

HART HOWERTON

NEW YORK · SAN FRANCISCO

MEETING NOTES

Project: 19-044 – Belle Haven Community Center & Library

Meeting Date(s): 01/11/2020

Meeting Location: Belle Haven Senior Center

Meeting Subject: Community Meeting #1

Staff Attending:

- Maya Perkins, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Facebook
- Fergus O'Shea, Director of Campus Development, Facebook
- Solon Stewart-Rose, Project Manager, Facebook
- Lauren Swezey, Sustainability and Landscape Project Lead, Facebook
- Derek Schweigart, Community Services Director, City of Menlo park
- Sean Reinhart, Director Library Services, City of Menlo Park
- Cecilia Taylor, Mayor, City of Menlo Park
- Starla Jerome-Robinson, City Manager, City of Menlo Park
- Justin Murphy, Deputy City Manager, City of Menlo Park
- Clay J. Curtin, Public Engagement Manager, City of Menlo Park
- Eron Ashley, Principal, Hart Howerton
- Rachel Hsu, Senior Associate, Hart Howerton
- Clare Stockwell, Designer, Hart Howerton
- Meghan Jones, Designer, Hart Howerton
- Soraya El Alami, Designer, Hart Howerton
- Jennifer Lau, Senior Associate, Hart Howerton
- Jim Jacobs, Principal, Hart Howerton

Date of issue: January 14, 2020

The following notes summarize community feedback from the meeting. See attached sign-in sheet at the end of the notes.

Presentation Outline

- Introduction - Starla
- Remarks from Mayor Cecilia Taylor
- Project Overview – Fergus
- Public Engagement Process – Maya and Clay
- Project Timeline – Fergus and Justin
- Preliminary Concept – Eron
- Breakout for Storyboards & Facility Tours - city staff



Public Q&A Topics

- Parking plan
- Transition plan during construction
- Community events
- Naming—what is the name? what is the process for naming

Storyboards

Community Center Board

- See ideas from the community outlined below.



Question #1 - What do you like about the Onetta Harris Community Center?

- Seems like the new plan replaces the spaces like-for-like, but what is the plan to accommodate for growth in community?
- Onetta Harris Community Center. It belongs to the residents of East Menlo Park & East Palo Alto. The name is historical to this community.
- Continue hiring local community staff.
- Dance classes
- Community functions – dances
- Programming of activity for kids at subsidized rates.
- Let's make it look like part of the community. Integrate its history.

Question #2 - What exists that you would like to see changed?



- Too many sharp edges – not a friendly looking building. (reaction to imagery).
- Windows and natural light
- Natural sunlight
- Walkability
- Karate classes
- Not enough meeting space today.
- More technology
- For the city: how will you integrate library/community center programming?
- Landscaped path around the perimeter where people can discover more of the facilities.
- Affordable Childcare Facility 0-3 years old
- Connectivity – open to Beechwood and Elementary School.
- Ceramics classes
- Parenting/mommy classes
- Bus connectivity

Question #3 - What additions would you like to see?

- Add café with healthy food choices.
- Not enough parking for seniors.
- Need café/snack shack for community. Lack of eating options in community. (Like Palo Alto Library)
- Feedback from community should be highly prioritized.
- History museum (or permanent exhibit) with space for Onetta
 - African American
 - Latino
 - Alive & interactive
- Bike parking
- Event patio for rent
- Accessible
- The family resource center across the street is a good example.
- Therapy space for non-profits to use.
- Bible study in a home-like space. Like a living room atmosphere.
- Be an innovative building
 - Solar
 - Local lumber
- I like the layout sample.
- Move on. Build it as early as possible.
- Hire teen volunteers to help with operations.
- How can we plan for the center to expand in the future as the need increases?
- Amphitheater space for community meetings would be nice.
- Based on sustainability:

