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

Date: November 15, 2018 **Meeting #10**
Project: Rash Field **Phase:** Continued Discussion

Location: 201 Key Highway, Baltimore MD 21230

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:

Laurie Schwartz, President of Waterfront Partnership kicked off the presentation with a brief recap of the project development and an update on the project that referenced a phased approach to construction and redesign of the Rash Field Park Pavilion structure and related site circulation.

Jason Castillo, Associate Principal and Landscape Architect with Mahan Rykiel Associates, introduced changes to the Phase 1 Rash Field Park site layout, west of the existing sand volleyball courts, which include a revised site circulation system, a scaled down pavilion with a trellis structure and outdoor bleacher seating and other minor adjustments of the landscape design.

Peter Stubb, Principal and Architect at Gensler, presented the updated concept design of the Pavilion and Overlook that anchor into the landscape and introduce a sculptural shade structure and built-in exterior seating transitioning from upper to lower levels of the site.

DISCUSSION:

The Panel welcomed the continued development of the project and found the general site circulation to have improved with respect to clarity of important nodes and primary axis that connects Key Highway crosswalk to the waterfront. The following comments address recommendations for further study:

Site Circulation:

The Panel found some elements of the site circulation less successful in contributing to the overall clarity of circulation and identified the following areas for further consideration: 1) loading driveway, which appears to separate the accessible path and landing from the main one and 2) direct/accessible/visible access to pavilion from east stair only. The main concern was that while the node at Key Highway and directionality of overall circulation have simplified and clarified from the previous scheme, the primary pathway appears to lead away from the pavilion and the secondary circulation, as divided, is ambiguous or easy to miss. Develop a way to strengthen the connection of ramps with main stair access routes. There also seems to

be an opportunity to finesse the site geometry at the base of the pavilion as it interfaces with the play area.

Pavilion and Seating Area:

- The Panel welcomed the initial concept of the revised Pavilion that integrates the pragmatic needs of the café with the sloping site by introducing an outdoor seating element and the sloped roof surface that seek to blend the rectilinear café structure into the site. However, the subsequent development of the concept as presented appears to create a barrier for accessing the café from the west and a clash of geometry between the sharp angles of the pavilion and shade structure and the rounded terraces of the seating element. The panel encouraged the design team to seek further clarity to the architecture and how it informs the landscape immediately around it in order to strengthen its presence and accessibility. Further development of the rooftop seating/sloped plane and the relationship of the glass rail in the overall pavilion design is also needed.

Shade Structure:

- The Panel was intrigued by the idea of a shade structure that offers a sculptural element with the potential to announce the Pavilion while providing some shade to an outdoor gathering area but found its structural articulation with the thin posts supporting the stricture to compromise the overall effort. Some panelists questioned the presence of the shade structure as it blocks views from the upper level and further confuses the formal geometric approach to this part of the project site.

Design Integration:

- The Panel found the Pavilion, seating and shading structure to be visually disjointed and functionally challenged, encouraging the design team to seek a solution that unifies them formally and functionally while seeking better integration with the main circulation system and the rest of the site design.

Next Steps:
Continued Discussion addressing the comments above.

Attending:
Jason Castillo – Mahan Rykiel Associates
Tyler miller, Peter Stubb – Gensler
Ben Hyman, Laurie Schwartz – Waterfront Partnership

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

Laurie Feinberg, Anthony Cataldo, Christina Hartsfield - Planning