

Longan

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

5:30 – 7:30pm

60+ attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (FB)

Site Significance

- Lost three students because of closing
- Frustrated paying taxes but not able to send child to neighborhood school
- Not having problem in KCSD
- Would like school within walking distance
- Child went to school here and graduated college still fluent in French
- Son went to school 1st and 2nd grade
- Less police presence now
- Asset when open; no bars, no child molester, etc.
- Loss of protection in neighborhood

Strengths

- Are appropriate and equipped well
- Decent lighting
- In middle of dense population
- No traffic flow issues

Challenges

- Armour Blvd- lots of crime, buildings being bought and refurbished
- Playground updates- partner with a developer with similar goals (make playground operational)
- Limited parking lot
- Boarded up houses
- Vacant school building invites vandalism—restoration

Community Needs

- Need park
- School that reaches out to all social economic classes
- High quality education- school in area with high standards would be okay
- Building being taken care of
- WIC office
- Parent classes
- Open libraries for public use
- Cafeteria open for meetings
- Fitness classes

- Food pantry/ clothes
- Involvement of family and keep community

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Community center- pool, playground, dance classes, place for teens
- Cultural center (central location)- multicultural, educational, no social services
- Action center
- Community meeting room
- Services for youth, retail
- Senior housing
- Loft/ café/ movie theatre

Summary: The preferred option is a school that is re-opened by August. Concern voiced by the group that brainstorming reuse options takes away from the priority of getting a school back.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (DB)

Site Significance

- Residential area
- Positive energy
- Community involvement
- Upkeep of school
- Hyde Park: support system
- Strong community
- School building on site- longest lasting building as school
- Push back from district - Principal wasn't open to support/volunteers from the neighborhood

Strengths

- Playground size
- Sound structure- last remodeling during desegregation suit
- Elevator
- Auditorium/ gym separate (older style building)
- Positive development on Armour Blvd stabilization
- Urban location is sound for children
- Multicultural area, signs strength to the neighborhood
- In residential neighborhood
- Diversity of previous program
- School is too small for 1st – 6th grade, great for k – 2nd grade
- Neighborhood upkeep
- Integrated school- diverse, attracts diversity
- Similar school to Longan would be a strength
- Location

Challenges

- Air conditioning
- Traffic flow is one way -- solution: needs better signage enforcement
- Small parking lot
- Need to repopulate immediately
- Timing of project- process slowing down reuse
- Deferred maintenance
- Rehab slows if nothing happens here
- Perception that neighborhood is bad- drugs, shootings on Armour from outsiders
- Economic (building may be overvalued and no one will purchase)
- District's track record of not being inclusive in welcoming recent years
- Set up as school makes cost prohibitive to some uses (appraisal/ lending is challenging for area and school)
- Lack of property upkeep (broken window theory), blighting factor -- solution: community garden, district maintain grass/ glass/ weeds/ water
- Kids can't play here because of danger- broken glass also impact on surrounding community, morale, and property values -- solution: fix up the building and check the building security
- Carpe diem
- Vacant school affects property values of adjacent homes
- Broken glass on playground
- Needs property upkeep of apartments on Armour just south of school
- Financial/legal issues
- Property upkeep (glass, trash, neglect)
- Cost to repurpose, single purpose structure
- KCMSD (embarrassment- academic quality), administration is not inviting
- Market value
- Reverse racism
- Fire alarms

Community Needs

- Community meeting space/ center
- Safe play place for kids (playground)
- Reason for family to stay- nearby quality education
- Community anchor
- Major code enforcement
- Positive tenant to bring good jobs to community
- All vacant property to be occupied
- Incentive to move in by teachers all public employees
- Do not demo building and create vacant lots (preserve building)
- Social services located in community that break the cycle of poverty
- A positive that outsiders see

- Social services- economic stimulation
- Services in community -- solution: not for profit site co-hosting that serves community that forms a partner group with the community
- Children need to be able to make friends in neighborhood -- solution: school
- No housing- there is enough on Armour
- Faith based- often groups don't have sustainable plan or money
- Chance for KCMSD to do something the community wants and gets them a good use
- Listen to the community

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- School has to be quality that is open and partners with community
- Park
- Playground
- Library- reading room
- Academy Lafayette Charter School

BREAKOUT SESSION #3 (DC)

Site Significance

- Neighborhood growth developed once the school began
- Magnet school asked people to reinvest in the community and move back
- Hyde Park has taken several hits with the addition of Section 8 housing
- School would provide a significant shift in the neighborhood: rally together, build resources around school again
- Multi-generations- parents, grandparents attended school

Strengths

- Stable safe neighborhood
- Building in excellent condition
- Small and intimate
- Accessible (transportation)

Challenges

- Conversion challenges depend on reuse types
- Technology update -- solution: installation of wireless technology
- Air conditioning -- solution: install air conditioning
- Lack of parking (for business use)
- Possible blight over time -- solution: reuse building by July, place for children, landscaping
- Lease restrictions -- solution: expediting reuse decisions, listen to the neighborhood

Community Needs

- Time is of the essence
- New families (multiple children) educational opportunities
- Housing value stabilization
- Social service needs (food, housing, education, jobs)
- Youth gathering space
- Social interaction, sense of identity, information exchange
- World class elementary education facility to attract tax payers, more and better opportunities
- Preserving history of neighborhood (quality of historic assets (homes) and families in neighborhood)

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Community center (heart) gathering space, funded, gardening, school during the day and community center at night
- World class elementary educational facility- local school, accessible to neighbors, preference boundaries, quality teachers and administration, commitment to excellence
- K-2 charter school
- Faith based pre-K (not great need)
- Senior housing (not great support)
- University conservatory- classes and community possible use, more information needed
- Demolition not supported - Longan in better condition than other sites
- Move KCMSD administration to Longan not supported – lack of parking/too small

GENERAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (NOTES FROM COMMUNITY/COMMENTS ON SITE TOUR)

- My name is Crissy D. I live at XXXX XXXXX St. On behalf of myself and my neighbors L. & Mr. C., Travis M., and other neighbors we would like to support the use of Longan School as an elementary school for Academie Lafayette. They are an exemplary school with a proven track record and very polite and respectful students. Please grant them their request to use the Longan School.

Sincerely, Crissy D.

- Concern about the district giving preference to district sponsored schools when the district doesn't have a good track record
- When will the district start mowing? Last year, it got to waist high