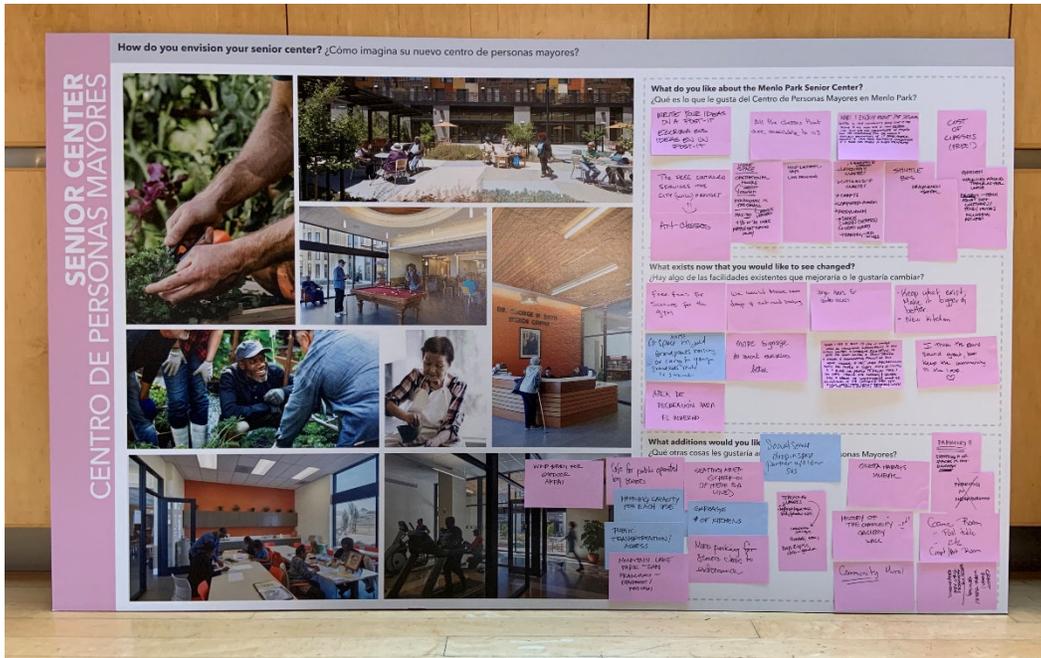


- Water collection
 - Green building
 - Teaching spaces / opportunity to learn
- State of the art facility inside and out.
- Welcoming and friendly staff.
- Meeting rooms available for community members and non-profits.
- Legal assistance:
 - Immigration
 - Housing rights
- More adult classes.
- Job training – GED classes.
- Employment Center – current with work opportunities.
- GYM – health and fitness classes.
- Enough Parking to accommodate capacity.
- Children and youth classes.
- Routes to new center that aren't cars?
- Food pantry – nutrition.
- Financial planning / management workshops.
- Zumba classes.
- Longer hours for center access.
- Kids like the ARC.
- Longer rentable event hours available for residents.



Senior Center Board

- See ideas from the community outlined below.



Question #1 - What do you like about the Menlo Park Senior Center?

- All the classes that are available to us.
- What I enjoy about the senior center is the community built that has been kind to my mom who is now retired. I like that she can communicate with people from the neighborhood that she wouldn't normally communicate with. It brings people together to talk about community involvement. It's a place for people to enjoy themselves.
- Cost of classes (free!)
- The free continued services the city provides.
- Art classes
- Multi-cultural days – line dancing.
- Shuttle buses
- Daily lunch +60 people.
- Garden
- Walking around track after lunch.
- Fridays – teach about different cultures / food (including recipes) / movies.

Question #2 - What exists that you would like to see changed?

- More space and longer operational hours.



- Dining hall is too small. Serves max 130 people a third or more people get turned away.
- Free fees for seniors for the gym.
- We would love more days of art and sewing.
- Longer hours for center access
- Keep what exists, make it bigger and better.
- New kitchen
- More signage/wayfinding to help people orient themselves.
- Recreation area for the winter
- I think the plans sound great but keep the community in the loop.
- Spaces/classes for grandparents caring for or raising young children.
- What I see and what I'd like to change would be structural improvements to the entire center. A complete renovation to both the youth center and senior center. A bigger and more accommodating facility. This means more recreational rooms for people to enjoy. More activities and a place for people to relax. Make it two-story. Improve the bathrooms and showers. Even a mural of Onetta Harris would be exceptional to this community. Add coding and technology classes for all ages.

Question #3 - What additions would you like to see?

