

Citizens Liaison Committee to Community Center
February 8, 2007 – Rose Room, TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

Members present:

Howard Kohn, Juanita Kus-Lorentz,, Dave Lorentz, Erik Lichtenberg,, Paul Chrostowski, and Ray Scannell.

We received a new set of cost estimates from ANCL Architects for three options that meet our stated objective of a \$3.5 million construction cost, including a contingency fund but not including architectural fees. They range from \$3.1 million to \$3.6 million.

Two of the options (Five & Six) would be for a gym located at the rear of the community center. The other new option (Four) would be for a gym on the side.

The size of the gym in all three options would be similar to the one at Takoma Park Middle -- a 50x84 court, with 10-ft runouts on the ends and 5-foot sides.

The major differences from the first round of estimates:

-- no underground parking and, therefore, less site work

Also:

-- no exercise room

-- slightly lower roof

-- no bleachers (but room was left for three rows)

-- no restrooms

Re: parking:

The renovation of Takoma Park Elementary, tentatively scheduled for '08-'09, calls for approximately 50 new spaces along Philadelphia Ave.

By consensus we agreed to make the following recommendations to the City Council:

- That the City should move ahead with raising funds for a gym;
- That our preferred option is Number Four, a gym estimated by ANCL to cost \$3.4 million, although this does not include the cost of relocating the holding cells or the architectural fees. We also recommend adding bleachers and restrooms to this design.

Some of our reasons for favoring Option Four:

- The cost is reasonable;
- The size meets the needs of all community programs;
- The location conforms to the layout agreed to in the original decision to move ahead with the community center, especially by the many neighbors involved in the process.
- The parking spaces and the entrance at the rear of the building are preserved.
- The recently constructed "teen lounge" is also preserved.
- This design recycles the existing holding cells into a new use.
- The cost for finishing the facade on the Grant Ave. side would be less than in Options Five & Six.

By consensus we also agreed to the following regarding the renovation of Takoma Park Elementary:

We recommend asking the Montgomery County Public Schools system to pay for new landscaping at the Grant Ave. cul-de-sac as part of a mutually beneficial agreement between MCPS and the City.

We also urge the City to make sure that MCPS budgets enough money for landscaping along Philadelphia Ave. to screen the new parking lot, at least comparable to the current Holly Ave. parking lot.