

PROJECT

Robert Crown Center
Evanston, Illinois

MEETING MINUTES

SUBJECT

Stakeholder Workshop 01

MEETING DATE

03.02.17

MEETING LOCATION

Evanston Civic Center, Rm 4202

The following constitute our understanding of matters discussed and information gathered. Other participants are requested to review these items and advise the originator of any errors or omissions.

Community Issues

General Comments

- Very Excited.
- Desire for strong public art. 1% should go into project and reflect the strong local arts community
- Desire for integrated art instead of stand alone objects
- Desire for interactive art
- Integrate art meaningfully, not just decoratively.
- Evanston Art Inspirations = lake, green, crunchy
- Betty Bryn Museum, Milwaukee
- Public Art Foundation – Central Park – Outdoor living rooms
- Has James Park been considered for this project? More space, ample parking.
- Washington School has plans to build a parking lot. How does that affect/coordinate with the project?
- There is a lot of value that hockey at RCCC brings to Evanston community
- Green solutions offer potential funding opportunities. Would be good to know what's possible/desired as soon as possible so these can be pursued.
- The tension between the programmed and unprogrammed exterior space is going to be a primary tension in the project.

Building

- Building should be innovative and breathtaking
- Please make all sides of the building attractive so there is no back.
- Placement of the building is still being contemplated. Location will consider/impact parking location and access and sports field layout
- 2-story building is being examined.
- Retail tenant? Curt's Café – community, NFP, at-risk opportunities, could be interesting partnership
- Has an Indoor pool been contemplated? YMCA has a larger pool renovation contemplated.
- Highest technology that we can be when it opens. Needs to be appropriate for meetings.
- Biggest problem we have is the footprint of the building, the parking and the turf fields. Seems like keeping the building as physically small as possible is ideal. Premium on reducing gross SF.
- Really NEED to avoid dividing the programs and programming. We want EVERYBODY mixing and socializing and collaborating.
- Solar is interesting. Illinois passes a bill for. There may be funding support for solar. May be community support?
- Geothermal?
- Cooling plants produce low grade heat. Low grade heat isn't that effective.
- We will look at all the potential sustainable and mechanical systems to weigh value and returns.

WTA+MJMA

- Green Roof? – Is a possibility, though not lightly on the long span roofs like the ice arena due to weight.
- Outdoor classroom/reading room is a strong desire of Education and Library groups

Park/Site

- Please keep Tennis Courts (but perhaps change the wall, which is too noisy)
- Lee Street Neighbors would like to see the site stay open
- Neighbors do not want exterior PA system
- Neighbors desire to not have a bubble
- At what point does RCP become not a public park? Concern about over programming athletics and not enough space for neighbors uses for kids, walking, dogs, etc
- Neighbors enjoy using the park as natural parkland
- Lighting is an important consideration in the evening for neighbors
- Desire for parkland and not just sports.
- Could topography be introduced into the flat park?
- Should be inviting landscape.
- Garden Space?
- Outdoor basketball? Outdoor Ice rink?
- Is there a nearby sportsfield that people could see it get a better idea of how the new fields might look? Ridgeland Recreation Complex in Oak Park has a good example.
- Strongly Support Turf fields – current fields are in bad shape/not maintained
- Concerned about what the new 'view' will be. RCP is the Lee St neighbors front yard.
- Concerned about potential impact to home values
- Is there additional parkland? Is there room for it? Should there be or should we maximize the program of the fields.
- Bike parking. Let's encourage people to take bikes, mass transit.
- Picnic tables?
- Path from parking lot/building to Washington School playground.
- Consider visibility of outdoor activities for control/safety by parents/teachers

