

Central Park School for Children

Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2016

Attendees:

Present – Jenne Mondry, Kelly Yates, Jesse Turner, Meg Millard, Lauri Brandenburg, John Heffernan, Joe Fitzsimons

Acknowledged Absent – Bob Chapman, Eric Breit

The meeting began with introductions and a brief summary of the charge of the Facilities Committee and how it will relate to short and long term projects/goals for the School.

Short Term Items

Foster Street Campus:

- South Side Improvements: Jesse confirmed that the “Annie’s” grant previously applied for was not awarded to the school. Jesse will work to engage other Community members (starting with the classrooms who face this area) to facilitate discussion on what options and ideas for this space may be. Previous options that have been discussed: functional plantings, STEM related learning connections (pollinators, monarch butterfly “waystation”, connection to wider migratory patterns). Students and staff will be engaged to program this space rather than having all the ideas come from the Committee.
- Park Improvements: John gave an update on the Park (“park closed” signs and conversation with the City). John indicated that an email with an update from City of Durham Parks Department was due to arrive afternoon of 2/9 which will give a better sense of where to go from here (hopefully also including City’s plan for seeding/detailed schedule). School is continuing to use the park, and City has confirmed that Strawberry Festival (previously reserved by School) will be able to take place on the park grounds. Discussion of the best use and long term goal for the park from the School’s perspective took place, and it was agreed that the plan from 2012 (produced by Catherine Gill) still represents the best outcome. Jesse will engage with Tom Dawson (city Parks Dept.) and Joe will reach out to Tom Bonfield (City Manager) to continue dialogue between the School and the City.
- General Building Maintenance and Scheduling: (continued) The Facilities Committee will establish and oversee a Maintenance plan for the building to anticipate (and help Budget for) regular building maintenance and repair. Lauri agreed to take this on, Joe to coordinate with Lauri and provide backup resources from previous projects. Final product will be in the form of a digital file(s) and/or three ring binder.

Hunt Street:

- Phase 2 Construction: Joe summarized Phase 2 status: there is finally movement on the Site Plan and Traffic Impact Analysis, and the Site Plan is ~~anticipated to be fully approved in 2-4 weeks~~. An update from Rob Emerson (Civil consultant) indicated approval likely will be mid April. GC is now concerned about timing and efforts are underway to see if the approval process can be quicker. John reiterated that the project must be complete July 1 to meet the School’s schedule, and directed Kelly to pursue Contingency options for growth classrooms if it becomes necessary. Kelly will continue to serve as the school’s representative during construction. It was

noted that the 118 Hunt Street (currently for lease across the street, see below) property may be a good option for contingency classrooms if needed. A weekly conference call/meeting will begin again soon between Building Owner, GC, School representatives and Architect.

- Phase 1 Area needs/issues: Previous discussion took place related to an unanticipated need of the Middle School: additional interior physical area for Dance. The currently used downstairs area will no longer be available once construction on Phase 2 begins. Efforts to accommodate this space elsewhere in the neighborhood (YMCA, Center for Senior Living, etc.) has so far not been successful. John stated that a warehouse building at 118 Hunt Street is now available for rent for ~\$5,000/month for 15,000-20,000 SF that would nicely fit this need. A contingent of the Committee will tour the building on 2/11 at 9:00am.
- Previously noted, no discussion: Snow plowing McCollum Alley (and Foster Street parking lot) – John noted, given the recent weather, that the lack of plow service in the parking lot and alley is a problem for the school, and that the school may need to contract with a plow service in the future.
- Neighborhood meeting: a neighborhood meeting of the Hunt Street neighbors and interested groups to discuss the plans for the Hunt Street Campus and initiate and facilitate better connections is in planning. Specific items to discuss/address: how car line will be handled, construction process/staging, parking (visitors and staff), how best can the school support its neighbors and vice-versa. John, Jesse and Joe are coordinating on a date in March and generating a list of possible attendees.

Long Term Goals

(not discussed)

Issues for Committee discussion identified in previous meetings but not discussed:

Traffic / Car Line / Pedestrian Safety (9/15 meeting)

Neighbor impacts / city park / creation of an outreach group (9/15 meeting)

Open questions identified that may help guide the Facilities Committee in assisting the School (11/17 meeting):

1. What does the school want that it doesn't have (fields, gym, resource areas, proximities/relationships/partnerships, etc.)?
2. Where does the school want to be located?
3. Should the school be combined under one campus? If so, what would be the proposed timeline of this?
4. What does the middle school need that it doesn't have today?
5. What does the middle school want?
6. What does the elementary school need that it doesn't have today?
7. What does the elementary school want?
8. What types of community partners would be ideal?

Possible Subcommittees

Outdoor Learning / Southside improvement / Park Improvement (Jesse)

Maintenance Plan Creation (Lauri)

Hunt Street Phase 2 Management / Classroom Contingency Plan (Kelly)

Action Items & Next Steps

- John, Joe and Jesse to put together a list of Hunt Street neighborhood contacts and propose a meeting (see above).
- Continued Park Discussion with City (see above)
- Facilities Committee may meet quarterly in the future, after meetings and establishing subgroups.

Next meeting: TBD, Mid-March, 4:00pm