

Ward 3 Short-term Family Housing Advisory Team Meeting #4

DATE: Tuesday, December 20, 2016

LOCATION: 2nd District Metropolitan Police Department Community Room --
3320 Idaho Avenue, NW

TIME: 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Purpose as stated by Co-chair and head of DHS, Laura Zeilinger

The purpose of this meeting is to convene the Ward 3 community Advisory Team (AT) for the Ward 3 Short-term Family Housing program (STFH) to continue a meaningful and earnest process for community engagement, input, and information sharing for issues and events related to Short-term Family Housing in Ward 3. For this meeting specifically, we will debrief from last week's public design meeting and discuss topics of interest to the team.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Debriefing from the public design meeting – DGS (40 minutes)
3. Topics of interest to the team – (40 minutes)
 - a. Debriefing from the site visit - DGS
 - b. Creating a process moving forward to answer any outstanding questions - DHS
4. Summary of Next Steps & Adjourn (5 minutes)

Present at the Meeting:

John Catania, Deborah Linde, Angela Bradbery, Maureen Boucher, Pam Korbel, Ruth Caplan, Kathy Haines, Captain Kelvin Cusick, Phil Thomas, Joe McNamara, Laura Zeilinger, Agyei Hargrove, and Anthony Castillo

Not Present:

Margaret Siegel, Melody Molinoff, Ann Scoffier, Ann Hamilton, Jeffrey Davis, Rabbi Aaron Alexander, Kelly McShane

Co-Chair Zeilinger's comments:

- Separate meetings are needed:
 - John Eaton Elementary School, Deal Middle School and Wilson High School. These will be stand-alone, specific meetings.
 - Public Safety, Police Operations and Homeland Security will also have specific meeting.
 - Zeilinger will also be available to attend neighborhood association meetings to talk about the issues.

Community Representatives' Comments:

- Many people feel that they have not been part of the process.
- Written feedback from McLean Gardens and the surrounding neighborhood was submitted
- Neighbors feel that the number of people that this facility is planning to accommodate is too many and consequently the building is too high
- Additionally, there is a fear of how property values will be affected

Co-Chair Zeilinger's Response:

- There is no evidence in the literature that suggests that such a facility will have an impact on property values. We will share articles that support this view.
- 280 families from DC General will be accommodated in all Wards of the city. Ward 3 will accommodate 50 families to reach 280 which is possible given the footprint of the site

Community Representative Comment: Some members of the community pose questions about the safety and security of Ward 3 because parking and movement of the police cars could be impeded.

Co-Chair Zeilinger's Response:

- There is not data showing that the safety and security of Ward 3 might be impeded.

Joe McNamara (Architect):

- The impact on the police is still not clear. His only conversation with the police was in regard to the number of parking spaces, not community safety.

Community Representative Comment:

- Some individuals have asked why a part of the community garden property could not be used. Citing the building just over the Police Station wall would eliminate the concerns about interfering with the 2nd District Police Station Operations. It would eliminate the need for a parking ramp and the expense of a parking structure that would span an area longer than the length of the police station.

Co-Chair Zeilinger's Response:

- CM Cheh was very clear that the amenity of the community garden should be protected. She also was emphatic about creating a building whose appearance was agreeable to the neighbors.

Joe McNamara (Architect):

- This option has not been studied in any detail because the guiding principle was the preservation of the garden. Moving the building on the opposite side of the wall would require extension of utilities.

Community Representative Comment: Why haven't the sites in the other wards built additional floors to accommodate a greater number of units?

Co-Chair Zeilinger's Response: The size of the sites vary. For instance, the Ward 7 site is 12,500 square feet – 1/3 the size of Ward 3 site.

Community Representatives Request: Could we create a Good Neighbor Agreement sooner rather than later?

Co-Chair Zeilinger's Response: Good Neighbor Agreement will be developed and they will try to work on this soon. Will provide list of issues that are usually included in good neighbor agreement, including remedies and notice of non-compliance.

- Advisory committee should identify issues they want addressed.
- Ask people what they want to see addressed (larger group of neighbors should be included in drawing up the Good Neighbor agreement.) Process needs to be interactive.
- Have community meeting to review draft
- The contract with providers will stipulate specific requirements coming out of good neighbor agreement.

Review of building design

- Concept plan is done
- Committee was shown sketches and asked to give preference for different options re exterior of building