

## **Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group Meeting Minutes, 22 October 2002 Symmes Hospital Conference Room**

**Members Attending:** Harris Band, Greg Blass, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Steve Frigand, Ellen Kushner, Ann LeRoy, Suzi Lubar, Jim Marzilli, Deborah O'Donnell, Brian Rehrig (Chair)

**Also in Attendance:** Alan McClennen (Director of Planning & Community Development), Nina Fisher, Cindy Friedman (SAC), Carolyn Kenney, Julie Rackliffe Lucey, Susan Cronin Ruderman,

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

### **Community Center Discussion**

Meeting participants viewed a short promotional video for the YMCA. Brian Rehrig described the potential development zones and the three mixed use alternatives presented by the VHB consultant team at the 17 October SAC meeting. A copy of the consultant team's presentation graphics from was circulated for those who had not attended the SAC meeting. Group members expressed concern over the location of the community center on the site and the development of the wooded area of the site near Summer Street. Ann LeRoy, as a member of the Working Group and the Open Space Committee, volunteered to draft a letter to the SAC articulating these concerns on behalf of the Group.

Brian Rehrig reminded the Group that the only agenda item for the meeting was to come to consensus on the basic program elements for a community center at the Symmes site. Based on interviews conducted over the past few months with Directors of similar facilities in the Boston area, Brian suggested that the Group should first concentrate on program activities for the community center and then determine the space requirements for each of these activities.

Harris Band and Ellen Kushner presented graphic representations of the area breakdowns of four facilities: the Oak Square YMCA, the James City/Williamsburg Community Center, the Newton Jewish Community Center and the Arlington YMCA proposal prepared by the YMCA of the USA. Harris counseled the Group to focus on the broad program elements and to base the area requirements for the Symmes community center on the four facilities presented. The Group collectively agreed on a list of priority uses and area requirements for the community center (see attached) which would require a total area of 60,000 square feet. Based on the consultant team's cost estimates, it was determined that the facility could be built for approximately \$12 million.

The exercise of selecting the basic program elements for the community center brought up many issues which will need to be resolved later in the project. Specific issues were: connection of the facility to open space and medical, commercial and residential development elsewhere on the site, connection of the facility to other services in the town, the dependence of certain program elements (such as a dining space) on site location, creating a synergistic whole which is greater than the sum of its parts, the effects of such a facility on area gyms and YMCAs, the effects of using a cultural vs. an athletic model for the facility, and the attractiveness of any facility at the proposed development parcel on Summer Street.

Harris Band, Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Susan Cronin Ruderman volunteered to draft a short report of the Working Group's recommendations for the community center at Symmes.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Symmes Public Use Working Group was set for 7 PM on Tuesday, 29 October 2002 at Symmes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

## Community Center at Symmes Basic Program Elements

Pools	14,000 sf
Gymnasium	9,000 sf
Locker Rooms	5,000 sf
Fitness/Wellness Equipment	2,400 sf
Aerobic/Dance	3,000 sf
Rehabilitation Suite	500 sf
Child Play Space*	5,000 sf
Child Care or After School*	4,000 sf
Baby-sitting	1,200 sf
Lounge	500 sf
Multipurpose Assembly	4,200 sf
Classrooms	1,200 sf
Dining	1,000 sf
Kitchen	500 sf
Administrative Offices	2,000 sf
Support	6,500 sf
TOTAL	60,000 sf

\*would also require adjacent outdoor space