Parking/Traffic

- Parking Concerns
- Concern about traffic on Lee. Do not exit parking lot onto Lee St.
- Desire for bike friendly park.
- Bad traffic at Dodge and Lee. Left turn very difficult during time of high traffic. No crosswalk.
- Parking – thinking about surface parking. Structured parking? (expensive)
- Concern over traffic egressing onto Lee street. Lee street is busy as a pass through.
- 2-4 busses would arrive for summer camps (and wait in parking lot)
- Washington School uses east end of RCC parking lot for drop off/pickup
- Evanston will conduct traffic study of the site and area – specifically during hockey season and when outdoor athletics are in use.
- Don't use Lee Street for bus parking

Process/Engagement

- Information/Community Engagement on the project
- RCCC website is updated regularly.
- Mailings to neighbors
- Additional public meetings
- Could online surveys be utilized for people who may not be able to attend meetings?
- Construction process – approx 18-24 months – will affect neighbors (noise/traffic), what can be done to mitigate that?
- When is the start date? Being contemplated. Hoping for early 2018.

Ice Arena

Uses/Programming

- NU club hockey, youth hockey, varsity boys and girls hockey
- Girls hockey is growing fast
- Speed skaters like Olympic size because you can have/host events.
- Olympic rink allows for skate on skate off sled hockey with temp/movable panels. Sled hockey is driving force behind Olympic rink.
- Figure skating show – 200-300 skaters – 1000 spectators. Need extra space for shows/storage of equipment.
- Figures skating classes 3 times a week – over 100 students.
- Test sessions – 50 skaters. Shows and competitions.
- Monday nights during the season are crazy.

Space/Adjacency

- Figure skaters don't use locker rooms as much and just pull up along the ice. Safe Sports Program.
- Could use more space around rink for warmups. Northbrook has plenty of room to warmup.
- Bench/referee/penalty layout could be either one side of ice or across ice. Pros and cons are within the blue lines/offsides/overall space constraints, time it takes to skate across ice.
- Birthday party rooms associated with the gym and rink.

Amenities

- Netting is often an issue. Netting around the ends for sure. The netting across the whole rink affects visibility.
- Harnesses for figure skating are desired.

Materials/Finishes

- Lights make a huge difference. Typically design for 750fc (rinks for TV need 1000fc). Goal is for even illumination.
- Mt. Prospect has good lighting
- LED lighting is dimmable and could be reduced/turned off when combined with natural lighting. Save on energy costs.
- Natural light – need to be mindful of orientation. Diffuse light, no glare, no direct sun.
- If natural light provided, space should have the capability of being blacked out.
- Hockey folks say no natural light. It's a contentious issue. South, East and West may be a non-starter. Open to north facing light.

Other Comments

- Never ever enough parking at these facilities. Teams arrive with trucks of equipment.
- Subsoil heat is a necessity.
- Be mindful of the visibility for accessible patrons. Keep the bars/rails out of the site lines.
- Private staff and coaches bathroom requested.
- Concessions often an issue – where is the line where skates are not allowed on the floor?

WTA+MJMA

Ice Arena Seating

Uses/Programming

- Locker room layout affects spectator seating quantity, sightlines, and distance from the ice.
- Seems like stepping down to ice is best on many levels (warm side corridor)

Space/Adjacency

- Safest seating arrangement is to be closer to the ice, protected by the glass.

Amenities

- Benches versus seats? Benches that are divided. Benches preferred. Seats at Lake Forest College are uncomfortable.

Materials/Finishes

Other

Ice Arena Locker/Change Rooms

Uses/Programming

- Desire for dedicated locker rooms for permanent teams - Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, NU club but that the other locker rooms could be shared.
- Biggest complaint of past clients is that the locker rooms are too small.
- A couple locker rooms should be fully accessible for sled hockey.
- Wider corridors for figure skating shows would allow skaters to line up in hallways.
- Skaters typically change in bathrooms – but bathrooms are too small.

