

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
Patrick Henry Library Work Session Summary
September 28, 2023

Fairfax County staff requested a third work session with the Board of Architectural Review to create a cohesive design for the new Patrick Henry Library and associated parking.

The applicants present were Dave Hallett, Keith Leonard from RRMM-Architects, Maryam Mostamandi, and Jun Li from Building Design Branch - Fairfax County, Project Managers.

Ms. Mostamandi provided an overview of the project and mentioned the importance of the sustainability goals, which are the following:

- Net zero energy design
- LEED Gold
- 50% energy reduction over ASHRAE baseline
- All electric systems and equipment

Mr. Leonard reviewed the site development for Patrick Henry Library and the associated parking garage located at 101 Maple Avenue East, which included:

- The building footprint has been maximized.
- A waiver for the required setbacks and tree canopy will be requested.
- Planting new trees on Maple Avenue.
- Provide a generously covered entry plaza in the middle of the Maple Avenue block for outdoor reading and community gathering.
- The parking garage will provide 209 parking spaces, 125 spaces for the library, and 84 spaces for the Town of Vienna.
- Maintain access to the back of Vienna Elementary School through the newly created drive aisle from Maple Avenue.

Furthermore, Mr. Leonard also mentioned that they had undertaken a value engineering study, which provided suggestions on ways to save money, to which they agreed on some of the recommendations. The changes presented to the board are as follows:

- Curvilinear Streetscape concept to the planters.
- Garage entry reconfigured. The garage entrance was moved back so that the driving aisles go up and down in a straight line perpendicular to Center Street.
- Clear glazing up to the roof and removing the spandrel that was up there on the corner of the building.
- Reduced spandrel glass and added more brick to the left façade where a storage room is proposed.
- Roof form added to the two stair towers of the parking garage.
- Signage "Patrick Henry Library" shown on both the Maple Avenue and Center Street facades.
- Added street trees on Center St.
- Developed the fenestration of the garage by punching openings in it.
- Reduced the glass on the two stair towers to reduce heat.
- Removed skylights on entry Plaza.
- The lower wall around the landscaping leading to the entrance on Maple Avenue was changed from 90 degree to curved, which ties in with the curvilinear streetscape concept.
- Relocation of the bus shelter.
- The solar panels are presented maximizing the area due to uncertainty on how much solar is needed to make it a net zero building.

- Three brick color options (Concord Blend, Desert Sun Smooth, and Old Lexington).

The BAR members had the following recommendations, comments, and questions:

- The Old Lexington brick color gives the building a spark.
- Changes enhanced the proportions of the building (for example, removing the glass and making it heavier towards the left façade).
- Like the garage entry configuration, making it a straight shot.
- Like the sloped roof on the stair towers.
- Like how the entry plan was reshuffled.
- Concerned with the entryway being too dark. Will the lights be on during the day? Can you ask the lighting expert to make the lights as daylight as possible? It is essential to even out some of those darker spaces without skylights.
- The association with the Desert Sun Smooth brick color is very institutional.
- The Old Lexington brick color is more Virginian. It reminds me of Lexington, Virginia.
- This is going to be a futuristic building.
- The daylight lights will be very welcoming.
- Is the roof line going to be opaque or translucent?
- Have you considered putting something in the large windows to discourage birds?
- Like the added roof lines above the two stairways in the garage. They are functional. How noisy is it going to be when it rains?
- Make the signs nice and big as possible.
- No tree in front of the sign so people coming north can see the library. If you want the tree there and it stays small, maybe the "Patrick Henry Library" sign can go above the roofline so it's clear that this is a library.
- Darkness underneath the entryway: Is there a way to put a natural reflector (convex shape) that would bounce natural light up so it washes on the interior of the wood? When the wood is not lit, it looks dark.
- Concern about the solar panel structure being painted steel. This option should be studied closely. From experience, the only coating systems that work on steel are an organic system or a powder coat system. Did you consider aluminum?
- The sun does not like oil-based products. The traditional way is not going to work. Powder coating is better.
- Like the lighting at the garage entrance.
- Would like more seating area at the left of the main entrance.
- Native mix over cistern- Have you incorporated any changes in the design?
- Concerned with the sidewalk width on Center Street at the right corner; it looks a little narrow.
- What does 50% energy reduction from the baseline mean?
- Garage roof lines- Have you thought about making the roof line more traditional? Other members liked the roof lines as proposed.
- I like the artwork planned for the garage.
- When is the project completion scheduled for?

Respectfully submitted by
Yaska Camacho Castillo
Board Clerk