

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

Date: August 16, 2018

Meeting #6

Project: Govans Elementary School

Phase: Discussion #1

Location: 5801 York Road, Baltimore MD

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:

Mr. Carlos Tovar and Ms. Esra Soytutan representing USA Architects and Site Resources, introduced the project to the Panel. As described, the project proposes a new three-story, Pre-K through 5, 92,500 square foot replacement school that will serve the Govans neighborhood.

The site has significant challenges. Although it is relatively flat, it is buried within the block with a small connection to York Road. The design team has established the following goals to address this challenge.

- Connect the school back to the existing urban grid.
- Minimize building footprint to maximize recreational outdoor space and opportunities for storm water management.
- Utilize site design and architectural features to support desired pedestrian and vehicular traffic patterns.

DISCUSSION:

Site:

- The panel noted that more study should be given to pedestrian circulation that connects Clearspring Road to York Road. The path could connect nodes at Clearspring Road, the main entrance of the building and York Road but needs additional focus to read as a coherent idea and be designed as such.
- The panel suggested that the design team look at the provided green space on the site and develop them as a programmed landscape to provide experiences for the students. These experiences could be connected around the building with pedestrian circulation.
- The panel noted concern about the student drop-off, staff parking and bus drop-off. The driveway to the parking is disruptive to the student access off of York Road. More study should be given to a more formal drop off loop that could separate pedestrian, car, and bus traffic.
- The paved area for parking appears to be inefficient. The panel asked if the paved area could be reduced or if the number of parking spaces be increased to provide better utilization.
- The main entrance plaza and related paths should be studied. The design should feel purposeful in order to navigate the different geometries that intersect at the

entrance. Investigate the alignment of the building masses with the street grid to accomplish this.

Next Steps:

Discussion only.

Attending:

Esra Soyututan, Kay Morin - Site Resources

Paul Swartz, Tim Schell, Carlos Tovar - USA Architects

Michael McBride - 21st Century

Tiara Moorman - MSA

Melody Simmons - BBJ

Mr. Anthony, Mses. Wagner* and Ilieva - UDAAP Panel

Anthony Cataldo, Tom Stosur, Jennifer Leonard, Christina Hartsfield, MC Buettner, Reni Lewal
- Planning