

Meeting on September 6 at the SW Library
Topics: Denny Sealth Process, Community Outreach and Campus Design

Seattle School District Attendance

Eleanor Trainor, Community Liaison, 252-0655

Don King, Program Manager, Building Excellence III,

Don Gilmore, BEX III Manager, dgilmore@seattleschools.org, (206) 252-0647

Robert Evans, Project Manager, Denny Sealth, revans@heery.com

Larry Matsuda, independent academic consultant to Denny Sealth Project

Community Members in Attendance

Susan McLain, csmclain@hotmail.com

Mary Quackenbush,

Pablo Lambinico,

Discussion

School District representatives emphasized that the decision to co-locate Denny Sealth is final. The design & construction process is moving forward. District representatives acknowledged that many people in the community felt left-out of the process, and the public process could have been better. They expressed a desire to work with the neighborhood to conduct thorough community outreach and community process. The district would like help in articulating a community vision. They emphasized that everyone needs to be clear about who will be making the final decisions about school properties: school board, administration, City DPD, etc.

Neighbors around Denny & Sealth want a strong school and successful campus. The campus is in the middle of the Westwood neighborhood. Neighbors believe the academic, public safety and social needs of the students would be best served with a well-designed campus that has the support of the surrounding neighborhood.

Community members said that there are still many people in the community who are unhappy with the co-location decision and process. People in Westwood feel that the District did not follow-through on their promises with respect to the ball fields. That said, the Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC) can help facilitate an inclusive community process, and help move the neighborhood through a productive dialogue. They emphasized the need to provide accountability for decisions by the District, Parks, City and others.

District officials said they wanted a community representative to serve on the school design advisory committee. They understand the difficulty in attending daytime meetings.

- The District will establish regular meeting times and post meeting times, locations & agendas well in advance. Robert Evans distributed a draft meeting schedule. Every third meeting will take place in the early evening (5-7 PM) to allow attendance by community members. The WWNC will be assured a vote even by a substitute representative. Robert Evans will work with a NC representative to figure out the details of this decision.

Don Gilmore provided an overview of the current school design. Community members asked questions about process, environmental standards, parking, relationship to natural areas, relationship to the rest of the School-Community Center campus, design with respect to safety of younger students, capacity of the school.

Don Gilmore reported the following dates:

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July '08: Construction of Sealth begins

Now: the District is preparing for Departure hearings. Some Departures they will be requesting from the City:

- Reduce parking on the north side of Sealth in order to construct one, rather than two, parking lots. They would like to use _ of that space for green space or other use.
- Load students off-site on the street right-of-way (sidewalk) in order to devote more space on-site to green space or other features.
- Trade-off with respect to current Denny site: reduction in parking will allow the District to reduce replacement parking on this site.
- Mitigate the District's plans to exceed lot coverage limits on the new Denny Sealth site by allowing the District to use the existing Denny site for open space.

October: Draft EIS, public meeting (note: this is a supplemental EIS. The District is willing to distribute or post the original programmatic EIS.)

November: Final EIS

2010: Final decision on the existing Denny site

Autumn 2010: Sealth completed & schools moves back into the building

Autumn 2011: Denny moves into the new building

Communication Next Steps:

- The neighborhood will send a representative to serve on the school design team.
- The district will develop a complete web site by the end of September. Skeletal site will be available by mid-September (contact: Eleanor)
- District will establish informational kiosks at both school sites
- District will develop a flier and post at the community center, library, and other locations (contact: Robert Evans; community to advise)
- District & community will take notes on meetings and post them on the web site. This is to facilitate accountability and follow-through by all parties. Key decisions will be summarized.

- _ Neighborhood will help to define the scope of the community outreach and help define the neighborhood boundaries.
- _ District will send a letter to all community members and community organizations reporting on the status of the project & upcoming opportunities for community involvement.
- _ The neighborhood will submit a formal proposal for resources to assist the District in conducting outreach to the neighborhood and the broader community.

Autumn 2007 Meetings:

- _ Process Update Meeting. A public meeting will take place some time between September 26 and October 15. The purpose of the meeting is to provide updated information to the community on the status of the project, to clarify the nature of upcoming decision and who will be making those decisions, and to articulate & receive feedback on some of the trade-offs in design and uses for the Denny Sealth site and the overall campus. The District and the WWNC will collaborate on organizing this meeting (Contacts: WWNC, Robert Evans, Eleanor Trainor, Don Gilmore)
- _ Campus Vision/ Design Process. The district will provide consultant support to prepare-for and facilitate a meeting in Autumn 2007 that will provide an opportunity for the community to begin developing a vision/s for the existing Denny site (primary purpose) and for the Denny-Sealth-Community Center-Ball Fields campus overall (secondary purpose). This meeting will help inform some of the trade-offs the decision-makers will be assessing. It will allow the community, the City and the District to plan more holistically for decisions that may take place in coming months and years regarding mobility, design and uses for the entire campus. Consultant support for this meeting may require 80-100 hours. (Contacts: WWNC, Robert Evans, Eleanor Trainor, Don Gilmore)
- _ Draft EIS Meeting. A public meeting will take place to provide an opportunity for public comment on the Draft Supplemental EIS. Details will follow.

Other Follow-up:

- _ District staff will send to the WWNC a matrix of District support for public outreach.
- _ Neighborhood Council members will look at the following web sites for ideas on outreach, public process and web site content: WS High School, Hamilton Middle School, Garfield HS, ...
- _ Eleanor will email to WWNC information about public process at other schools.

Resources

Public Schools Denny Sealth web site:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/facilities/BEXIII/DennySealth.htm>

School District Facilities web site:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/facilities/index.dxml>