



## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Architectural Review

**From:** Sharmaine Abaied, Planner / David Levy, Director

**Meeting Date:** September 28, 2023

**Re:** **101 Maple Ave E - Patrick Henry Library Concept Designs**

Fairfax County staff has requested a third work session with the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) in efforts to create a cohesive design for the new Patrick Henry Library and associated parking garage, which will be located in the Town of Vienna at 101 Maple Avenue E. The Town of Vienna is a development partner in that, through an agreement with Fairfax County, the Town is funding public parking spaces as part of the garage, in addition to the parking spaces that the County is providing for library parking.

On September 1, 2022, Fairfax County staff met with the BAR in a work session to present a preliminary Concept Design for the new Patrick Henry Library and associated parking garage. The Board was able to provide comments for Fairfax County staff and RRMM Architects to utilize for their continued development of the design. These comments were provided in a memo to the Vienna Town Council, for review prior to the September 12, 2022, Town Council meeting with Fairfax County staff and their architectural consultants.

At the September 12, 2022, meeting, Fairfax County staff presented the Concept Design to Town Council. The Town Council decided to proceed with the parking agreement with Fairfax County and supported moving forward to the Design Development phase.



A second BAR work session was held with Fairfax County and RRMM on November 30, 2022. The comments the Board members had from that work session were provided to Town Council and are as follows:

- If the bus shelter will need to be rebuilt during construction of the library, Board members requested consideration of the following:
  - Composite materials be used if rebuilt.
  - Potentially moving the bus shelter a few feet for better accessibility when designing the streetscape.
- One Board member preferred smaller trees and another preferred larger trees and landscape to mitigate how the size of the building will feel. One member suggested using majestic trees that make sense.
- There was a preference of at least one Board member for the curvilinear streetscape with seat walls. Portions of the walkway would feel a bit private in areas where the curve is concave against the building.
- A preference for 6'-8' wide sidewalks, and perhaps even 8' sidewalks.
- A preference for an abundance of landscaping at the front of the building, as much as possible.
- Landscaping to go beyond the pedestrian garage entrance.
  - Board member who commented understood there was a stormwater cistern just beyond the entrance but wondered if a native mix could be placed over the cistern as it would not interfere with the purpose and use of the cistern.
- Sign / signs for the name of the library:
  - One Board member requested consideration of a sign on the glass, but another member was not in favor of a sign on the glass.
  - Another member requested consideration of a monument sign on the base of the building.
  - The sign for the library needs to convey pride in the new building.
- One Board member did not want directional signage as it would appear cluttered and the entrance to the library should be evident.
- American Holly might be good at the back of the garage due to the blank wall. It would beautify the back wall and also prevent people from getting too close to that wall (thereby diminishing the likelihood of graffiti).
- Consideration of a gable roof over the stair towers.



- Tilt the corner roof in the opposite direction to avoid the large spandrel appearing to crush the mullions.
- The Board members stated they would like to see brick samples at a future meeting and stated they were not fans of the traditional red or blonde brick but did like textured brick.
- Board members encouraged looking to the Vienna Elementary gray stone wall for streetscape ideas.
- Artwork:
  - Board members asked for consideration of artwork on the Center St. side of the building.
  - Contemplate mosaic artwork.
- The Board members appreciated the changes that were made and commented that they liked the changes made to the entrance of the building.

Fairfax County staff met with the Director and Deputy Director of Vienna's Department of Planning and Zoning to discuss the results of the Value Engineering process the project went through based on Fairfax County's requirements for large projects.

Since the November 30, 2022, BAR work session, Fairfax County has made changes to the concept plan based on the BAR's comments, the Value Engineering recommendations, and the comments provided by the Director and Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning. Fairfax County staff and the development team will provide detailed explanation of the changes to the Board of Architectural Review during the September 28, 2023, work session.

Attachment 01 - Memo to the Board of Architectural Review  
Attachment 02 - Patrick Henry Library BAR Presentation