


## Horace Mann Elementary School Addition/Renovation Project

Horace Mann School Building Committee/DRC Meeting					
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022					
Location: Zoom webinar					
Time: 6:00PM					
City Staff and Consultant Team					
Josh Morse		Public Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gene Raymond RDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Alex Valcarce		Public Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Monaghan RDA <input type="checkbox"/>	
Thomas Murphy		NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Watchorn RDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Melissa Gagnon		NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jade Cummings RDA <input type="checkbox"/>	
School Building Committee			Design Review Committee		
Alec Zimmer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liam Hurley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Mackrell <input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Barrer <input type="checkbox"/>		
Alison Leary <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Nardelli <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Kelley <input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Hnasko <input type="checkbox"/>		
Andrew Lee <input type="checkbox"/>	Maria Scibelli Greenberg <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hauelsen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Gillespie <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tamika Olszewski <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marc Resnick <input type="checkbox"/>			
Additional Attendees					
Sarah Thorne <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Courtney Bonzey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anping Shen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Kathy Hylander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anna Cox <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Josh Morse opened the meeting at 6:06PM. The focus of the meeting was to review conceptual site plan developments and to confirm that the design is headed in the right direction. A total of 35 participants attended the meeting representing the Horace Mann School Building Committee, the Design Review Committee, and the Community.

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

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

**[Note: 9/22/22 video recording needs to be posted]**

## Introduction

Gene Raymond of RDA provided a brief overview of the six (6) conceptual plan options (A, B and C) presented at the August 25, 2022 SBC/DRC meeting as well as a summary of feedback received:

- Flipping the diamond works to provide a contiguous open field
- Smaller playground shall remain in the trees
- No trees shall be removed
- Smaller baseball field is sufficient
- A youth soccer field shall be incorporated, either U8 or U10
- A half-court basketball field shall be explored, at upper plateau (opposed the the lower level)

Added feedback from the recent Working Group meeting:

- Additional trees shall be incorporated into the central play area
- Basketball court shall be oriented to not be a distraction from the school as well as to shield basketballs from hitting building

It was noted that since the August 25 SBC/DRC meeting, the design focus has been on developing the conceptual site plan, with dialogue about playgrounds, little league, and soccer fields as well as site elements. Based on consensus reached at the last meeting, updated conceptual site plans were presented, with variations relative to the soccer field layout:

- Conceptual site plan with U-8 soccer - open space created for U-8 soccer field, with approximate field dimensions of 75'x45' with a 10' runoff zone, along perimeter. The second smaller playground is maintained within the tree grove, the baseball field is maintained being slightly larger than the current field, basketball court changed to a half court and moved to the upper plateau, deciduous trees have been added to define the outfield as well as provide some shade to the larger central playground, sloped play area with an outdoor classroom adjacent, sledding hill maintained. The current plan is showing a total of 28 parking spaces at the south lot (off of Linwood), which is three (3) fewer than the 31 current spaces. There are 48 total parking spaces.
- Conceptual site plan with U-10 soccer - open space created for U-10 soccer field, with approximate field dimensions of 165'x105' with a 10' runoff zone, along perimeter. The larger field encroaches upon the edge of the slope and infringes upon the sledding hill and sloped play. Other features noted with the U-8 field option above are consistent with this option.

*Following discussion, the consensus was that the location of the playgrounds, fields, baseball diamond, and pedestrian access seems to be widely supported.*

## Outdoor Classrooms

It was discussed that the sloped play and outdoor classrooms need some more study and may need to be flipped or shifted slightly. Two outdoor classrooms were presented:

- Amphitheater style classroom with shade – built into the natural slope, adjacent to the sloped play area. NPS requested to see examples of outdoor classroom designs and noted that ultimately teacher input will be solicited regarding the practicality and potential use of the space. Depending on whether there is interest to utilize an outdoor amphitheater, will determine whether the sloped play area could be expanded.
- Smaller outdoor classroom beneath the trees - tucked into the corner of the site under the trees, at the south end of the site. The space is not intended to be a full outdoor classroom, but rather a smaller informal shaded space for reading to a group of students, or other small group activities.

The importance of having an outdoor covered space was noted. It was also noted that it may be beneficial for an outdoor classroom to be closer to the building in terms of supervision, recess and maintenance.

## Basketball Court

The basketball court was revised to a half court and relocated from behind the gym on the lower plateau to the area of the new centrally located playground in the upper plateau. The exact dimensions and configuration of the central play area is still a work in progress, and as that space evolves, so will the placement of the basketball court. The preferred location of the basketball court will need to be reviewed the school.

It was noted that the existing gaga ball pit can be added back in as the design continues to develop.

## Trees along Walkway

The concept was presented of trees along the walkway between the field and the playground, which both defines the transition between the two site elements and provides natural shade for the playground to the south. More trees will be included as the design further develops.

## Bus Loop

It was noted that the current bus loop works very well. A goal is to maintain separation of the bus loop and parent drop off, which currently works very well.

## Informal Approval on Conceptual Site Plan

*Following discussion, the consensus was that the location of the playgrounds, fields, baseball diamond, and pedestrian access seems to be widely supported.*

The Horace Mann School Building Committee provided an informal approval of the conceptual site plans to help guide the design process. There was consensus regarding the proposed locations of the playgrounds, fields, baseball diamond, and pedestrian access layout. Although design will continue to evolve, it is helpful to the process to have affirmation from the project team that the design is headed in the right direction. For the items that require further study, Mark Nardelli and the Horace Mann Elementary School staff will be involved to help inform the decision making process and refine the site elements.

## Update re: Playground Equipment Installation

As a follow-up from the August 25 meeting, an update was provided regarding the status of the playground equipment to be installed at the smaller playground. The City noted that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department secured the services of a playground equipment installer. It was noted that the installer has another project that they need to complete first and depending on the weather they will begin work on the Horace Mann project afterwards. Installation and equipment delivery is being coordinated. The Horace Mann community will be notified when an installation date is confirmed. It was noted that the playground location is pretty much fixed to avoid the root structure system.

## Update re: Repairs to the Existing Playground

It was noted the existing playground "bridge" was recently badly broken. Given it will take some time for the equipment manufacturer to fabricate a new bridge the question has been asked whether the manufacturer would support the City providing a temporary repair to the bridge, while maintaining the safety certification of the playground. Pending a response to this question, next steps will be taken are awaiting a response on this and will take the next steps accordingly.

## Additional Comments

- Mark Nardelli requested RDA to incorporate the layout of the smaller playground into the site plan for a frame of reference. The City shall provide RDA will the design layout.
- It was noted that the boards RDA recently prepared for the back-to-school night looked phenomenal and helped to garner project support.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Prepared by: Melissa Gagnon, NV5 [End of 09/22/22 Meeting Minutes]