- Wind study for outdoor areas.
- Café for public operated by seniors.
- Parking capacity for each use.
- Public transportation/access
- Seating area at check-in so people can sit if there is a line.
- More parking for seniors close to entrance.
- History of community gallery wall
- Community Mural
- Onetta Harris mural
- PARKING! Existing number of spaces is not enough.
- Game room
- Creative/Art Room
- Classes:
 - English and Spanish
 - Tech/phone use
- Computer lounge
- Flexible rooms
- Boys and girls club
- Craft room, worktable with sewing. Tools that are ergonomic e.g. scissors.

Youth Center Board

- See ideas from the community typed out below.





Question #1 - What do you like about your current youth center and after-school program?

- Tutoring program
- Affordable program for community!
- The staff is great! They need to have a job during the changes.
- Gymnastics

Question #2 - What exists that you would like to see changed?

- Need more space to hold more programming, activities, and divide age groups.
- Need space for youth activities and sports
- Strong college access programming
- Kids entrepreneur space

Question #3 - What additions would you like to see?

- Reading programs that include parents and their kids.
- Technology classes
- Health and sciences classes
- Mentoring programs
- State of the art facility that is safe for everyone.
- More programming for teens and popular classes like main center on west side.
- More programs available during after-school or within after-school program. Space is the current issue.



- New computer and other electronics equipment.
- Affordable programs
- Game room:
 - Board games
 - Engineering toys/kits
 - Origami
- Teen mentoring
- College prep / SAT training
- Involve previous community members to connect to new.
- More teen programs. Education and fun. Tutoring programs about college.
- Programs for cooking, software, and resume building.
- Please refer to Mountain Lake Playground in San Francisco as reference for creative design we would like to see in the new community/youth center.
- Safe space for teens and middle school students.
- Performing Arts Center – dance, music, etc.
- Programs for children 0-5 years!
- Developmentally appropriate programs across all ages.

Library Board

- See ideas from the community outlined below.



Question #1 - What do you like about the Belle Haven Library?



- Great place for families to come and borrow books. Get information on community activities.

Question #2 - What exists that you would like to see changed?

- Current computers are too old!
- Space is too small.
- More popular adult books to borrow.

Question #3 - What additions would you like to see?

- Seating pods not nooks (reaction to imagery). Menlo Student Life Center as a reference.
- New and challenging books for children of all ages:
 - STEM
 - English
 - Spanish books
- We need books that look like us!
- More exciting and current titles.
- Technology and kid friendly activities.
- Multi-cultural titles. A collection that represents our diverse community. More books in other languages besides Spanish. Many bilingual options.
- Storytime for infants, babies, and toddlers.
- A space for homework center.
- Coffee shop and large rooftop garden.
- More children activities and community hours for teens.
- Open learning spaces – programmable community spaces.
- Brand new computers, printers, scanners. Homework center and high-quality tutoring.
- Longer hours for center classes and library.
- The building looks sustainable and futuristic but not too attractive (reaction to imagery).
- Spanish books



Fitness Board

- See ideas from the community outlined below.



Question #1 - What do you like about your current fitness center?

- I like the privacy.

Question #2 - What exists now that you would like to see changed?

- Tiny and old – not safe!
- Palo Alto YMCA as a good example.
- Making it bigger and having more equipment. Not too many treadmills (takes up too much space). More senior appropriate machines. Indoor track. More sports for everyone to engage in.
- Yoga classes

Question #3 - What additions would you like to see?

