

March 27, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jackie Stanley, DGS

FROM: Penny Pagano and Spence Spencer

SUBJECT: Following Up on the Palisades Recreation Center Site Improvement Team (SIT) Meeting of March 26, 2015

Thanks for a strong Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) presence at last night's meeting of the community's small working committee (Palisades SIT). We appreciate being shown two possible massing options for a new Palisades Recreation Center. In both instances, the existing 1930's building was left in place where it is now, with some connection to be made between the two structures.

As we discussed, we think it is in the interest of the community and a successful project itself to broaden our options at this initial phase of design discussions, especially since the Historic Preservation Office has made no definitive, specific decisions on next steps.

At this initial phase, we are coming to the conclusion that the restrictions created by saving 100 percent of the existing building unfortunately will constrain other, possibility better options. There is strong community support for a design that is a good fit and complements the Palisades site.

Our committee has asked DGS if it would be possible to provide additional massing options and conceptual drawings that would

expand options. And per your request, this memo is our formal request to DGS and DPR to develop three additional options as follows:

1. Removing the existing building outright or including a portion of the existing building in the new plan;
2. Renovating the existing building and developing a second facility in another location on the property; and
3. Presenting a massing plan and conceptual drawings without a gym.

Finally, as we agreed, because of the clear access and land restrictions of the current site, traffic and parking continue to be of great concern. These concerns – and an analysis of the supporting infrastructure needs (e.g., parking) of new programming - need to be addressed as soon as possible.

We are pleased that all of us agree that these impacts must be calibrated and solutions proposed before designs are presented to the community at large.

We appreciate all of the work that the DGS and DPR project team members and the architect; Amado Fernandez has done to date. Recognizing your constraints, we also want to work with you to make sure we come to specific conclusions in a timely and responsive manner.

We stand ready to facilitate this process however we can, and again, many thanks.