

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

Date: December 6, 2012

Meeting No.: 158

Project: Under Armour PUD - Visitor's Center / Pedestrian Bridge

Phase: Schematic

Location: Main Campus – East Key Highway/Hull Street

PRESENTATION:

Shawn King of Under Armour reviewed the background and evolution of the Master Plan and PUD for the overall main campus at the former Tide Point location in Locust Point. He specifically focused on the key role of the visitor's center and its accompanying pedestrian bridge and introduced Steve Ziger of Ziger/Snead Architects who explained the conceptual basis of the design. Elements of the design included:

- An above grade, open air, pedestrian bridge starting from a spiral stair and elevator at the south building, crossing over the adjacent parking lot, proceeding (north) across and (east) along E Key Highway and culminating at the proposed visitor's center at the Hull Street corner. The bridge crossing would pass along the eastern side of the existing overhead structure which will itself be modified, exposing its base structure and highlighting new graphic LED displays.
- The modestly sized two level enclosed visitor's center would accommodate limited retail and reception areas on the ground floor and a café and ancillary uses on the upper floor, as well as an open deck for outdoor dining connecting to the pedestrian bridge. It is envisioned that the bridge might someday continue across Hull Street to the future playing fields from this location. The building will employ a feature stair element, starting outdoors near the Haubert Street entry plaza, and going inside the visitor's center connecting the two levels, along with an internal elevator.
- The dominant color of the bridge would be Under Armour's bold trademark red used with complimenting black, grey and yellow elements. A major 3-dimensional logo/sign is planned on the roof of the building. The proposed materials of the building are painted steel, metal panels and fritted glass with epoxy wood decking for the pedestrian bridge floor and gymnasium wood floors within the visitor's center. Major graphics would be displayed against the rear wall.
- The project is planned in two phases starting with the visitor's center and followed by the remaining pedestrian bridge structures.

COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL:

The Panel welcomed this schematic introduction of the plans for the visitor's center and pedestrian bridge at UA and complimented the design team for its thoughtful and thorough presentation. The Panel offered the following comments for consideration and further study:

1. **The future pivotal role of the Visitors Center**– The Panel questioned whether the current design of the visitor's center allows it to adequately serve as the anteroom to a major future space behind it. It was further questioned whether the design should so strongly predict the corner location as the future location for the Hull Street crossing

or whether that crossing may want to be further toward the middle of Hull Street and the future playing fields.

2. **Hull Street Corner Emphasis** – The Panel felt that the design might more strongly express the Hull Street corner as a “terminal” or “pivotal” space on the pedestrian walkway rather than as only an “event” along its course.
3. **Sidewalk development** - Questions were raised about the arrival sequence, particularly how buses (both visitors and transit) might be accommodated. Concerns were also voiced about the need for protective barriers or bollards along the sidewalk in front of the proposed glass façade on E. Key Highway in light of the heavy industrial trucks utilizing this access-way.

PANEL ACTION:

Recommend approval of Schematics with above comments addressed at next presentation.

Attending:

Shawn King, Katie Hearn – Under Armor
Steve Ziger – Ziger/Snead Architects
Andy Powell – Cross St. Partners
Peter O’Malley – Venable
Chioma Eyisi, Meagan Alley – JHSPH
Jack Lambert – BBJ
Ed Gunts – Baltimore Sun

Messrs. Bowden*and Burns - UDARP Panel

Director Tom Stosur, Anthony Cataldo, Gary Cole, Wolde Ararsa –Planning Department