Lamond-Riggs Library Community Meeting, Nov. 19, 2019

In Attendance:

Members of the Lamond-Riggs library community

Speakers - Richard Reyes-Gavilan (Director DC Library), Peter Cook (Design Principal, HGA),

Opening Introduction and Slideshow:

Richard Reyes-Gavilan (RR-G) welcomed everyone and then discussed the evening’s agenda and the project schedule. He then introduced Peter Cook.

Peter Cook (PC) introduced the design team members in attendance including Jeff Lee, Principal Lee & Associates, Jaspreet Pahwa, Assistant Director, Capitol Planning & Construction, DC Public Library. (JP), Jane Dedering, Senior Designer, HGA.(JD), Reuben Hameed (Project Architect, HGA) (RH) and Emily Jelinek, designer.

PC then began the slideshow. When the slideshow was completed the team took questions from the community.

Questions and Comments:

What sort of roof will the new library have?
JP – This is our pilot project in LEED 4.0, the most cutting edge and energy efficient benchmark in the market right now. We are striving for LEED Silver on this project so the roof will be a highly solar reflective roof contributing to the energy efficiency of the building.

Is the Heritage Wall a load-bearing wall?
PC – No, it is not load-bearing. It is a divider strategically placed to create a screen between activity on the stair and the areas near it and it also helps screen the entrances to the restrooms.

What street does the balcony face?
PC – It faces Jefferson Street.

Will there be seating on the balcony?
PC – Yes, quite a bit of seating.

Where is the outdoor space for the children?
PC – That space is located on the South Dakota Avenue side.

And it will be enclosed?
JL – Yes with a glass barrier, grading and plantings.

How many parking spaces will the library have?
PC - 11

Will there be curbside parking on South Dakota Ave?
PC – that is not in our plans

Will there be a bus stop in front of the library?
RR-G – It would be great to have a stop in front of the library but bus stops are not something we can make decisions on. Bus stops are under the prevue of the city’s Department of Transportation.

How much of the building is glass?
RH – about 40% of the exterior is glass.

Will the computer bar have power outlets?
JP - Yes - wherever there is seating there’ll be power

Is there a room for the friends group?
JD – Yes on the first floor by the elevator
Will you allow food on the first floor?
   RR-G – Yes, as long as that remains a policy throughout the library system.

Is there a way to slow down traffic on Jefferson Street? Maybe through landscaping? Drivers coming down Jefferson and trying to turn onto South Dakota often drive very quickly and don’t seem to see pedestrians.
   RR-G - Slowing down traffic to make it safer for pedestrians sounds like something amenable with Vision Zero, we can certainly look into possible landscaping that could slow the traffic.

Will the new library have any place for art?
   RR-G – The Heritage Wall is art and is planned for the interior. DC Public Library strives to put art in all of our neighborhood libraries. A wonderful new sculpture was recently installed in front of Capitol View Library.

How many meeting rooms will the library have?
   PC - A large one on the 1st floor that can hold up to 100 people. On the 2nd floor there will be one middle-sized meeting room designed for up to 12 people, two designed for six people and four designed to hold up to two people.

Can you cantilever the building over the parking?
   PC - We looked at that idea but we feel that to make the building more efficient, the current design is better. Besides, covered parking can feel dark and hidden.