

Perkins&Will

Meeting Minutes

Date: 12.3.2020 **Authored By:** Uttara Ramakrishnan

Meeting Details

Meeting Date: 11.21.2020

Project Name: George Washington Carver Center

Meeting Time: 1.00 PM

Project Number: 215011.000

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Carver:

Carre Adams

Parks and Recreation

Laura Esparza, Megan Eckard, Gregory Montes, Justin Schneider, Larry Williams,

Smith & Company Architects:

Terry Smith, Juarez White, Ivonne Canez

Perkins and Will:

Malcolm Davis, Stephen Coulston, Kenneth Luker, Paul Ward, Uttara Ramakrishnan

Discussion

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ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY	ORGANIZATION
1	<p>Welcome A brief introduction of the project and the purpose of the meeting to seek the help of the participants to define a vision for the future of the Carver Center taking into consideration the concepts from the older planning efforts.</p>	Carre Adams	George Washington Carver Museum
2	<p>Introductions A briefing of where we are in the project, engagement process and the outcomes.</p>	Terry Smith	Smith & Company Architects
3	<p>Process, Goals and Themes Expanding on the key themes that came out of the engagement process; opportunities, and challenges and community inputs on the 3 preliminary design options.</p>	Malcolm Davis and Paul Ward	Perkins and Will
4	<p>Site Plan and Program Presentation of conceptual site plan design and programming; building programming.</p>	Kenneth Luker	Perkins and Will
5	<p>Discussion and Feedback Listening session and feedback collection</p>	Stephen Coulston, Kenneth Luker, Malcolm Davis, Paul Ward	Perkins and Will
6	<p>Next Steps and Closing The next steps in the process and ways to continue to stay engaged.</p>	Gregory Montes	PARD

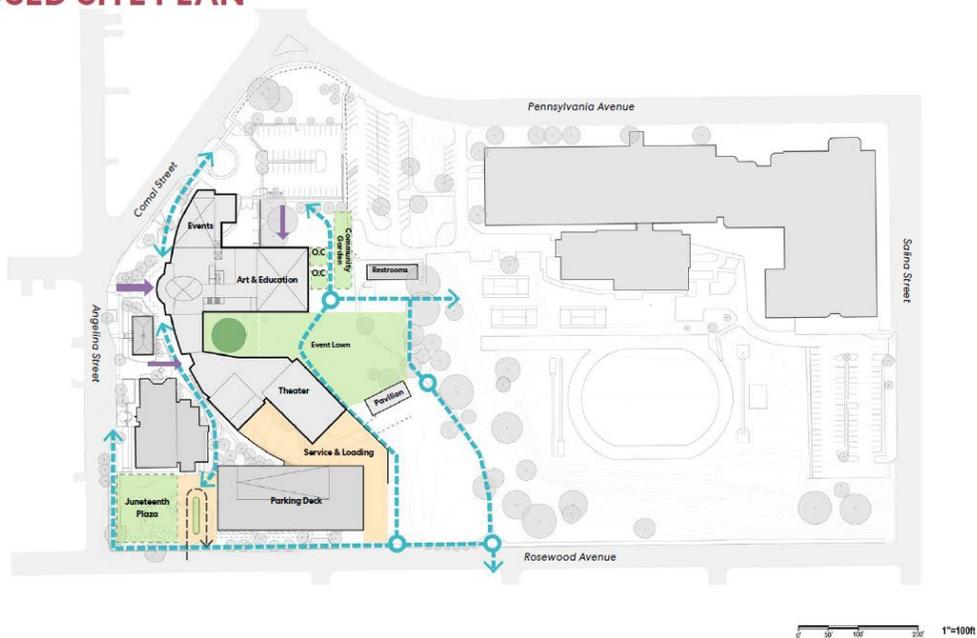
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Discussion and Feedback:

EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED SITE PLAN



1. Parking Structure Height:

- 40 ft tall, will help obscure service area and loading dock.
- If designed well, will improve on the aesthetic opportunity, and complement the museum.
- Can investigate underground parking but cost maybe an issue here.

2. Outdoor Campus Temperature Control:

- Pavilion facing event lawn surrounded by trees
- Theater's volume will provide shade to central courtyard area + large tree
- Juneteenth plaza will be planted with small trees (cannot plant huge trees on account of the overhead electrical power)
- Looking at ways to bring shade trees to community garden and outdoor classrooms

3. Plans for space around empty swimming pool:

- The empty pool will be filled, and lawn sculpted to be part of the event lawn
- Deliberate purpose driven space for outdoor events

4. Schedule for future design phases and construction:

- Frame out overall long-term facilities and expansion, strategies will be documented
- Take it to boards commissions, city council
- Funding of individual projects will depend upon the elected officials
- City council approval, city project management decide on next steps
- 2018 bond allocated fund for future build-out
- Depending on phases will have to weigh out what can be built
- Design phase will start in 2021 or 2022; city project management will hire a design firm to assist the department in the effort

5. Will the event space be open for flexible use by community when there is no scheduled use?

- The space will not be gated or blocked up, will be open and contiguous with the Kealing Park
- Will be open and accessible to the community and neighborhood

