



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

September 6, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sizemore at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Ping Mills, Ouimet, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz and Sizemore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Peterson and Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT:: David Behen, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrators; Daniel Minzey, County Sheriff; Judge Cedric Simpson; Gordon Burger, Jim Zwolensky, Dale Vanderford, Support Services; Kerry Sheldon, Scott Patton, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Space Plan Update

On file in County Clerk's Office.
Richard Brownfield from Tower Pinkster

Discussion Items:

Design Presentation: Jail Expansion & District Court

Concept Design Update and Space Plan Update, Presented by Jim Zwolensky and Richard Brownfield, Tower Pinkster (On file in Clerk's Office.)

Comm. Ouimet asked about the location of the front entrance. Zwolensky reported that there would be one entrance for all services. He added that direction to the appropriate location would be provided by signs in the lobby.

Comm. Bergman expressed concerns over a concrete security barrier. Zwolensky reported that the entire area would not be used as a barrier, but some protection for the building would be provided. Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to see this done in an attractive manner.

Comm. Schwartz asked if the main entrance would be located off of Hogback Road. Zwolensky confirmed that this is the current plan. Zwolensky stated that costs for a Washtenaw entrance could be obtained.

Comm. Grewal stated that appropriate signage would be needed to ensure that people are not parking in the wrong place. Zwolensky stated that signage in the interim will provide a clear path to the main entrance. Comm. Grewal suggested a visual marker that would give the location of the entrance.

Comm. Gunn stated that it will be important to keep LLRC traffic in mind during this project. Zwolensky stated that signage would have to be done from scratch to ensure clarity and conciseness.

Comm. Bergman asked about a staff entrance. She stated that multiple access points are a concern. She expressed her concerns over the security. Comm. Schwartz stated that good security is needed. He added that incorporating the entrance way would eliminate the potential problem with the LLRC.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked for clarification on employee parking. She stated that a distinguished employee parking lot would help the flow of the parking lot. Comm. Gunn suggested placing the public in gated parking.

Comm. Ouimet asked about the functions in the back of the building, and stressed that he would like to see the highest level of security for judges.

Comm. Ping Mills asked if there would be other means of protection such as blockades for the front of the building. Brownfield reported that there would be a 30 foot zone from the building blocked off.

Comm. Bergman asked about the multipurpose jury room. It was reported that the room is in the plan.

Comm. Schwartz asked about adding square footage to structures, and whether parking spaces will be lost. Zwolensky reported that there is space along Hogback Road for additional parking, and there is also additional parking around the current court. Comm. Schwartz reported that he would like to see additional parking. He asked about the court floor plan, and whether or not there will be an attorney-client conference room. It was reported that these conferences rooms are a part of the plan. Zwolensky added that there would be space for prosecution and defense offices. Comm. Schwartz stated that it is important to remember not to squeeze so much out of the building that it loses its functionality.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he is a little surprised about the delta figure presented being as large as it is. Comm. Ouimet stated that his expectations are that pricing is going to be very favorable. Zwolensky reported on the contingencies built into the plan.

Comm. Ping Mills asked about what "soft costs" are. It was reported that soft costs include equipment, fees and services.

Comm. Grewal asked if an estimate can be given on time of construction. Brownfield reported 18 to 20 months.

Comm. Schwartz asked if costs include landscaping. Zwolensky reported that it is not reported out specifically but it is built out of contingencies and other areas.

Comm. Sizemore asked about space for the female population in the jail. Brownfield reported that this set up will create a better situation for females. Comm. Sizemore asked about the driveway coming off of Washtenaw Ave. and stated he would like an update with options. He added that he would like to see a building that fits in to the area. Sheriff Minzey reported that he is comfortable with the process so far. Comm. Sizemore reported that Zwolensky has been put in a tough spot, but added that he does not want to do a piece mail type of situation.

Comm. Schwartz stated that it is critical that information on rising costs is brought back to the Board.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would like the project taken care of as it has been laid out with costs that have been budgeted.

Comm. Schwartz stated that the Board needs to be aware of the volatility of the market at the moment. Zwolensky thanked the Board and the PS&J Oversight Committee. He also thanked staff involved in the project.

County Administrator Report

David Behen reported that the new homepage for ewashtenaw.org has been launched. Behen thanked the Board for their support.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Pending

- September 20 Presentation of Recommended Budget - Overview
- October 4 Recommended Budget & Community Impact: Children's Services and Health
- October 18 Recommended Budget & Community Impact: Public Safety & Justice
Plus: West Willow Neighborhood Plan Progress
- November 8 Global Summary of Recommended Budget; Q+A

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Lovejoy Roe seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to adjourn until Thursday, September 20th, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Rolland Sizemore, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: 9/19/07