Space/Adjacency

- Could be cold side entry, warm side entry, or hybrid. Each have pro/con and the decision also affects how the spectator seating would be designed, sightlines, and distance from the ice.
- Seems like stepping down to ice is best on many levels (warm side corridor)
- Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin – has hybrid solution. Twin pad with one walkway adjacent to rink and one warm side internal corridor.
- Most MJMA projects are normally providing see 5 locker rooms per sheet at 650.
- Desire for 6 locker rooms per sheet if possible.
- Could have 4 private – NU, Boys varsity, Girls varsity, Girls – with private showers and then other 8 use shared showers

Amenities

- Locker Rooms need heavy ventilation to dry equipment
- Space to hang up equipment
- Permanent lockers are not required.
- Showers are requirement in locker room.
- Johnnys Ice House – shared shower facility. Better use of space but hard to schedule and lock doors. Could work well.
- Are sticks inside or outside the locker rooms?
- Room for bags

Materials/Finishes

Other

- Parents are not supposed to go to locker room during event.

WTA+MJMA

Ice Arena Warmup Room

Uses/Programming

- Pre-function area for ice skating is a good idea.

Space/Adjacency

- Could be a warmup room: multipurpose room – ballet, dance.
- Current crown has Room D multipurpose room – WTA to confirm size

Amenities

Materials/Finishes

- Multipurpose room could be divisible with appropriate floor surface for warmup.

Other

Track

Uses/Programming

- Often used for ice warmup
- Senior walking space

Space/Adjacency

- If within the ice arena, can be a good distance – 200m
- Could route through the entire building?

Amenities

- Runners prefer natural light.

Materials/Finishes

Other

Recreation/Gymnasium

Uses/Programming

- FAM - Youth basketball (5 games on Saturdays)
- Lot of Indoor soccer use
- Day-care uses for gross motor twice a day
- Camp programs
- Volleyball – recreation level
- Gymnastics (beginner level)
- Pickleball
- Would like to try new programming – stay at home moms, etc
- Batting cage? (Outdoor Athletic Group stated that they would utilize if provided)

Space/Adjacency

- What size does the court need to be when setup is double court w/ divider? This will govern the overall size of the room
- Currently cannot run programming during the day because of pre-school/access
- Keep access open
- How multipurpose can we make the gymnasium?
- Birthday party rooms associated with the gym and rink.

Amenities

- Desire for pull out bleachers. 50-200 spectators typical
- Keep obstructions in ceiling out of the way
- Need proper footings for the (gymnastic) equipment.
- How divisible? Divisible in both directions? Divider could be movable to create a-symmetric divisions

Materials/Finishes

- What is the highest level of competition played – what surface do they require?
- What is the best flooring surface? Pulastic used on recent MJMA project.

Other

- Need proper storage for all different equipment – gymnastics, pre-school, ball sports
- Birthday party rooms associated with the gym and rink.
- Smaller portions of divisible gym could be used for skating warmups?
- WTA to confirm how much larger is new gym than old.
- Who sets up and takes down equipment?

Outdoor Athletics

Uses/Programming

- Fields are considered multi-use
- 70' baseball/softball typical
- AYSO uses 6-8 fields on Sundays. 5yr olds to 8v8 12 yr olds. Need ability to have 7-8 games.
- Pop-Warner football (need goal posts)
- Middle school flag football league.
- Tennis – lessons and pick-up recreational play
- Highest level of competition – soccer could host state cup soccer tourney. U18 teams. MRL games? Top teams of Midwest.
- Field hockey program could grow to this location?
- Beacon highschool – could play highschool soccer.
- 4th/5th grade flag football league conventionally. 30 teams. 4-500 kids.

Space/Adjacency

- Soccer – 360 longx210 wide (225 wide) – 1111, 99, 77 fields. Potentially run 6 fields on cross layout.
- Baseball – no highschool games, 70 ft bases, not 90 ft bases. Maybe nice to have one 90 ft base path.
- All the sports could use an indoor space.
- Indoor facilities are critical to outdoor use to support seasonal use
- Park shelters/facilities in the park are desirable.
- Exterior storage? Facilities for groomers and sweepers to live. Where to goals/corner flags get stored?
- Need to factor in spectator space for each competition.
- Solar orientations – largest fields should run north south.

