

**PROJECT:** College Park City Hall  
864-18

# City Council Visioning Session

**DATE:** 9/17/2018

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

---

**ATTENDEES:** City of College Park: Mayor Patrick Wojahn; Councilmember Dustyn Kujawa; Councilmember Denise Mitchell; Councilmember Fazlul Kabir; Councilmember John Rigg; Councilmember Robert Day; Councilmember Monroe Dennis; Councilmember P.J. Brennan; Scott Somers, City Manager; Bill Gardener, Asst. City Manager

Design Collective: Scott Vieth, Brian Reetz, John Bernet

Redgate: Katie Hearn

---

## MEETING MINUTES

1. Image Walkthrough – Scott Vieth (Design Collective) briefly walked through a PDF of the images that were selected as precedents to bring to the Council that evening, describing why they were chosen. He also shared suggestions of things to look for in the images, to comment on, or to consider as the Councilmembers worked through the charrette portion of the evening.
2. Visioning Exercise – Councilmembers divided into three groups and rated images that resonated with them using either green stickers for ‘positive’ or yellow stickers for ‘not ideal.’ Finally, each member was given a Golden Unicorn sticker to place on the image that was most positively resonant with them.
3. Discussion – Scott Vieth facilitated a discussion of feedback from Councilmembers following the Visioning Exercise. Feedback from the council was as follows:

### General Comments:

Councilmember Monroe Dennis – appreciative of the open space shown in the precedents, likes the idea of an open and transparent public space. Emphasized the importance of a good wayfinding strategy, and also noted that the design should be cognizant of accessibility issues, especially in an atrium.

Councilmember Fazlul Kabir – Likes ideas of openness. Building is situated between Old Town and adjacent to University of Maryland, suggested exploring options that are more traditional and would blend into the context.

Councilmember John Rigg – Excited about the prominence of the plaza, wants to see a public space that residents want to visit, gather/sit around water/enjoy food without traffic dominating the experience. Noted there are not many opportunities for this elsewhere in College Park currently.

# City Council Visioning Session

DATE: 9/17/2018

TIME: 7:30 PM

---

Councilmember Robert Day – Wants a space that encourages interaction of the residents. Likes the idea of openness, visibility and transparency, bringing in natural light. Wants to think about incorporating restaurants, provide relief from the sun and rain, and engage workers and residents to make them want to stay in the space.

Councilmember Denise Mitchell – Thinks a plaza that draws people in, brings people to downtown College Park is important.

Councilmember PJ Brennan – Feels a new City Hall should show the future of College Park and what it wants to be, not simply what currently exists or has been previously. Does not want to repeat the Georgian architecture, notes there is already lots of brick in College Park. Has a personal preference for modern architecture, but noted that regardless the building must be inviting to residents. Noted that elsewhere on Baltimore Avenue the goal of new construction is density, but with this project the goal is public space and that should be prioritized. Feels the large open space in front is important, wants an inviting and inspiring space. Likes active elements in plaza like swings and fountains to bring in families. Noted it would be interesting to close Lehigh Ave and hand it over to the pedestrian experience. Accessibility should be a major consideration, wants to see a place that residents would like to come visit and stay. Function is important, the space should be used thoughtfully, hopefully with a limited need for storage.

Mayor Patrick Wojahm – Asked “what invites use?” Wants to see an accessible and usable public space. Thought about what is unique about their college town, they have young people and young families, youthful energy – public space and building should have some playfulness about them, functional yet playful. Suggested the aesthetic of the building should be classic (what college park is) with a modern twist (more open), something that reads as part of the city but pops out as a special building. Noted that College Park is very proud of its relationship with nature and it’s green spaces – would like to see this incorporated into the project.

## Reaction to Individual Images

### *Yale school of Business*

- Framed by nature
- Stands out, has prominence
- Columns are evocative of Georgian columns but different
- Balance of positive outdoor space and indirect light. People outside have some shelter

### *Surrey City Hall*

- Night time presence/stands out
- Feels safe, makes people want to be around the building
- Public space is stark
- Building has a presence, like the openness
- Open space is flexible

# City Council Visioning Session

DATE: 9/17/2018

TIME: 7:30 PM

---

- Too institutional
- Not scalable to this site
- Doesn't feel like College Park

## *Westland Town Hall (Double Golden Unicorn)*

- Ability to see through out.
- Nature can come in
- Legible - Can tell that the inside is active
- Balances functional space with
- Council space looks like a diamond
- Scalable
- Crisp, open, see inside
- Speaks to our future