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6. Plans to coordinate the design with the new work in Rosewood Courts:

- Rosewood Courts is a privately owned property going through its own design process
- Current efforts to provide open space on frontage of Rosewood to north-west corner of project site (Rosewood Courts)
- The open space will house park like features/ gathering space
- PARD has met with representatives from the planning team for this project, they are invited to join the process for the Carver
- Programming will not duplicate between Carver and Rosewood Courts
- Rosewood planning an Emancipation Park on the site
- Carver sits as a beacon in this portion of East Austin
- This area can make use of Prop B, rich vibrant historical corridor with sidewalks and pedestrian connectivity
- Grassroot efforts in the community to do some connectivity between Rosewood Courts and Carver
- Design team aware of the legacy of the Rosewood Court Housing projects and wishes to acknowledge this

7. Will the sculptures remain in the current place?

- The art and education wing (proposed) will require that we relocate the sculptures
- Where they will go will have to be studied further with carver staff and how they want to curate that, maximize accessibility and protection for statuary
- New location is yet to be determined
- Location of statues along the 'Juneteenth Plaza' will put a huge burden on the staff
- The way the sculptures are situated + walk all have a meaning; placement and displacement are both important
- Team is sensitive to this and wants to understand the genesis of the design of the sculptures and their locations

8. Is there an opportunity for the new plan to include enhancements to the pool/ sunken stage?

- Do we see an opportunity to create a lower stage and place it in the community garden space?
- This master plan will take years to fulfill, as the garden grows, the plan can accommodate to take in qualities of the site and respect the ongoing efforts

9. Residential community around the Carver is low profile, and parking deck may be huge in this context. How are we planning to design and make it unobtrusive?

- If we grow the programs – events, galleries, theaters and do not grow parking; no one will be able to park, residential streets around the Carver will be crowded
- Current parking count is significantly lower than the parking we need in the future
- By placing the garage on Rosewood (the busiest street) around Carver,
- Parking garage will be a public canvas, camouflage the garage with public murals and art that add value to the community
- Need additional spaces to accommodate growth
- We can relook the scale + site contours will mitigate the scale of the parking structure; can reduce floor to floor heights
- Parking garage can be designed to be porous and less obtrusive

10. Implement/integrate retractable roofs in the event lawn

- While this is structurally possible, the cost of that would be significant and cost as much as the rest of the project
- We can set up event tents during events, set up to provide shade with ceiling fans; will serve e best during the
- Use of shading structures can be done, acknowledge the volume of the building to create shadows, trade-winds can be funneled with design of the volume
- The team understands how warm this area is and will make efforts to accommodate these requests

11. Comment: More visualizations of outdoor campus space required

12. Will residents of the neighborhood be allowed to use the garage?

- At present, the parking garage will serve the Carver campus only. When the design is being fine-tuned, we can figure out the capacity better. Do not know the answers to this just yet. Would be ideal to permit public to park here
- Typically, consultants consider all possible uses in the neighborhood while counting spaces for the garage

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13. Juneteenth Plaza – disjointed nature of the plaza from the other green spaces

- Desire to soften threshold into the Carver museum and center
- Plaza for community interaction
- Team does not see it as disjointed but sees it as a threshold to Carver, to brand the place and bring people inside
- Activity along Angelina street, activate the rear of the site
- Improve sidewalk connections to tie the spaces together
- Image all the area in front as a continued outdoor plaza with the Juneteenth – formal plaza
- Place at the back is the event lawn, larger more structured
- 2 types of outdoor spaces
- Imp to preserve and tell the Juneteenth story and reach a broader audience
- Comment: Can we shift this to the North along Comal and Pennsylvania?
- Require community input on what the program of this area could be
- Comment: For years, the mural on the library has been a landmark for the community (Mural on the corner of Rosewood and Angelina). Do not want to obstruct this.

14. What questions or issues have not been addressed today that would be helpful to the architectural or city planning team?

- Next steps will be memorializing outcomes of the process and design
- Commission, boards
- City council
- Need people's support and voice
- Stay involved and participate

15. Why the parking garage is not on the N. of the site?

- Pennsylvania and Comal streets are slower, quieter than Angelina, will be disruptive to add traffic here. Whereas Rosewood is already a busy street and adding parking along this side was a better option. Accessing all the Carver facilities from the parking garage is important.

16. Detention pond to the East of the garage

- Will include education component
- Work with the City's watershed department

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17. In the proposed concept, art dock remains and loading dock will be added.

18. Interior: Changes proposed on the inside of the building in addition to the outside.

KEY THEMES

- Idea of the Carver**: Explores the multiplicity of meanings and relationship of the community with the Carver
- Experience**: Looks at one's perception and experience of the building and the complex as a whole -includes branding, wayfinding & accessibility
- Program**: Elaborates upon the programs and events organized by the building and their spatial requirements
- Indoor Spaces**: Understanding the design and utilization of existing indoor spaces
- Outdoor Spaces**: Understanding the relationship and utilization of existing outdoor spaces to the buildings

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