

## Horace Mann Elementary School Addition/Renovation Project

Horace Mann School Building Committee/DRC Meeting				
Date:	Thursday, August 25, 2022			
Location:	Zoom webinar			
Time:	6:00PM			
<b><u>City Staff and Consultant Team</u></b>				
Josh Morse	Public Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gene Raymond	RDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Valcarce	Public Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Monaghan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Murphy	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Watchorn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Gagnon	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jade Cummings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>School Building Committee</u></b>		<b><u>Design Review Committee</u></b>		
Alec Zimmer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liam Hurley <input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Mackrell <input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Barrer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Alison Leary <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Nardelli <input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Kelley <input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Hnasko <input type="checkbox"/>	
Andrew Lee <input type="checkbox"/>	Maria Scibelli Greenberg <input type="checkbox"/>	Barbara Lietzke <input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Gloria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha Farag <input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Feldstein <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Schein <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christina Abele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chris Esmonde <input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Haueisen <input type="checkbox"/>	David Gillespie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Chris Brezki <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maura Tynes <input type="checkbox"/>	Ellen Light <input type="checkbox"/>		
Emily Prenner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phil Grgurich <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Kantar <input type="checkbox"/>		
John Oliver <input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Gilman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Kaufman <input type="checkbox"/>		
Jonathan Yeo <input type="checkbox"/>	Tamika Olszewski <input type="checkbox"/>	Marc Resnick <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b><u>Additional Attendees</u></b>				
Jula Malakie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pam Wright <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Anping Shen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Martina Jackson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Josh Morse opened the meeting at 6:02PM. The following participating groups and individuals were represented: Public Buildings Department, HMES Working Group, HMES SBC, DRC, RDA (Architect), Terraink (Landscape Architect) and NV5 (Owner's Project Manager).

The meeting was recorded and is posted on the project website:

[2022 0825 Horace Mann School Building Committee and DRC Meeting Video](#)

## Introduction

Gene Raymond of RDA noted that since the last SBC/DRC meeting, design focus has been primarily on developing the site plan, specifically regarding the orientation of the little league field, playgrounds and other recreational site elements. The project team is working with the Parks and Recreation Department and the programming team to fine tune required dimensions for the Little League field. Jade Cummings, of Terraink, provided an overview of the site planning development, including several concept designs, focusing on the Little League field orientation. The configuration of the field is being studied to accommodate the configuration of the proposed building footprint.

## Baseball Diamond

Several concepts were presented with various orientation options for the baseball diamond. Some concepts presented included keeping the orientation as it is. Other options included flipping the diamond so that home plate is in the southern corner of the site which puts the grass outfield against the playground and adjacent open green space over by the Wyoming Road Extension. The following concepts were presented:

- Concept A1 - Maintain existing playground adjacent to mature deciduous trees, near Linwood Avenue entrance. Little League would remain with infield generally oriented as it is currently. There would be no safety buffers typically located at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base lines.
- Concept A2 - Similar orientation to A1, with safety buffers at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases as well as at the backstop. The buffer zones will encroach upon the surface parking area and the central playground. Two (2) existing trees would need to be removed.

*The City noted that per conversations with the Parks & Recreation department, the preference is not to cut down any trees.*

- Concept B1 - Smaller play area is removed, allowing for a natural safety buffer.
- Concept B2 - Similar orientation to B1, with safety buffers at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases and at backstop.
- Concept C1 - Smaller play area is removed allowing Little League field to shift eastward. Parking is reduced.
- Concept C2 - Smaller play area is removed, allowing for safety buffers. No changes to parking.

After much discussion, there was no support for the diamond to remain in its current orientation. There was agreement that by flipping the diamond in a way that protects the existing trees would be the most desirable option. It was discussed that the images shared showed a 200-foot field, which is far larger than may be needed at this site. Creating a field, no larger than what exists now, would allow for existing trees to be maintained and would provide a large contiguous green space from the playground and parking lot extending to the Wyoming Road Extension side of the field.

*There was consensus to pursue a smaller baseball diamond flipped with home plate in the southern corner by the trees.*

By approaching the site plan this way, there may be opportunity to incorporate a U10 soccer field with no side run-offs or create two side-by-side U/7/8 soccer fields in the baseball outfield and adjacent field space. The fields would provide open green space for the Horace Mann School, as well as provide soccer practice and play opportunities for the community.

#### New Playground Equipment at HMES

There was discussion about the playground equipment to be installed at Horace Mann. It was noted that although the equipment was recently delivered and the Parks and Recreation has the playground equipment, the search is ongoing for a contractor who has the bandwidth for the installation. There was discussion about whether it makes sense to continue with the playground installation, or whether this new equipment should be included in the large central new playground being installed as part of the larger Horace Mann project. The following reasons were noted as to why we should continue to push to install the playground now:

- The playground will provide a play space that is naturally shaded under the mature trees. It was noted that according to the City arborist, these trees are mature and healthy.
- The playground provides a play space for older students that is removed from the play elements designed for younger students.
- The playground provides a play space further away from the area where the building addition is set to occur, which will allow for more flexibility from a site use perspective throughout the various phases of construction.

*There was consensus to pursue the playground equipment to be installed, as soon as possible, in the southern corner of the site beneath the trees.*

#### Basketball Court and Sledding Hill

There was discussion about the basketball court which is currently shown as a full court down in the "bowl" adjacent to the gym. It was discussed whether it made sense to go to a half basketball court which could be incorporated into the central play space with the two new playgrounds with rubberized play surface, four square, and other play elements. There was also discussion as to whether the basketball court would be better suited, with an improved line of sight, at the upper plateau, rather than in the "bowl."

#### Additional Comments

- Usage of the baseball field by the school may be limited. Merits of incorporating a youth soccer field may be beneficial. This option will be explored, perhaps as two side-by-side fields.

- The possibility to have a youth soccer practice field and a little league field, which can be used simultaneously would be ideal. This happens now and ideally would continue.
- It was noted that sand for the diamond is messy. Material will be studied.

The next Community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00PM (via Zoom).

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Prepared by: Melissa Gagnon, NV5 [End of 08/25/22 Meeting Minutes]