

EFTF Meeting 3/21/24, 7pm

Attendees:

- City of Hyattsville (Hal)
- Dan Broder
- Joanne Waszczak
- Kat Schooley
- Amy Parker
- Claire Tombes

January meeting minutes approved.

From Pam Boozer Strothers:

- PGCPs has secured St. Mark's (College Park) as a swing space for HES for two years. This will keep them more local.
- School completion timeline was moved up a year – Fall 2027 move in instead of Fall 2028.
- 2024-2025 will be the last year in the existing building. 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 will be spent in swing space.
- Start discussions now with Principal McKee, PTA, and City on how to best support the swing space transition and staff and ensure the construction process is as smooth as possible.
  - o How to make sure school and greater community are informed of updates?
    - St. Jerome's, Renaissance Artist Residences, St. Jerome's Academy and immediate neighbors in particular need communication lines.
    - Middle school build utilized local list servs to distribute information and to receive questions that Dan elevated to get answers from PGCPs and Gilbane.
    - Maybe City can utilize social media communications?
    - Public events like BBQ thrown at HMS were positive and well received.
- Questions:
  - o (JW) How does this impact public engagement?
    - (DB) to ask Blueprint team and see where developments and changes have been addressed and what future opportunities are possible.
    - (DB) PGCPs tentatively to attend May meeting, maybe other scheduled meeting if necessary. Important for Tracey, Hal, Joanne (from City) and Pam (BOE) able to attend.
  - o (JW) How did this come about and be made possible?
    - (DB) will take this straight to PGCPs (maybe historic designation got waived? Maybe related to permits?)
- Concerns:
  - o During the digout of Canvas Apts – huge rat problem that happened and caused a lot of issues with surrounding neighbors. Raise the issue with PGCPs so that they're aware and can plan for it.
  - o Transportation alternatives to buses?

- Not a super bikeable location (would have to take trolley trail and cut across University Park and the along Adelphi Rd for a portion.
  - WMATA buses utilized by HS students – F6 and F8 buses go on Adelphi
  - Youth Advisory Council has been really concerned about bike/pedestrian safety – a student was struck by a vehicle at Northwestern ~1 month ago. Drop off and driver safety should be considered in the planning for the swing space. Crossing guard coverage is really important – maintaining coverage even when HES moves is important.
  - Parking lot is sizeable – hopefully will make an easier in and out in terms of driving. Considerations should be made for difficult traffic patterns (particularly for left turns back onto Adelphi) – perhaps could consider police presence?
  
- Other Considerations:
  - This information is really important for people making real-time decisions about whether to send their kids to other schools or apply to lottery schools, etc. Sending out logistical plans (like schedules, any transportation items) would be useful ASAP.
  - Some folks in the school community had questions about whether any parochial content would be introduced into the curriculum given the use of St. Mark’s (no, but some clarity and official communication would be helpful).
    - Is there any conflict with church scheduling and usage of the school during afternoon hours (when aftercare might normally be happening)
    - Would YMCA and other aftercare providers follow to St. Mark’s to provide services?
  - Communication needs to have an equally expedited timeline given the expedited construction timeline. Dan to raise this to Jason.
  
- Crossing Guards
  - Is it possible to transfer the budget from the County to local municipalities? The logistics are very challenging given how much officers are “poached” from other jurisdictions. It’s difficult to hire all the people that are needed. The staff and Chief Towers are concerned about this because they’re not concerned they have the depth to accomplish this.
  - Important to note, there are contractual obligations of crossing guards – they are a covered union within the PG County Police Department.