

# King County Children and Family Justice Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee

*Meeting Summary – December 2, 2015*

## **Participants**

### *Committee Members*

- Lara Branigan
- Brie Gyncild
- Joy Jacobson
- Bill Zosel
- Michelle Garvey, King County Superior Court
- Brianna Henderson, PRR, Note taker
- Jamie Strausz-Clark, PRR, Facilitator

### *Project Team Members*

- Gay Boyce, King County Facilities Management Division (FMD)
- Jim Burt, King County FMD

### *Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee*

- Dave Chapman, King County Office of the Executive, Performance Strategy and Budget Section

## **Welcome and confirm agenda**

Facilitator Jamie Strausz-Clark walked through the agenda and explained the meeting would be dedicated to updating the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) members on the status of the project and discussing ways to reach the broader community. Guest speaker Dave Chapman, King County Office of the Executive, Performance Strategy and Budget Section, shared an update on the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee.

## **Project updates**

Jim Burt, King County Facilities Management Division, updated the NAC on the project schedule.

### *Estimated Project Schedule*

- **November 2015 - December 2015:** the Design-Build team, HSW, submitted its 100% design package; in design review process.
- **February - March 2016:** the Design-Build team will apply for all permits including street improvements, sewer line relocation, and other foundation and structural work.
- **May/June 2016:** project will reach final design; Master Use Permit (MUP) issued and construction begins.
- **Late 2019:** Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC) building complete.

- **2020:** old buildings will be demolished and construction will begin on the garage and open space.

Jim shared that no significant changes were made to the design since the July Design Verification meeting. The Design-Build team has been focusing on finer details of the design, such as creating more refinement on the exterior of the buildings, deciding where the sewer line should be relocated, and analyzing how the bus layover zone will work.

### *Transit stop and layover zone*

Jim reported that engineering studies concluded it would be best to place the bus stop and layover zone in one spot in front of the Courthouse. King County Metro Transit has approved this design change. Jim added that the Design-Build team and Metro are working with the City of Seattle to determine the appropriate width for the bus stop and layover zone.

### *Sewer line*

Jim informed the group that the Design-Build team must relocate the building's sewer line. The Design-Build team proposes that the sewer is relocated to underneath the sidewalks on Remington Court and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Jim indicated this work will be done early in the construction schedule, but is not yet sure how long the sidewalks will be temporarily inaccessible during construction.

### *Parking Lot*

During construction of the CFJC, King County is planning to use valet parking to help mitigate impacts to the parking for visitors and employees. King County is also implementing an enhanced employee transportation program starting January 1, 2016 to encourage employees to use alternatives to driving to work alone. After four months of implementation, the project team will assess the extent to which the employee transportation program is reducing vehicle trips; if it proves to be successful, the project team will reassess if valet parking service is still necessary. Streetcar service should begin soon, and will provide a new travel alternative that may also reduce the parking need. The County will also continue to provide bicycle parking at the facility during construction.

King County evaluated shuttle bus service to transfer employees from a remote parking lot to the Youth Services Center during construction and decided it was not the best solution.

### *Priority hiring for small contractors and suppliers*

King County has prioritized hiring of small contractors and suppliers for the CFJC project. The Economic Opportunity and Empowerment Program, a pilot priority hire program, focuses on residents of distressed areas in King County.

### *Spirit of Youth*

The project team will temporarily move the Spirit of Youth sculpture to secure storage during construction. When construction is complete, the piece will be relocated by the Design-Build team to east of the front entry and 4Culture will begin cleaning and restoring the sculpture. An NAC member suggested placing a sign at the former location of the sculpture that explains it is in temporary secure storage and where it will go after construction.

### *Budget*

Jim shared that last August, the project was \$3 million over budget, but the County and project team worked together to make design changes that reduced the overage to only \$700,000 over. The project team and Design-Build team will continue to working on minimizing budget impacts as the design advances.

### *Flexible design*

Jim explained that, in response to input from the NAC and the public, a portion of the facility has been dedicated as program space for youth. The space can be accessed via a separate building entrance without going through court or detention space. All detention space is being built with the flexibility to be converted to non-detention space as necessary.

## **Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee update**

Dave Chapman from the King County Office of the Executive updated the NAC on the work of the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee.

### *Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)*

Dave shared a new approach to serving youth who are arrested on domestic violence charges, who comprise approximately 30% of youth in secure detention. These youth often need a respite period before they can go back to their families, but secure detention may not be the best place to meet their needs. The Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) program would assist youth ages 13-18 who have been arrested and/or booked for a domestic violence offense. FIRS connects youth with the appropriate services without having to go through the judicial process. The County is piloting this program to provide these youth with safe therapeutic services and perhaps using secure detention until they can be reunited with their families rather than filing charges.

The FIRS program will pilot in January and has received about \$450,000 in funding from King County. The City of Seattle has provided an additional \$250,000 for a six month pilot program that will convert existing detention space into a respite setting to be operated and staffed by a service provider. It is anticipated that this part of the FIRS program will begin in June 2016.

### *Steering Committee progress*

Dave shared that the Steering Committee is made up of superintendents from Kent, Federal Way, Highline, and Seattle school districts, law enforcement agencies including Seattle's Chief of Police, attorneys and public defenders, community members, representatives from faith-based organizations, and four youth who have been in a juvenile detention center. An NAC member asked if the Steering Committee includes people who oppose the CFJC. Dave responded that membership on the Steering Committee was not contingent on supporting the CFJC, and that there are current members who are opposed to the CFJC. He added that invitations to members of opposition groups, such as Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) and Ending the Prison Industrial Complex (EPIC), have been extended, but none have participated yet.

Since forming in September, the Steering Committee has met three times. They have concentrated their efforts on building relationships, beginning to understand the data, and laying the foundation for action plans to reduce racial disparities in our juvenile justice system. Providing youth with meaningful jobs and creating more non-traditional tracks for education are some of the solutions the committee plans to include in their action plans. Dave shared that King County's Best Start for Kids Initiative could be a possible funding partner to help execute the group's action plans.

### *Other steps to advance restorative justice*

Dave explained that King County has been talking with local high schools and other people who work with youth in the juvenile justice system about restorative justice practices. He added that schools and other institutions are starting to implement restorative justice practices more widely.

Several NAC members expressed concern about the general public not being aware of the work King County is doing to combat racial disproportionality. They offered suggestions for how King County could do more to tell this story to the broader public.

## **Public engagement brainstorming**

Jamie Strausz-Clark, facilitator asked the NAC for their input on how best to engage the community on planning the open space on the northwest corner of the property, the plaza along 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and, down the road, the surplus properties.

NAC members offered the following suggestions:

- Implement different outreach approaches for the open space, 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the surplus properties, and construction communications.
- Consider forming partnerships with student groups at the University of Washington, the Yesler Terrace community, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stewards.
- Consult with the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, which is known for public engagement that is fun and engaging.

- Incorporate storage of the Spirit of Youth sculpture with the public outreach for open space. Place a sign where the Spirit of Youth typically stands to inform neighbors of the construction work ahead and how they can take part in the process.
- Coordinate public outreach with contractors working on other possible parks in the area.
- Use the website and online survey tool to gather community input on the open space.
- Partner with Bailey Gatzert Elementary to engage children, parents, and a more diverse audiences.
- Hire a graphic designers to live sketch community members' visions for the space

One NAC member shared that Seattle University is seeking space to house a small scale agricultural farm, which could be a part of an open space. A project team member shared that King County has been in contact with Seattle University and is scheduling a meeting to help understand their needs and goals.