

**Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group
Meeting Minutes, 21 August 2002
Symmes Hospital Cafeteria**

Attending: Harris Band, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Charles Foskett (SAC Chair), Steve Frigand, Ellen Kushner, Suzi Lubar, Deborah O'Donnell and Brian Rehrig (Chair)

Not Attending: Greg Blass, Ann LeRoy, Jim Marzilli, Sue Sheffler and Denis Sullivan

VHB Consultant Team Attendees: Jeffrey Donahoe (RKG Assoc.) and Scott Schilt

Symmes Neighborhood Attendees: Deborah Dill and Paul Morrison

Also in Attendance: Alan McClennen, Director of Planning & Community Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Working Group Progress

After brief introductions, Brian Rehrig presented an overview of the Working Group's efforts, explaining that the Group's emphasis to date had been on process and evaluation rather than on the development of specific public uses for the site. Brian referred to the set of 15 criteria that the Group had developed, and stated the Group's intention to evaluate public use ideas generated by the survey and design workshop using them.

Jeffrey Donahoe of RKG Associates explained that public uses would present more revenue generation challenges than the other use groups. The consultant team was encouraged to investigate alternative funding sources and potential fee/dues structures to make public uses on the site more financially viable. Jeffrey Donahoe explained that this type of funding is generally only available for capital costs, and would not be available for the cost of maintenance.

Working Group members shared their thoughts on the future and the process of the Symmes project. The Group emphasized the importance of a project that provides a well-integrated mix of uses, serves the public in a unique way, is well-suited to its setting, and is ultimately greater than the sum of its parts. Harris Band pointed out that this outcome would require vision, and would not be achieved by a simple feeding back of the ideas presented by the community. The question of what defines a public use was also discussed. Many of the proposed public uses also have commercial and/or medical components. Jeffrey Donahoe explained that the definition of a public use may rely more on ownership than use.

Scott Schilt stated that the site assessment was currently in progress and that an objective ranking of public use ideas for the site would be required within two weeks. The survey results were distributed and it was agreed that the Working Group would deliver a short list of uses, along with brief explanations, to the consultant team by 4 September. Alan McClennen added that the Vision 2020 surveys, along with ideas from the survey and design workshop, could provide a source of information on the public use ideas from the community.

Scott Schilt asked the Working Group to specify, as much as possible, the type and number of public uses, their location on the site, and how much area they would require. He added that the consultant team would be presenting their preliminary assessment of the assembled ideas from both the community and the committee at the third community workshop on 26 September.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Symmes Public Use Working Group was set for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, 27 August 2002 at the Symmes Hospital Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.