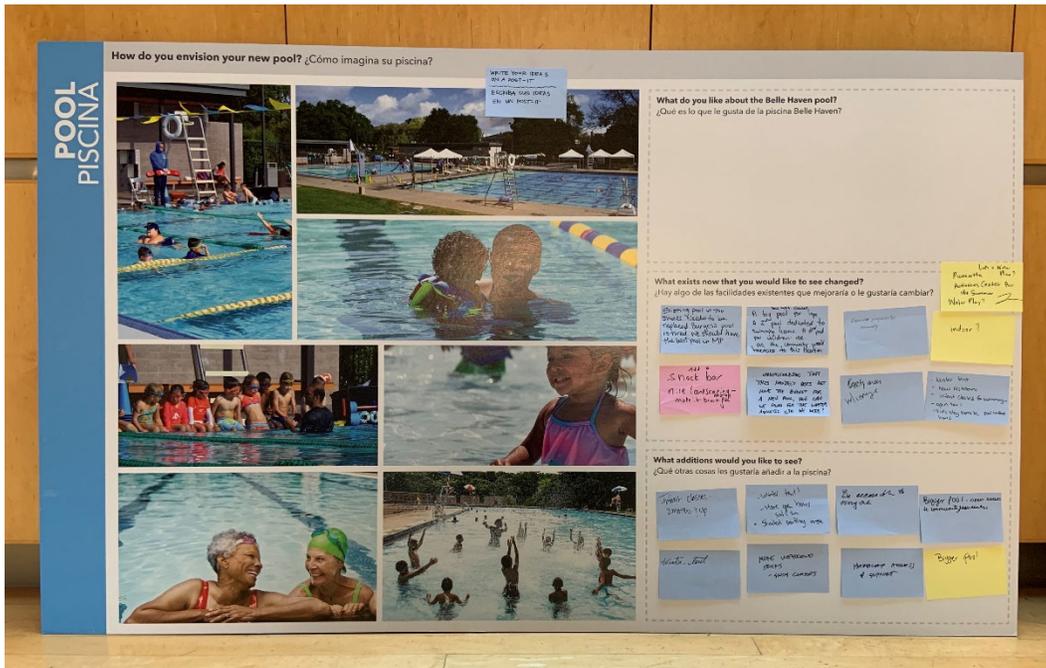
- New equipment
- Big fitness center
- Cardio/dance studio
- More classes
- Rock climbing wall
- More people in classes so they don't cancel
- Places to rest



- Nutrition/weight loss classes
- Nutrition classes for all ages
- Full gym with longer hours
- Fitness classes
- Childcare

Pool Board

- See ideas from the community outlined below.



Question #1 - What do you like about the Belle Haven Pool?

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Question #2 - What exists that you would like to see changed?

- Existing Pool is too small. Needs to be replaced. Burgess pool is tired. We should have the best pool in Menlo Park.
- Add a snack bar.
- Understanding that this project does not have the budget for a new pool, how can we plan for the larger aquatics center we need?

Question #3 - What additions would you like to see?

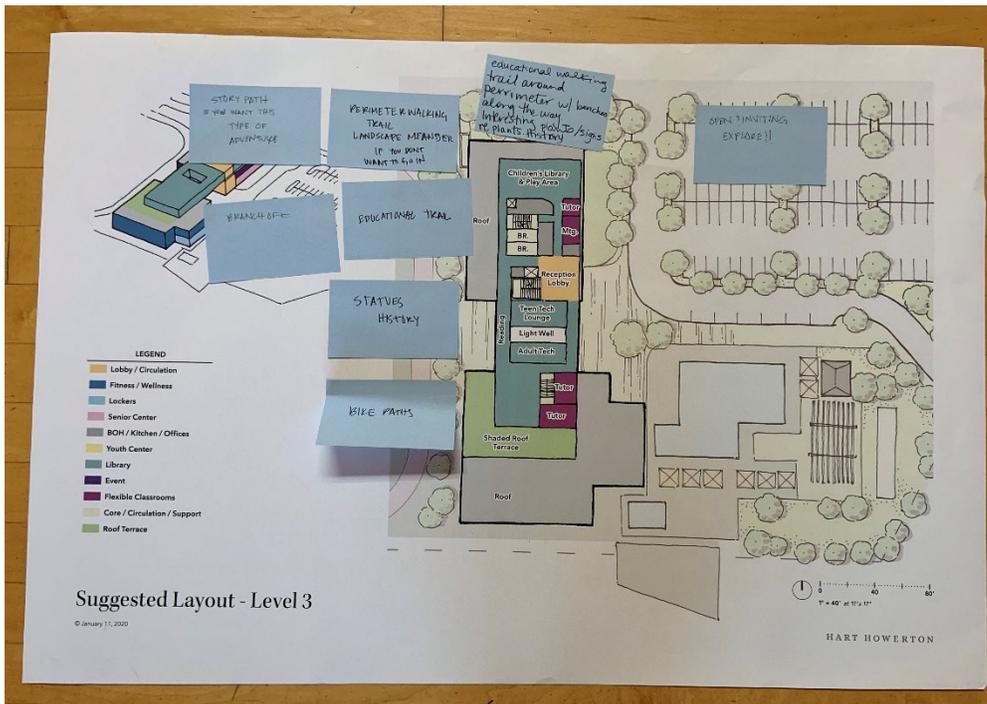
- Nice landscaping – make it beautiful.
- Low cost classes

