

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 7, 2010

Meeting # 106

Project: Children's Hospital Addition

Phase: Final

Location: 2401 West Belvedere Avenue; Sinai Hospital PUD

PRESENTATION:

Scott Davis of Hord Coplan Macht Architects reviewed the changes to the design since the last presentation. The changes included exterior landscape adjustments, a decrease in the size of the entry door and an increase in the width of paving directly outside of that door, as well as additional green roof areas near the play area at the upper level. Proposed materials were also described.

COMMENTS OF THE PANEL:

The Panel generally felt that the project had changed very little since the prior presentation and suggested that the design team revisit many of its schematic design assumptions with the intent of bringing more clarity and strength to this first phase of what promises to be a major new hospital entry experience. The areas to be re-addressed are as follows:

- A. ***Landscape – Site geometry/relationships*** – Panelists expressed concern that the current handling of the angular geometry of certain elements of the scheme was awkward. One approach would be to make this angular geometry stronger through reinforcements such as consistent landscaping treatment to both sides of the entry, the use of paving patterns which might help in resolving the conflicting geometries, as well as reconsideration of the entry location and the design of the large covered open space which serves also as the entry to the existing building. A second suggested approach would be to abandon the angular approach all together and instead seek a “normal” (right angular) geometry that reflects the dominant relationship of the building to the drop offs and parking area.
- B. ***Pedestrian Crossings/covered open spaces***– Concern was voiced about the clarity and lack of directness of the final pedestrian path from the building to the parking area. It was suggested that the path be more open ended (i.e not terminate at the stair block) and that it be placed under cover rather than open to the sky. This discussion raised the issue of the role and consistency of treatment to all other pedestrian crossings to the parking areas in the future. There was some concern that the large “open space” beneath the addition, which leads to the relocated existing building entrance, might be an uncomfortable area. Please clarify.

- C. ***Entrance / Revolving door element*** – The Panel suggested that the entry element be restudied and that it have a stronger relationship with the relocated pedestrian crossing and the adjacent large covered open space.
- D. ***Columns***– The Panel suggested that the size of the columns on the exterior be restudied.
- E. ***Second level play area***– no further review

PANEL ACTION:

Final Approval withheld.

Attending: Dorothy Hellman – Life Bridge Health
Scott Davis, Brantley Davis, Josh Kilrain – Hord Coplan Macht Architects
Jay Brodie, Paul Dombrowski – BDC

Ms. Eig, Messrs. Bowden, Cameron, Ramberg – Panel
Gary Cole, Anthony Cataldo, Bob Quilter- Planning