

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

**Date:** September 27, 2012

**Meeting No.:** 154

**Project:** Cherry Hill Recreation Center

**Phase:** Schematic

**Location:** Roundview Road

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**PRESENTATION:**

The meeting was opened by Kate Brower, representing the Department of Recreation and Parks, who provided background on the project, one of four new centers planned and nearing construction. She described its design goal of serving a wider range of family needs defined by an earlier task force of community residents. Tom McGillaway and Lisa Andrews and were introduced as the project design team from Mayhan Rykiel Landscape Architects and GWWO Architects respectively.

McGillaway discussed the two level site and landscape plans including location strategies. The importance of preserving the existing grove of mature trees at the corner of Roundview and Cherry Land Roads; the need to reduce the large expanses of the upper level paved areas and the reliance on internal pathways connecting the adjacent schools 159 and 163 were reiterated.

Lisa Andrews, architect, described the basic design concept which included a central organizing axis connecting the upper fields and the lower level main entrance area and accommodating two primary spaces: the lower level gymnasium space and a divisible multi-purpose upper level space. She indicated the intention, (if budget allowed) to include geothermal wells and green roofs for the project.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL:**

The Panel welcomed this first presentation of the plans for the recreation center and generally agreed with the placement and organization of the project. However, there were several comments suggesting that additional study was warranted to address potential shortcomings of the current design:

1. **General – Landscape** – In general, the Panel felt that it was unfortunate that more of the upper playing fields would not be exposed in the first phase. It was suggested that street edge trees be introduced to provide clearer definition of the site as well as potential shade for the long unprotected sidewalks. In addition, explore ways in which the strategic placement of trees can contribute to the offsetting of the solar exposure of the entrance and large glazed window areas along the southern side of the building. More attention is warranted to the entry area in terms of landscape detail, trash receptacles, lighting, seating, and bicycle racks.
2. **Building Design** -There was general agreement that the basic central axis parti was sound however the specifics of the two terminal points were in question. The issue of the ease of access from the lower level gymnasium to the upper play fields as well as the inability to access toilet areas from the upper fields were voiced. The generous overhangs and clerestory elements featured in the current design were challenged as

not providing much solar management for the western or southern sun and it was suggested that this greater issue be revisited. More weather (sun and rain) protection was also recommended at the main entrance. “Framed” large window areas were thought to meet the ground in awkward ways. Consider refining them to be their own element within the overall building design. Trash management and material choices should be clarified in future presentations.

**PANEL ACTION:**

Recommended further Schematic Design Phase study.

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**Attending:**

Kate Brower, Jackie Williams, Thomasine Forte, Bill Tyler – Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Tom McGillaway - Mayhan Rykiel Landscape Architects

Lisa Andrews - GWWO Architects

Michael Middleton- Cherry Hill Community Coalition

Betty Baze – Youth Rec Chair

Ann McLean- CHDC

Steve Kilar- Baltimore Sun

Director Tom Stosur, Anthony Cataldo, Gary Cole, Wolde Ararsa, Sara Paranillam, Brent Flickinger – Planning Department

Ms Eig, Messrs. Bowden\*and Cameron - UDARP Panel