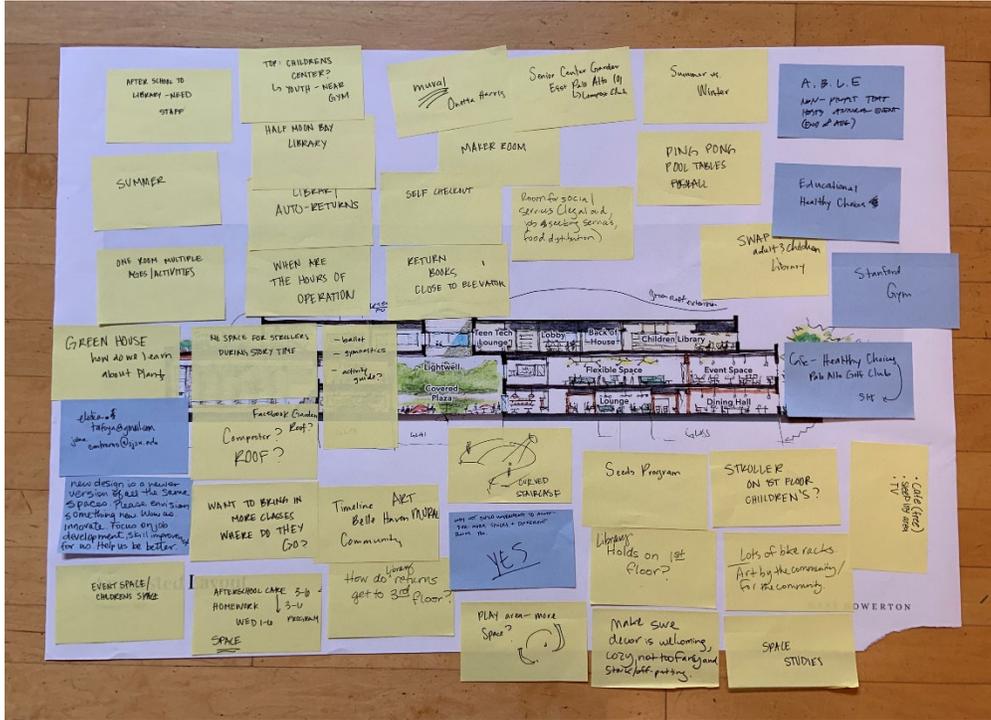


- Big pool for laps, 2nd pool dedicated to swim lessons, and 3rd pool for children's use. All the community would have access to this location.
- Expanded programs for the community.
- Party area with lounge.
- Winter tent, new restrooms, infant swimming classes.
- Longer hours of operation.
- Winter tent!
- Swim classes for all ages.
- Accessible to everyone. Handicap access and support.
- Bigger pool, open access to community residents.

Plans and Section

- See ideas from the community outlined below.





