

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 29, 2012

Meeting No.: 144

Project: Waverly Library Renovations

Phase: Cont. Schematic

Location: 33rd and Barclay Streets

PRESENTATION:

Katie-Rose Imbriano, Baltimore City Planning District Planner, provided background on the development process since the last presentation in January and discussed changes that were then elaborated on by Stephanie Schaefer, architect with Bucharth Horn. Ms. Schaefer presented two design options for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL:

Both new options were improvements from the January scheme; however, community remarks indicated that there was a great difference in opinion between the community and the Enoch Pratt Library as to the general direction of the aesthetics of the renovation (traditional versus contemporary design), the size and use of the community room (small versus large and windows and/or atrium versus no windows or atrium), the fenestration of the area where the children's library is to be housed, as well as the internal floor plan.

Specific recommendations on the proposed options:

- 1.) The Panel preferred Option 2 which calls for an expansion of the glass facade so that it wraps around the building; however, the Panel would like the glass façade:
 - a. to wrap at both ends of the main elevation so that it will not be possible to see behind the glass and metal parapet (extruding portion of the façade) from any street-level vantage point. This will both look more solid and hide the mechanical equipment that will be located on the roof.
 - b. to present the glass façade with a straight "cornice" rather than a curve. This will allow the façade's top to work in concert with the strong horizontal line of the pedestrian canopy.
 - c. to use glass panels below the canopy line and metal panels above to minimize the false sense that there is a direct relationship between the height of the glass and metal parapet and the ceiling of the interior space.
- 2.) Two columns at the main entry should be removed and the remaining two columns should be strengthened; two similar columns should be used at the community meeting

room entrance at Barclay Street. This will allow both entries to be easily visible and visually identifiable and understood as main public entries.

- 3.) Street trees, especially along Barclay Street should be added to the project scope.
- 4.) Parts of the sidewalk may be too wide and the addition of more greenspace should be considered.
- 5.) The architectural details and materials associated with the Brutalist style that remain on the building from should be removed or played down as much as possible.

PANEL ACTION:

The Panel recommends schematic approval of the project presented. It also recommends that Planning Staff help facilitate Department of General Services in scheduling additional meetings between the community and the Library in an effort to mutually address community and operational concerns as well as final finishing choices.

Attending:

Stephanie Schaefer – Buchart Horn
Mary Pat Clarke – Baltimore City Council
Regina T. Boyce – Waverly Improvement Association
Mary Gill, Kathleen Henderson - Oakenshawe Improvement Association
Melinda Smith, Friends of Waverly Library
Sandy Sparks, Charles Village
Vanessa Francis – JHU / Pratt Advisory Council
Patricia Costello – Enoch Pratt Library
Jan Walecha, Dennis Chojnowski – Dept. General Services
M J Brodie - BDC

Ms. Eig*; Messrs. Bowden, Burns, Cameron – Panel

Tom Stosur, Gary Cole, Anthony Cataldo, Wolde Ararsa, Melvin Hicks, Katie-Rose Imbriano - Planning