

Community Meeting Minutes

Garfield High School

October 16, 2004 / 9:00 a.m. / Garfield High School

1. Introductions:

- A. The introduction provided by Don Gillmore explained the purpose of the meeting and general information about the Garfield High School project. The goal of this meeting was to discuss issues outside the property line of the high school, focusing on the super block concerns. Information collected today will be studied and will help direct the evolution of the project and future development of surrounding community and business properties along the 23rd street corridor.

2. General Discussion:

A. Garfield High School Program;

1. Don and Tom Rengstorf briefly discussed the orientation of the Garfield High School project, including surrounding parking, sports field, performance hall, gymnasium, and new Teen Life Center. Parking around the site has been increased. The sports field could be either natural grass or all weather. An all-weather alternate will be created during the contract bid buyout. Additionally, the design relocates the pedestrian congestion from the south side to the north side of site, back to the main entrance. There will also be a walkway added between the sports field and addition to connect east and west traffic from the parking lot off of 25th. This walkway will also decrease the amount of traffic across the sports field. The length of the addition is going to decrease with the relocation of program activities under the gymnasium, thus increasing the parking at the east.
2. Ovid Thompson inquired if there were comments from the Landmarks Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meeting held on Friday. The ARC stated they felt this was the best project done so far by SPS. The addition did not interfere with the existing building. The project is scheduled to go to the Landmarks Preservation Board on November 17, 2004 for Preliminary Approval.

B. Garfield Campus Superblock, Master Plan Matrix;

1. Tom introduced the matrix handout and walked through the highlights before going over each category in detail. The matrix covers critical categories: Access and Safety, Character, Street-Scape, and Adjacent Areas (in regards to surrounding streets and potential pathways). Tom's main focus was to determine the vision of the neighborhood and how it affects the project.
2. **Access and Safety**, Primary Access. With the future development of commercial property, multi-family housing/mixed use, are there concerns with pathways and Primary Access?
 - a. 23rd and Cherry

- i. This area is prime for commercial and multi-family housing along the 23rd street corridor. There were no concerns voiced in this area. Potential development has been discussed but there are no current plans. Ovid stated that if neighbors have issues with the development, they can make comments to the City. Light rail was raised but this development will be further south. There has been talk about a Metro connection to the light rail from this location.
- b. 23rd and Jefferson
 - i. This is a main student crossing during the lunch period. Students congregate at Ezell's causing congestion at this corner. Ezell's is planning to develop this property per Don Gillmore. The goal here is to understand what the neighborhood and business developers desire. Per Ovid, there is a Cherry Street Business Group which should be queried for input.
 - ii. Glen Hubbard questioned that with the additional parking adjacent to Jefferson, is there a way to change the timing of the traffic lights? This has been discussed with SDOT and would be difficult as the traffic lights are timed along 23rd.
 - iii. Tom asked if either of the neighbors used busing? Yes. The bus stop at this corner is a major feature and potential cause of congestion. This is a main connection to the downtown area. Would moving the stop be good or bad? Many of the patrons of the pool and students use this bus stop. It was suggested to leave the bus stop in its current location.
- c. 23rd and Alder
 - i. The light at this corner is a pedestrian light to cross 23rd. There is no traffic light on Alder, just a stop sign. Per the neighbors this is a dangerous spot due to fast-traveling vehicles coming north on 23rd. There is limited site line due to the hill and accessing 23rd from Alder is almost impossible. The group suggested that a four-way traffic light be installed.
- d. Pathway Between Horace and Garfield
 - i. Where are the pedestrians crossing? There is a mid-block crossing that does not line up with the proposed path. Should the crossing include a curb or street-crossing bulb? Neighbors thought this was a good idea. The mid-block crossing should be relocated to align with the proposed pathway including a bulb. Concern was raised with crosswalk stripping maintenance. New crosswalks included in the construction project will be done by the contractor but typical maintenance is done by SDOT.
- e. Cherry Street between 23rd and 25th
 - i. Any future development? Nothing scheduled but with the 23rd Street corridor development, raised brick crossings could be an option.

3. Access and Safety: Secondary Access

- a. Accessible paths
 - i. There are paths on campus that run east/west and north/south. The sidewalk at the north currently has no stairs. The new design will indeed have stairs. Suggestion to look at adding a ramp or switch back so there is bike/ADA access along the north side. Architect to look at space between ball field and addition to see what can fit.
- b. 25th and Jefferson
 - i. Neighbors raised concern with speeding automobiles along 25th. Suggested installing an island to slow traffic. The street will have parking on both sides that should slow down traffic. SDOT prefers to allow parking on both sides of a residential street instead of islands. There has been talk from SDOT to make this a one-way street. Per the neighbors, one-way traffic to the south would be preferable. There should not be any bus traffic on this street as buses have been relocated to 23rd.
 - ii. Robert Stephens suggested that 25th should be a main pedestrian route. The sidewalks should be fixed. These sidewalk restorations should occur between Yesler to Cherry and Alder to MLK.

4. Lighting;

- a. Lighting along Horace/Garfield Path
 - i. Primary lighting along main path, what kind? Thirteen to 15 foot poles along path. Parks Department to review what type of lights. Bollard lights have a higher tendency for damage and graffiti.
 - ii. Question was raised on who looks at lighting? The project team will take the information provided during this meeting and present solutions at the next meeting.
- b. Lighting at Garfield
 - i. Lighting will occur at building and along paths. The lights will be directed at paths to control light pollution. Security lighting will also be considered. Will motion sensors be installed? Motion sensors are typically not installed but the District is able to schedule lighting similar to the Parks Department's for activities in the evening.
 - ii. Neighbor also suggested to limb trees to maximize lighting and site lines. No low shrubs. Trees limbed to six to eight feet.
 - iii. Parking lots will receive high bay lighting. Light is controlled to minimize light pollution.