## *Bowie City Hall (Golden Unicorn)*

- The building easily flows inside.
- Could be more open
- Inside there is openness
- Building needs to conceal some of the surrounding buildings
- Very functional and practical, very suburban and traditional

## *Denver Justice Center*

- A lot of space out front
- Lots of glass, very clean
- Openness to the building
- You want to look at the building
- Sterile plaza. Need a plaza that is not sterile

## *Oslo City Hall*

- Blends classic brick with a modern flare
- Scale is too big
- Too institutional, wrong context and look for college park

## *Science Engineering and Technology*

- Want to be in the space
- Building speaks to the open space
- Looks like it belongs on college campus

## *Easton City Hall*

- Traditional

# City Council Visioning Session

DATE: 9/17/2018

TIME: 7:30 PM

---

- Alternative arrangements/uses of rooms - Rather than fixed furnishings
- Traditional council chambers, ability to shape the room for other uses (community) program doesn't need to be set
- Systems furniture (Easy to move)
- Incorporate city of college park lettering/brand
- Natural light is a plus

## *Forde City Hall*

- Sterile
- Looks like a classroom
- May be a meeting room, clean open
- Too clean
- Minimalist room highlights people in room. Bring in colorful people and presentations

## *Bowie City Hall*

- Fixed is a negative
- Wishes there is more natural light. Why have lights on during the day
- Likes traditional look
- Auditorium style, fixed seat are more comfortable
- Give consideration to the comfort for our audience

## *LMI Government*

- Clean
- Concerns about accessibility
- Wasted space
- Not very inviting

## *Allen Institute*

- Love wood, modern overhang
- Celebrates internal gathering spaces
- Protruding spaces are playful
- Can see people uses spaces - makes it feel civic

## *Chinese Plaza (Golden Unicorn)*

- Water feature would attract young families
- Can envision a performance
- Interactive space
- Wants to see more green/grass
- Water/lights

# City Council Visioning Session

DATE: 9/17/2018

TIME: 7:30 PM

---

## *Reston Town Center (Golden Unicorn)*

- Space for lots of people
- Public performances
- Easily programmable

## *Holland Hills Mori Tower*

- Roof garden a positive
- Shade, pleasant space

## *Unlabeled image*

- Fun with the lights
- Arch is fun
- Attractive place to eat

## *Riverfront Park*

- People using the space
- Flexible
- Want to see more green
- Engage people to be in the space

## *Pentagon Row*

- Mix of green
- Walkable
- People watching

## *Westshore Park*

- Playful lively and fun
- Interactive water feature
- Attract long term residents

## *Triangle Plaza*

- Playful
- Make them non destructible

## *Fiori Dallas*

- Want to incorporate public art
- Furniture needs to be comfortable

## *Park at Rosemont*

- Liked open space and that the building opens up around the public space.

# City Council Visioning Session

DATE: 9/17/2018

TIME: 7:30 PM

---

## **Closing Thoughts**

The Mayor and City Council generally noted that the opinions shared by the community at the upcoming Town Hall meeting (9/27/18) should be considered with equal weight and attention to those shared by the Mayor and City Council at this Visioning Session. The design team should listen to the voices of the city with the best intentions.

Councilmember Day noted that he wanted to make sure there is some focus on how restaurants are incorporated into the design as a public amenity.

Councilmember Brennan noted that budget is important and needs to be part of the discussion throughout design process. Further, he suggested the possibility of bringing in objective architecture voices for a peer critique at a few points in the design process, noted that he could help facilitate this connection.

## **Recurring Themes**

Design Collective identified a handful of recurring themes that emerged during the course of the discussion. They are as follows

### *Open Space*

Accessible

Playful

Serve as a draw for young people/families

Make residents want to stay

Relationship to/with nature

Flexible

### *Building*

Transparency

Openness

Inviting to residents

Relationship to/with nature

Legibility

Speaks to the future of College Park

Clean/crisp, not sterile

### *Interior*

Flow

Clarify

Flexibility

Accessibility

# City Council Visioning Session

DATE: 9/17/2018

TIME: 7:30 PM

---

Clean/crisp, not sterile.

## **Next Steps & Follow-Up Items:**

1. Design Collective will digest feedback from the Visioning Session and share back with the Mayor and City Council.

## **Next Meeting:**

Client Progress Meeting – Thursday 9/20

College Park Town Hall Meeting – Thursday 9/27

The above is the author's interpretation of the items discussed. Any corrections or discrepancies should be brought to the author's attention within seven days, or the minutes will stand as written.