

## Lamond-Riggs Library Community Meeting, June 12, 2019

### In Attendance:

More than 50 members of the Lamond-Riggs library's community

**Speakers** - Richard Reyes-Gavilan (Director DC Library), Peter Cook (Design Principal, HGA), Reuben Hameed (Project Architect, HGA)

### Opening Introduction and Slideshow:

Richard Reyes-Gavilan (RR-G) welcomed everyone and made the introductions. Following the slide presentation, he discussed the evening's agenda, the project schedule, the community engagement to date and the information gathered from the community. He then handed the discussion over to Peter Cook.

Peter Cook (PC) introduced the design and construction team members in attendance.

Reuben Hameed (RH) discussed the R2 zoning and the impact the zoning has on the placement of the library on the site. With R2 zoning the building can, by right, cover 40% of the lot. The current building occupies 50% of the lot.

PC – Discussed how the lot, surrounding structures, traffic and geography could impact the new library's design. He spent some time explaining possible options for additional parking. He then discussed the building program.

RR-G – Discussed how the 'behind the scenes' needs of libraries has changed. Libraries need less staff and mechanicals space resulting in a greater percentage of a building being available for public use.

PC – Explained what percentage of the building will be used for different services and where the optimal location for each service area could be located. He explained blocking and showed two options – one with a building footprint occupying 40% of the lot and one occupying 50% of the lot.

RH – Explained how LEED Gold might be achieved.

### Questions and Comments:

Just to be clear (with 40% coverage) you are saying the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will cantilever over open space?

PC – Yes, we'd have some sort of overhang.

What is the square footage of the library currently?

PC – 16,000 – 18,000 sq. ft. I don't know the exact number, but the new building will be substantially larger than this one.

And the library is at 50% lot occupancy now, is that what I heard you to say?

PC – That is correct.

You have two advantages when requesting a zoning variance - the existing building is already covering 50% of the lot and the library is a public benefit. If there was any issue many of our community leaders would support the variance.

PC – 40% coverage of the lot is what can be done by right, but you will see that everything else that follows in our presentation is based on 50% coverage. I don't think 50% will be a problem but we can't guarantee that prior to approval by the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

With the 40% lot coverage you have provisions for 12 parking spaces – will 50% coverage mean fewer spaces?

PC – The coverage will not impact the number of spaces.

Parking will stay the same?

PC – Yes

Can the meeting room be divided into two spaces when not needed?

PC – We are exploring all the options that add flexibility to the spaces.

About that double height space, how will you address the noise?

PC – That is something we are aware of – it could very well be an opportunity to include a glass wall.

Is there a closed off room for teens and children to play video games? And will the children's area be closed off? I worry about safety for the children.

PC – We have the children's entrance near the information desk, which provides some security. We've put the children's room on the far side of the building, which also provides another level of security. We could explore designing a barrier between the children's room and the market place.

And what about the video games? The video games can be very noisy.

PC – Noise is something we are aware of and planning for.

The teens have a much smaller percentage of the building. What sort of message is that sending them?

RR-G – What we've found is that teens want to be treated like adults, especially when it comes to things like study spaces. They want to use the main reading room. It's important to give dedicated space to the teens if they want to use it, but we also need to make sure that we're not devoting too much space for something that might only be used part of the time. So it's a balance.

What about sightlines? There could be spaces where staff can't see everything.

RR-G – Ensuring clear sightlines for staff are one of the most important things we ask of our architects.

Is there any plan for outdoor reading spaces?

PC – There could be sheltered or protected spaces, depending on the design.

Will you include a patio with the green roof that we can go on?

PC – You mean accessing the roof? It's something we've been discussing. It would need an elevator, stairs and guardrails – it gets complicated really quickly, but it is something we are considering.

RR-G – We know the community wants outdoor space and it is something we are working with the architects to provide.

What percentage of the roof will be planted?

PC – We haven't designed the building yet, so we don't know. There are a number of different ways you can design a sustainable roof. We are showing you two, and I'm not saying we have to choose one or the other. One way is with a green roof the other could be a high albedo roof – a reflective roof.

