- Proximity to parking

Specific Activities

- Activities: Concerts, flash mobs, festivals (large scale), temporary events, light festivals, outdoor movies, music, books, charity events, holiday celebrations (4th of July celebration). Events such as the Taste of Bethesda, with ample space to avoid over crowding
- Community creativity (art and dance)
- Farmers Market, Artists Market
- Starting point of races/marathons
- A Place to have lunch
- Holiday Lighting
- Lawn Bowling

Program/Design

- Surrounded by retail and restaurants - Taste of White Flint
- Allow for street closures
- Central lawn area with space around to expand for events.
- Outdoor bandstand - public pavilion, amphitheater
- Water features: Ducks, pond, children's sailboats, fountain
- Nice, permanent bathrooms
- Lots of seating, places to read. Comfortable benches under shade

- Not overly programmed, Flexible
- Space for events
- Natural
- Ice skating rink (Fountain/Lake in the summer)
- Chess board, Labyrinth
- Low maintenance plants. Meditation gardens. Gazebos
- All amenities to be publicly accessible
- A mister spray
- Ability for outdoor lighting and sound for events
- Adequate parking
- Dog Park
- 2 acres is huge for civic green
- Size: BIG, like Farragut Square

REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER AND MEETING SPACE

Vision

- Acts as town hall. Multi-purpose building
- Combined with the library (Provide meeting space at the library -Schools are constantly overbooked)
- Connected to the Conference Center
- Urban Partnerships
- Precedents: like the new Civic Center in Silver Spring , Like the Village of Friendship Heights
- Keep all civic services in Rockville

Location

- Close to Metro
- Close to Civic Green
- Visible/store front location
- Near Library
- In close proximity to the Home Owner Associations
- Locate on a first floor (walk-in store-front services). Easy to find

Specific Activities

- Provide residents services for wide variety of county services - One stop shop. Social services, information, schooling, self help, medical care info, housing info
- Transportation management - Bike Rental, Zip Car, Smart card dispensers, DMV (express), MVA, Metro Pass, Parking pass
- Tele-working facility: Provide space for county employees that live in White Flint. Video conferencing / AV
- Vocational training
- Book share
- Town hall, civic groups, homeowners' and community meetings. Meeting space for clubs like Audubon Society, Bike groups, etc.
- Activities for Seniors
- Tutoring services
- Space for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Program/Design

- Iconic and "green" building. Mix of uses
- Universally accessible
- Government municipal offices
- Office Space for Start-ups
- Meeting space, Conference center. Large Meeting Space for 120+ that can be broken into smaller spaces (movable walls). Smaller meeting rooms for private meetings. Large gathering space for parties. Meeting space for 50 to 200 people
- Free space for civic groups; rentable space for private use
- Classroom space, computer lab, Small outreach classrooms

- Community info kiosk
- Senior Center
- Arts Center
- Sustainability Center
- Keep it small (why do we need it?)
- Outdoor meeting space
- Shared amphitheater with the Civic Green
- Adequate parking

WALL PARK

Vision

- Destination, safe and protected. Visually appealing and well lit
- Community ground. Multiple, year round uses. Unique and for all ages
- Community Rec Center and park together
- Passive and active activities. Unstructured and relaxed
- Direct connection to Civic Green (Civic Green is more urban)
- MAC needs to serve North Bethesda region
- Precedents: Like Mitchell Park, Pioneer Center Park. Similar to Cabin John Park or Brookside Gardens.

Location

- Locate amenities closer to Metro - centralized
- Connected to other amenities
- Linked to the Civic Green
- Tie into Josiah Henson Park

Specific Activities

- Place for kids to run and play ball
- Music concerts
- Limited night usage for music - residential proximity is a consideration
- Teen Activities
- Events on the green/ rentals
- Day and night-time activities
- Space for leagues to play
- MAC is very busy

Program/Design

- Invite connections to neighborhood. Bike path access
- Create indoor and outdoor facility. Recreation Center could move there. Existing facility should stay
- No expansion on site of existing facility. Keep it green; not a lot of buildings
- Handicapped accessible, specifically designed for accessibility. Include essentials for disabilities and combine with physical therapy
- Daycare
- Water Amenities, Lake, Splash park, Indoor / Outdoor Pools
- Lawn, Un-programmed space
- Multi-use green space. Unorganized sports area (Frisbee, golf, football, bocce), No room for organized sports fields. Put basketball and tennis courts on the roof of the Community Recreation Center
- Recreational Playing Fields: Baseball Diamond, Tennis courts
- Picnic facilities
- Gardens, Community gardens
- Natural refuge. Quiet space in park.