Amenities

- Baseball plays 50', 60', 70' bases. Need ability to play all.
- Baseball – 6th grade, 70' bases. 8th grade, 80' foot bases. One 90' base will cover all.
- Baseball Fields – need anchored bases. Need to contemplate base anchoring.
- Soccer – netting behind goals.
- Lights? If lights, then till 10p – every night.
- Evanston needs lighted fields. Lazeer is the one lit field. IF you are going to have turf, you need lights.
- Lights if possible to place them all around the perimeter to allow for most flexibility.
- Concessions? Use every day of the week till late. Concessions are of value – will be used.
- Seating/stands? Bleachers need to exist for baseball.
- Baseball – need dugouts.
- Soccer would like some stands/bleachers. Could also use player benches.
- Outfield baseball fence would be nice but not necessary
- Football goal posts? Affects field flexibility. Perhaps just on one end?
- Scoreboards, PA system. Who would benefit from them? Highschool programs could use it. Not required for soccer/baseball.
- Lighting warning system is necessary.

Materials/Finishes

- Let's maximize the amount of turf
- Having a full sports turf would be beneficial
- Desire is to have no dirt – all turf. Infield of baseball can be turf
- Edge conditions? Containment? - Needs to have containment along Dodge. What about Main?
- Rainwater collection/retention is a key consideration.

Other

- Want the facility to be a HUB. Communal office space and meeting spaces for organizations.
- Parking will be a huge issue. Parking is already tight, but it will become an even more critical issue as the improved field produce more programming at Crown.
- Could outdoor be converted into a bubble facility? Could anchors be placed for easy placement of a bubble.
- Two words – tennis courts. What is the community desire for the tennis courts? 4 sets of lit tennis courts in the city. Rec department has historically run tennis programs there. Gets wide range/extensive use now. Would be a shame for that to go away.
- There is a very vibrant tennis community at RCP.
- Location and diversity of neighborhood drives the value of the tennis activities.
- Track? We haven't contemplated an outdoor track.
- Ultimate Frisbee also plays here.
- Facility/Fields are not being planned to generate revenue as primary objective.
- Offices – leased or reserved within the building? Evanston soccer association would be interested. 200-300sf?
- Ancillary use – support play space – Playground?
- Jungle gym/school facilities are essential/excellent. Shared facilities with Washington School work great. Can they be improved? The same way that the school uses the facility.

Education

Uses/Programming

- Pre-School (fully licensed with State)
- After-School
- 7am-6:30pm, year round
- Summer Camps (300-400 children)
- Use Washington School playground and would continue to do so. Potential location of building in SW corner would not affect this.
- STEM/maker space would be nice.
- Outdoor classroom would be nice
- Washington School could use ROCC for after-school programming
- Washington School would utilize the Library (30 person class)

Space/Adjacency

- State licensing mandated room size, layout/zones, entrances/exits, toilets, ADA
- 4 classrooms (child restrooms required)
- Use gym twice a day, Ice rink once a week
- Would utilize the library.
- Requires secured/separate access control not open to the public. Parents must sign in/out children.
- Food Prep – dedicated for Pre-School - catered meals (counters mostly) but Pre-School provides milk and snacks.
- Refrigerators must be separate, cannot be shared. 3 preferred.

Amenities

- Classroom storage and storage within the gymnasium
- Staff breakroom w/ storage/cubbies for personal belongings.
- Natural light very much desired. None currently.
- Washer/Dryer for linens, etc needed
- Not a big demand for stroller parking/storage

Materials/Finishes

- Cleanable
- Paper towels, not hand driers required
- Washington School uses the east end of the site for recess/outdoor play. Would prefer natural grass
- Window shades for nap time.

Other

- Drop off space for mornings is desired/needed.
- 2-4 busses would arrive for summer camps (and wait in parking lot)
- Washington School uses east end of RCC parking lot for drop off/pickup
- Pre-School has 20 part time staff. 150 staff during summer camp. Most take public transportation. Perhaps use 10 parking spaces in the lot.
- Having access to pre-school play equipment in the gymnasium/MP room for birthday parties would be nice.
- Indoor playground would be nice for winter/bad weather
- Picnic or eating space for camps?