Was the option of a café ruled out from the beginning?

RR-G - I've been in the library business for 25 years and I've seen the concepts of cafés in neighborhood libraries 'go south' much more than I've seen them work. Cafes can work in large central libraries where there's enough foot traffic. You can always bring your coffee here.

We can eat in the library?

RR-G – Yes. We allow food and covered drinks in our libraries.

What sort of feedback do you want from us?

RR-G – This is the time for us to get into major issues before we've begun the design. What we're hearing tonight is good and will help us – for instance the concern about sound separation and sightlines.

Have you used the information you got from us at earlier meetings?

RR-G – yes, we've digested and shared all the information from all the focus groups, all the community meetings, all the comment cards and online questionnaires has been distilled. As you can imagine, a lot of it is similar sounding in terms of the types of things people are looking for, but we've looked at everything, grouped it together, and are using it.

One the drawing what's in the grey space in the back?

PC – That shows space outside the building. We have to think about what we want to do with it. It's part of the setback where the zoning requires space between the building and the property line. It's not part of the building.

You said there will be stores across the street from the library?

PC – What we understand (pointing to a slide with a rendering of the Cafritz project) is this is what is planned for directly across the street.

Will there be a bus stop in front of the library? Or will it be far away as you showed in that first slide?

PC – I don't know what the city has planned for the bus stops.

Looking at the parking lot – will there be a barrier between the parking lot and the sidewalk? People are less likely to use the library parking lot if they have to walk through the library.

RR-G - We hear a lot about safety around the building, so we don't want to hide the parking lot behind a lot of shrubbery or a barrier. We also don't want to be in the business of policing the parking lot. I think your point is well taken. We might want to consider ways of discouraging people from using our parking lot.

Looking at the plans. There's nothing for tweens – I would like you to make a difference between tweens and teens. You don't want an 11 year old with an 18 year old. Maybe there's a way that can be rearranged? Also, that is a very small space for teens. A small area for teens, what does that say about our priorities?

RR-G – Teens want to have access to the adult spaces. I have a teenager at home and she uses Cleveland Park Library a lot – she wouldn't go to the teen space because it says teens. We respect teens and they want to have access to the building. They don't want to be told where to go – people want to use the building how they want to use it. It's absolutely crucial that we've got dedicated teen services, dedicated teen collections and possible teen technology. Teens want to use our buildings.

PC – I might add the importance of flexibility. The teen population in this community may change. There are a whole lot of dash lines on these drawings with the implication we could provide the flexibility to change as the community's needs change.

Have you chosen a place to relocate the library while the work is being done?

RR-G No, not yet, but we will have an interim library nearby during construction.

If you are looking at increasing the number of parking spaces by adding spots in front of the building have you considered safety issues about the narrow sidewalk? And that you're looking at safety issues in and out of the building.

RR-G – Of course.

The Lamond-Riggs Library Friends Group has found that everybody wants some outdoor space, balcony space or rooftop space. I'm hoping that's not pushed to the side, it's something the community thinks is important. Maybe we shouldn't have seen Cleveland Park and Woodridge but now it's something we really want.

RR-G – Thanks for reinforcing that idea and at our next meeting, it will be an architecture meeting, and we will have some response to that.

Some of the views from our library are more appealing than others – for instance looking out a window over South Dakota Ave will have a nicer view than looking out a window on the side of the library that faces the Exxon station.

PC – That's one of the things that makes our job really interesting. We want the views but we don't want the harsh sunlight.

Is there a library we can go see that shows the colors and types of furniture you'll be using so we can see the flavor of our new library?

RR-G – We haven't chosen the colors or furniture yet. We let the architect take the lead on that, but we do stress durability, cleanliness and flexibility.

In 2014 there was a survey done and everybody wanted a café. Wouldn't it be great to not have to cross the street for coffee?

RR-G – They don't work and we don't want to be in the business of running coffee shops.

Wouldn't a café take away from space for library use?

RR-G – That's true and you have to make your choices.