- Kids playground equipment. Tot lots improvement
- Outdoor fitness trail. Running path loop. Nature trail
- Way finding to landmarks
- Petting Zoo
- Dog run park
- Free dog park at separate area
- Climbing walls, Skate board park, Ice rink in winter - roller hockey rink in summer
- Performance space
- Structured space
- Trash cans, doggie waste bags
- Public Art
- Safer crossing along park edge
- Use space at night for restaurant related events
- Existing parking to vacate, Wall Park for trees. Study parking location

RECREATION LOOP

Vision

- A destination; safe, convenient and interesting.
- Unique roadway; Attractive, colorful, wider, with nice signage and lighting - for Families.
- Look at connecting to the larger framework for pedestrians and bike connections. Emphasis on connections to Rec Loop. Tie into Trolley path.
- Bike infrastructure is very important. Other roads should be bike-able too
- Ensure safety for pedestrians and bikers
- Healthy, active, not mixed with kiosks
- Alternative to driving
- Precedents: Like Barcelona markets, Portland, Oregon river walk, Montrose bikeway

Location

- Course should be routed away from steep hills
- Route into Citadel and Boylston roads - away from Pre-Release
- Route to minimize street crossings
- Create a second loop along Columbia Pike and Old Georgetown Road

Specific Activities

- Use for events - walking events. Wide enough for races and marathons
- Bike Share.
- Zip car or bike to metro
- Jogging, biking, walking

Program/Design

- Separate and dedicated walking and biking paths (and separated from the road). Separated by color pavement. Not multi-use path - very wide for multiple single use paths. Increase ROW
- Bad idea to incorporate bike lane in ROW, too contrived. Limited Space
- Destination points. Develop spokes to/from main loop. Signage and Way Finding
- Shaded trees, benches
- Frequent Bus Circulator
- Include nice signage of White Flint way-finding. Nice Lighting
- Work out stations
- Boulevard
- Rockville Pike Promenade
- Food, cafes, commercial kiosks
- Restroom facilities
- Water fountains and Trellises
- Green on buildings
- Soft surfaces

WHITE FLINT SENSE OF PLACE

Vision

- Iconic and unique Center/gravitas. Urban living, urban village. Live and work in the same area. Healthy and walkable community and destination. Fun -"it's just plain fun"
- Prestige - recognizable location. White Flint's name should be a portal location.
- Coherent Neighborhood for all types and ages of people, mix of activities all times of day. Vibrant, alive, inviting, green. A place to be outside. A multi-dimensional community
- "Barbell" of young professionals and elderly (+60)
- "Jewel Box" of little places. Discovery. Unity of space and name
- Branding? Confusion on identity. "North Bethesda". Create own sense of community. White Flint needs its own identity. Identity crisis: Being marketed as North Bethesda. Needs an identity, not just a place between Bethesda and Rockville
- Economic diversity in housing and retail
- Affordable
- Sustainability - Coordinated environmentally friendly systems
- Council members should say they represent "White Flint" like other communities
- Network
- All encompassing - restaurants and theaters. shopping. A place to eat, walk, meet and socialize
- All the things for the people who live there
- Not all high end retail
- History: Named after the White Flint Rock, Birth Place of Special Olympics
- Incubate and incentivize small businesses

Specific Activities

- Zip Cars
- Partnership with Strathmore Center for the Arts
- Public WI-FI

Program/Design

- "Small, quality experience" food, retail and entertainment
- Diverse architecture/high quality material (high touch)
- More Urban
- Don't waste the roof tops, they can be used for little gardens, watching 4th of July fireworks, sun bathing, handball courts, pools, BBQ grills
- Music space - Entertainment District
- No cobblestones/pavers - hard for strollers, elderly. Use more regular, easy to walk on materials
- outdoor art; kinetic art, murals, interactive for kids