5. Traffic Controls and Calming

- a. Due to 23rd's level of traffic and speed of traffic a suggestion was made to allow off-peak parking to slow traffic.
- b. Student stated that speeding occurs on Alder Street and this is a hazard to the students. With the main congestion point being relocated to the north entry this hazard should be decreased. Additionally, angled parking along Alder should help slow down traffic. Suggestion to install raised brick crossings at Alder and 23rd and 24th would significantly help issue.
- c. Suggestion was made that around the super block sound devices for the seeing impaired should be installed.

6. Character

- a. Culture and History
 - i. The sports field was the first Negro Sports Field. There is a plaque on the field. This should be moved to a more prominent location. Potentially, install a larger sign specifying the historic significance. Per Robert, Garfield is the most integrated school in District.
- b. Art
 - i. There are many art features throughout the campus. Memorial for Peace located at the south side is important. Robert suggested other art features such as a Native American piece, a modern feature dedicated to the armed service, art along the path to Horace. Handout was presented to group named the Legacy of Promise that defines potential artwork locations at Garfield. Having student based art at the school and campus would be positive for the neighborhood.
- c. City Park
 - i. The new Garfield Sports Field will be programmed for football, soccer and track. The field will be used for both practice and games. Arrangements with the Parks Department have been established to allow the community or Parks-established sports leagues to use the field. The field will not be lighted except minimal lighting for pedestrian traffic. No dogs will be allowed on the field.
 - ii. Future plans for the City Park? No major plans have been scheduled for the next five to seven years per Royal Alley-Barnes. Annual maintenance will occur to maintain the fields. The Parks Department is in support of the Horace/Garfield path or promenade. Large walking spaces are ideal but there are some restrictions. There should be no benches longer than three feet and no covered areas. These features are attractive to bad elements.
 - iii. The north path should be shifted to meet the corner of 25th and Jefferson. This will be reviewed as the parking lot area is being revised due to the addition length change.

- iv. Neighbors requested that trees be installed along 25th to buffer between the school/Parks activities. Due to difficulty with planting trees in the right of way, project team will look at shifting the sports field and adding trees on school property. The fence along the sports field is a low fence four-foot-tall fence. Neighbors agreed that a black colored fence is preferable.

7. Streetscape

a. Paving Features

- i. Special paving at potential commercial development would be aesthetically pleasing.
- ii. Neighbors would like to see decorative paving, colored, textured and/or markings. Suggestion to install paw prints or features in paving. Royal raised concern that recessed markings can collect water and debris and become a walking hazard or maintenance issue.
- iii. Furniture is acceptable if it follows certain size guidelines and locations. Trash containers should also be installed along promenade.
- iv. Skateboarding at the pool. This activity should be encouraged. Space could be enhanced for this activity. Concern was raised with damage to railings. Royal suggested keeping the length of railings to a minimum so the boarders will not grind on them. Other areas of concern should receive anti-skateboard bumps. Another concern raised was use during pool hours. Skaters have been cognizant of pool activities and refrain from boarding. Hours need to be posted to control skateboard activities.

8. Landscaping

a. Relocation of Landscaping

- i. The memorial rhododendrons will be relocated. Area still in discussion. The student garden at the south will need to be relocated around the corner to the east side of the building.
- ii. After further discussion of the sports field the neighbors raised a concern with the tree at the corner of 25th and Alder. The tree is currently shown to be removed to get the program space at the sports field. The neighbors urge the design team to keep the tree. Team to look at shifting southeast walls of field to protect the tree.

9. Signage

a. Sports Field / Parks Scoreboard

- i. There is a scoreboard at the southeast corner of the sports field. Due to the concern of the tree and shifting of wall the neighbors suggested relocating the board to the wall of the addition. This would eliminate the need of a structure of hold the sign.

- ii. At the north side of the Teen Life Center there will be a scoreboard for the Parks Department. This signage is used for baseball scoring. Neighbors felt this sign was still useful and should be installed.

- b. Other Signage

- i. The group discussed signage at the Garfield/Horace pathway. Directional signage would be helpful along the pathway.

10. Block Development: Robert Stephens

- a. General Discussion

- i. Robert presented some of the history of the Garfield campus and the importance of the existing Parks sports fields. He discussed the importance of creating this path across the campus connecting Garfield High School and Horace Mann. With the continued development along the 23rd corridor, one of the important features is the integral role of art. Robert also explained different features that could be used within the campus and surrounding commercial development.

3. Concerns/Comments:

- A.** Miscellaneous Comments

- Greg Cummins raised concern with graffiti along the north side of the addition. Don stated that the material used, split-faced concrete masonry units will be installed nine feet tall with an anti-graffiti coating. This type of masonry block deters graffiti as it gives a very poor surface to mark.

This meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

The preceding Minutes are the Construction Manager's interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above referenced meeting. Any persons desiring to add to or otherwise change the Minutes are asked to put their comments in writing to the Construction Manager no later than November 10, 2004, otherwise the Minutes will stand as written.

The Preceding Minutes were prepared by: Steven Moore.