Multi-Purpose Rooms

Uses/Programming

- Dance – Ballroom/Salsa
- 5-12yr old creative movement
- Ice-Skater dry land practice/warmup
- Tae Kwon Do
- Fitness Room – Yoga
- Pottery program/Art room
- Community Meeting Space – Library would use

Space/Adjacency

- Potential for three types of spaces – Fitness/Dance/Warmup, Art/Crafts, Community/Meeting Space
- Rooms could/should be divisible into (more) smaller spaces
- Proximity to Library. Library would utilize MP rooms as much as they would be available.

Amenities

- Mirrors needed in dance room
- Technology/AV needed in community meeting rooms
- Counters, sinks needed in art rooms
- Special Equipment? Kiln?
- Connected storage for each

Materials/Finishes

- Flooring is important for the dance/fitness space
- Cleanability/Durability in Art rooms
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Other

Library

Uses/Programming

- Want to establish a branch in this area of the City.
- Family Services - located in neighborhood without much. Library is the most trusted organization
- Cradle to career network
- Could be a place for resources – home visiting, preschool options, etc
- Should have a WOW factor
- Space for a social worker
- New family resource
- Job Training (90-120 people)
- Movies (perhaps in lobby?)
- Homework help/tutoring
- Strong teen program
- Presentations/speakers (75-100)
- Book Group (10-25)
- Tax preparation services (20-50)
- maker space
- Musical practice room
- Pop-up computer class
- Display space - gallery
- 600,000 annual visitors. Branch's in 1000s per month.

Space/Adjacency

- See the library from the front door.
- Spill out into the social space
- Visible from the outside – separate identity
- Staffing – clarity in circulation should lead to efficiency in staffing
- Kiosk for book checkout. Library vending machine. Kiosks in the lobby with laptops.
- Staff size – full time librarian, 2 shelvers, 2 associates or clerks,
- Collaborative librarian – 2 chairs
- Staff office or work space. Keep their stuff. Separate space for specific work.
- Social worker desk.
- Central reference and Concierge desk should be accessible
- Recirculation at the front desk. Allocate less space for recirculation.
- Staff washroom would be nice to keep them on premises.
- Library could program a MP room all day if available.
- Small meeting rooms – tutoring/consulting. Open to public when not programmed

WTA+MJMA

Amenities

- Small scale space/intimacy
- North Branch – childrens area – one chair that a family of three can sit in, living room
- Chicago Avenue Branch – sofa and chair
- Carry popular reading, pre-school reading, early childhood books (3000 volumes at Chicago Ave branch)
- Outdoor space. An outdoor reading room. Library has desire to use the outside space.
- Some libraries are too loud – should the doors be wide open?
- Need to design storage to fill the space – handle the circulation.
- Any special equipment? Printers? Typical. Printers, yes. Copiers. Scanners. Wireless printing. Strong wireless. Wifi Blanket the facility.
- Storage space – for extra books, extra laptops.
- Power to not trip over cords.
- Flexible walls.
- Bookstacks on wheels.

Materials/Finishes

- Perhaps a desire for the space to be soft.
- Control acoustics
- Signage – color coded, potentially on the floor, integral to the building design
- Flooring that can handle ice skates.
- Buffer space/layers – modifying behavior
- Durable and easy to clean surfaces.

Other

- Welcoming is – natural, green, trees, colored, pods
- Ghostwriter sculpture.
- Where/how could hockey bags be stored?
- Dematerialized border of library.
- Receive a book delivery once a day. Need a method for loading.
- Drop box – exterior book drop.
- Food – covered drinks are welcome. Interested in testing food allowance.
- Washrooms can be on premises but not in the library proper.
- Framework for display/gallery/display/exhibition.
- Stroller parking (75 strollers during peak times)