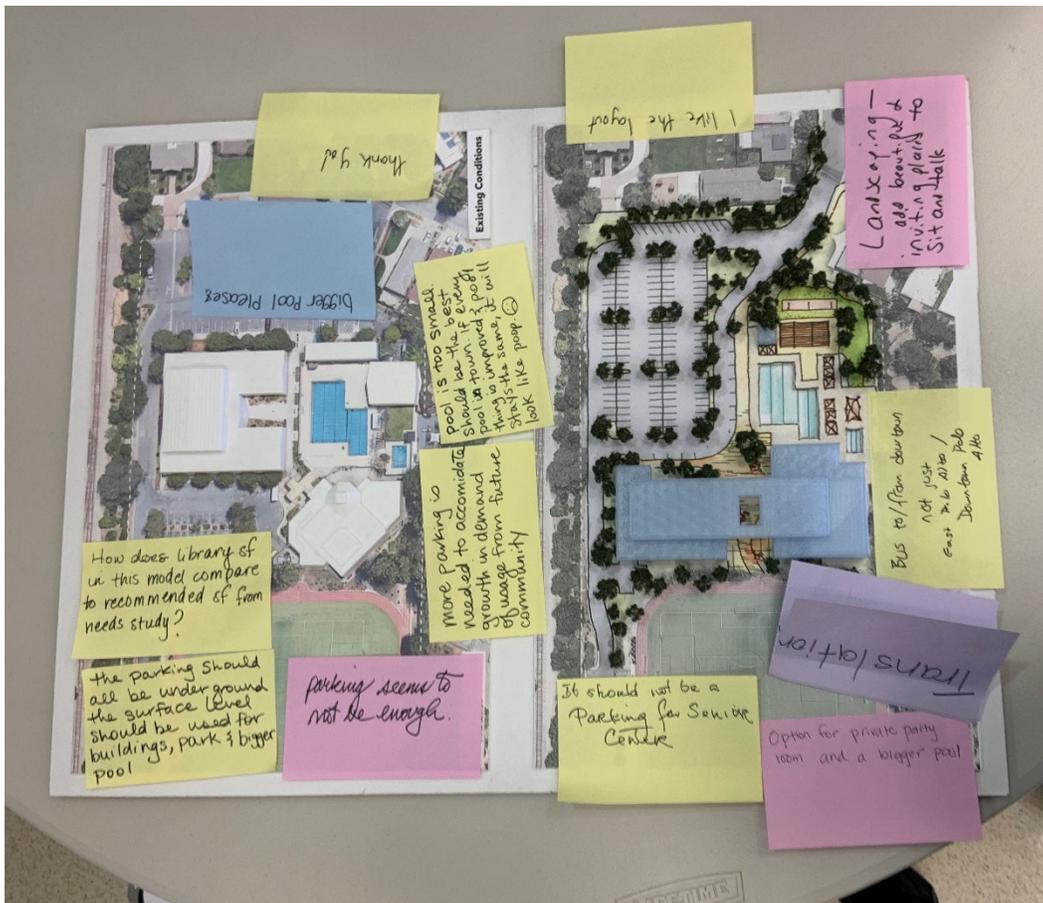
- Educational walking path around site and track with benches and installations telling history of the neighborhood. This path could go into the building as well. Interactive and explorative.
- Bike paths
- Where will construction workers park?
- Open and inviting to explore!
- Statues or art dedicated to the history of the community.
- Makerspace
- Indoor pool for winter
- Educational and healthy choices – using a green roof/garden as a resource to teach youth about nutrition.
- Need for spaces dedicated to different age groups – currently there is only one room.
- Need for library auto-returns on ground floor.
- Need space for strollers during story time.
- Greenhouse – how do we learn about plants?
- Stanford Gym as a reference. Good natural light.
- Swap children’s and adult library location to connect to Youth Center.
- Seeds program precedent (related to green roof).
- Café
- Sleeping area
- TV
- Ballet & gymnastics. Activity guide?



- Art by the community for the community.
- Lots of bike racks.
- Make sure the décor is welcoming and cozy. If its too fancy and stark it will be off-putting.
- More space for play area.
- Event space and children's space.
- New design is a newer version of all the same spaces. Please envision something new. Wow us. Innovate. Focus on job development, skill improvement for us. Help us be better.
- Onetta Harris mural
- Composter?
- After-school library – need staff.
- A.B.L.E. non-profit that hosts annual event at end of August.

Physical Models

- See ideas from the community outlined below.



- Bigger pool please!
- Pool is too small. Should be the best pool in town. If everything else is improved and the pool stays the same, it will look bad.
- How does library square footage in this model compare to recommended square footage from needs study?
- The parking should all be underground. The surface level should be used for buildings, park and bigger pool.
- Parking seems to not be enough.
- More parking is needed to accommodate growth and demand of future community.
- Bus to/from downtown Menlo Park - not just East Palo Alto and downtown Palo Alto.
- Option for private party outside and a bigger pool!
- Landscaping – add beautiful and inviting place to sit and talk.
- I like the layout.
- Thank you!

Notify the undersigned as soon as possible if there are any discrepancies or misunderstandings with the above notes.

Prepared by
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