

11/18/2022 - Patrick Henry Library

Narrative describing design revisions since the BAR presentation on 9/1/2022 and the Town Council presentation on 9/12/2022

1) What we heard: The BAR liked the rose color brick used at the new police station. Several members of the town council preferred the tan brick.

Response: We are open to discussion on the topic. We will look into actual material samples at the Design Development stage and see what is the best fit for the context. Currently, Tan brick is shown in the updated renderings.

2) What we heard: The current library should be referred to as the “existing” library.

Response: Will comply.

3) What we heard: Add design elements to protect pedestrians, such as bollards and planters, at the entry plaza.

Response: See the revised entry plaza rendering. There are cast stone walls/planter boxes and a step up into the plaza that prevents vehicle intrusion. The design will be further studied with the landscape architect.

4) What we heard: The design doesn’t look like small town Vienna. Red Brick looks too industrial.

Response: Opinions on brick color varied widely during the BAR hearing as well as the Council hearing. Most any color of brick can be used, and we are open to discussion on the topic. Tan brick is shown in the updated renderings.

5) What we heard: Courtyard (plaza) trellis is more reminiscent of the Metro Station at Tysons Corner, which is fine there but not in Vienna.

Response: The trellis design has been removed and replaced with a pitched roof design over both the entry plaza and the children’s room on the corner of Maple and Center. This change was in response to this comment as well as the multiple comments we received that sloped roof forms should be included in one way or another. At the entry plaza this roof form includes skylights which bring natural light into the plaza from above, similar to the trellis, but keeps the rain out.

6) What we heard: Break up the massing – possibly using a different brick color for the garage.

Response: The county felt that it was important to keep the brick color consistent so that the entire facility read as one, however we have added screen panels reminiscent of those used at the CubeSmart storage building, added glass to the two stair towers that “turns the corner” and is the same curtainwall material used on the library building, and extended stair and elevator towers to a consistent height. While we understand the desire to make the tow structures somewhat consistent it should be remembered that a library is not a parking garage and vice versa. The two building types are radically different in scale, use and form.

7) What we heard: Garage is lacking architecturally. Reflect the library main building architecture and use other devices to break up massing. Architecture between front façade and parking garage are significantly inconsistent.

Response: See response to # 6 above.

8) What we heard: Integrate parking garage into design - looks like it's not meant to sit next to the library.

Response: See response to # 6 above.

9) What we heard: Include pedestrian entrance to the library from Center St.

Response: Operationally the library only wants to have one entrance. That way staff can keep track of who is coming and going, and the facility is more secure. This entrance is off the main lobby which itself is accessed from Maple Avenue and the parking garage. While we were not able to add an entrance from center street directly into the library, there is now a pedestrian entrance from Center Street into the garage. Once in the garage, a pedestrian can walk to the garage's lobby entry and from the lobby they can enter the library.

10) What we heard: In response to a question of whether the glass would provide acoustic privacy, architects said that double glass will be used, at minimum, and that they are exploring triple glass, which would also help with LEED certification.

Response: Triple glazing continues to be under consideration for all the exterior windows and curtainwall.

11) What we heard: Follow new buildings that are modern, but have small town Vienna feel.

Response: One of the main comments we heard regarding this was that we should attempt to incorporate sloped roofs in one way or another. Putting a sloped roof over the entirety of a 19,000 SF, one story building is difficult to achieve without creating enormous amounts of unused attic space and breaking the budget. Instead we have added sloped roofs in two areas – at the main entry plaza and at the children's room at the corner of Maple and Center. Also, we tried to break the building façade into smaller elements with different materials to reduce the scale. Additionally, we are studying the landscape elements along the Maple Ave. which will create a more pedestrian friendly small town feeling frontage.

12) What we heard: Use elements from Town Hall, New Police Dept, and current Library.

Response: Elements from the police station, such as curtainwall, brick material, sloped roofs are being used on the library. Rose colored brick similar to the police station is under consideration but needs further discussion.

13) What we heard: Use New Police Dept for inspiration.

Response: See response to # 12 above.

14) What we heard: Cube Smart on Mill Street...was a big box, but utilized filigree, different color bricks and brick modulation. Applicant followed BAR's request to adopt design features from important Town buildings and Town's history.

Response: We have added some screening, reminiscent to the CubeSmart building, to the garage. The CubeSmart building is an entirely different scale and use than the library so emulating its proportions didn't seem appropriate.

15) What we heard: Left side of building with drive garage entrance - image on slide shows greenery that won't be there because it will be a drive aisle and parking. Suggest putting a line of trees in tree grates on edge of property. Consider making them substantial height to fill the space. Used example of Falls Church tree canopy that goes above two stories.

Response: See revised aerial renderings. We have included a narrow planting strip and trees where possible.

16) What we heard: At pedestrian level, there needs to be greater study to yield an enriched pedestrian environment, with design incorporating hardscape, landscaping and accessories...use a landscape architect. The design should also serve to reduce the appearance of the massing of the building. (attachment images are examples)

Response: We agree and have engaged a landscape architect who is currently working on updated streetscape concepts. Do keep in mind that the examples shown by the BAR include sidewalk areas that are 20, 30 and/or 40 feet deep in some cases. We have approximately 15 feet, not including the existing planter strip, with which to work.

17) What we heard: Asked about how utilized the 125 library parking spots are expected to be - County expects full utilization.

Response: The library expects that the spots reserved for the library will be fully utilized.

18) What we heard: Enriched pedestrian environment, more effort on the pedestrian level.

Response: See response to # 16 above.

19) What we heard: In response to many surveys, it has become apparent that Vienna residents appreciate modulated roof forms, i.e, a mixture of sloped and flat roof forms that provide an underlying residential feel that may be reminiscent of the residential nature of Vienna.

Response: See response to # 11 above.

20) What we heard: Sloped areas (roofs) may help with garage and, in particular, the stair towers.

Response: Sloped roof forms have been added as described in the response to # 11 above but the County did not feel that they were appropriate on the stair towers.

21) What we heard: Recommend rustification and banding, which will break up the flat monolithic surfaces and add texture and shadowing to an otherwise plain surface.

Response: We currently show subtle recessed, differently colored brick areas surrounding each of the windows on the library. We are hesitant to deploy banding or stripes. We believe the juxtaposition of brick and glass forms is a stronger way to add interest to the façade.

22) What we heard: Wanted to make sure that the signature bricks will remain on sidewalk.

Response: Our plan is to remove the signature bricks, store them for the duration of the construction period, and then reinstall them within the new streetscape design to be devised by our landscape architect consultant.

23) What we heard: Possibly use a brick-banded sidewalk rather than traditional brick sidewalk (difficulty walking on brick sidewalk)

Response: This is under consideration.

24: What we heard: Recommend that the sidewalk be done in flush dry laid bricks on concrete that will yield a flat surface, rather than using brick and mortar.

Response: This is under consideration.

25) What we heard: Work with DPW - can walking portion of sidewalk be wider? Refer to "Preferred Image" and sidewalk studies (attached).

Response: See response to # 16 above.