

Children's Hospital - Vision 2012

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2/ MEETING SUMMARY August 7, 2007

Meeting Purpose and Expected Outcome

Gather public feedback on Children's proposed Vision 2012 campus concepts; use input from the public and technical experts to shape a world class children's healthcare facility in concert with a campus that also enhances the surrounding neighborhoods.

Dates, Time and Location

Tuesday, August 7, 6 – 8 p.m. at the Columbus Public Health Department, 240 Parsons Ave., second floor auditorium.

Meeting Format

Participants entered the second floor auditorium of the Columbus Health Department, where they signed in at the **Station #1/Welcome Area**. They received a name tag and instructions on how to proceed through the series of tables/stations, including:

- Station #1: Welcome and Sign In
- Station #2: Vision 2012
- Station #3: Property and Projects
- Station #4: Parks and Green Space
- Station #5: Parsons Avenue Gateway
- Station #6: Circulation
- Station #7: Job Bank and Giveaways

At **Station #2/Vision 2012**, participants viewed three exhibits: 1) Here's Why Children's is Growing, 2) Proposed Vision 2012 and 3) the New Inpatient Hospital. Participants were asked to fill out a comment card that asked, "Please share with us any additional comments or feedback you have about Children's Proposed Vision 2012."

At **Station #3/Property and Projects**, participants viewed one exhibit, Property and Projects, which provided an overview of projects underway and showed where Children's will expand its campus to the west. The exhibit also summarized plans to upgrade existing residential properties owned by Children's. Participants were asked to fill out a comment card that asked: 1) "What should Children's consider in developing its West Campus in a manner keeping with the character of the neighborhood?" and 2) "Children's wants to be a good property owner of homes it owns in the community. What does being a "good property owner" mean to you?"

At **Station #4/Parks and Green Space** meeting attendees viewed the Parks and Green Space exhibit, which illustrated how Children's will significantly reduce impervious surfaces and increase green space surrounding the campus buildings by six acres. The exhibit showed park elements used in other cities to create inviting green spaces, and showed pictures of adjoining Livingston Park, which is owned by City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. The comment card asked: 1) "Is more green space important to you? Should it be open to public use?" 2) "What types of activities would you like to see in the green space in front of the hospital?" and 3) "How should it relate to Livingston Park?"

Station #5/Parsons Avenue Gateway explained how the new I-70/71 interchange will affect Parsons Avenue, providing a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish Parsons Avenue as a signature gateway to the South Side, Children's and Downtown Columbus. The comment card asked, "What components should be included in establishing Parsons Avenue as a gateway to the hospital, South Side and Downtown?"

Station #6/Circulation expanded on the circulation concepts touched on at the Parsons Avenue station, going into more detail about how pedestrians and vehicles might get around on the reconfigured Children's campus and surrounding neighborhoods. The concept of "walkability" was introduced, which emphasizes designing streets and sidewalks to be more safe and inviting to pedestrians. The comment card asked, "How do we upgrade Livingston Avenue to improve safety, traffic flow and walkability?"

Station #7/Job Bank and Giveaways was staffed by Children's Human Resources Department, who explained how to pursue a job at Children's. Attendees were invited to a complimentary pedometer and other items.

At 7 p.m. facilitator Jim White called the public meeting to order, introduced the staff at each information station and presented a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the information at each station. Mr. White then facilitated questions, comments and suggestions from the audience. Technical questions were directed to the appropriate Children's staff and technical consultants.

Questions and Answers

Thirty people attended the August 7th open house/public meeting. Twenty-six comment cards were received that evening.

Audience Questions

- 1. Is a 30 percent energy savings (at the new green-designed energy plant) a significant savings for typical green construction?**

A representative from Children's stated that 30 percent is good and is the industry standard.

- 2. Where are the homes located that Children's owns? Are they for sale or rent?**

A representative from Children's stated that most of the homes are located east of 18th Street. The homes were purchased over the years by Children's for investment purposes. Renovation plans are underway to rent the homes to Children's staff or visitors, or to keep them available for the public to rent on the open market.

3. What are the plans for Livingston Park?

A Children's representative agreed with a participant at the meeting that Livingston Park is owned and operated by the City of Columbus, clarifying that Children's has worked closely with the City in the past to help make park improvements. The representative stated that the Vision 2012 proposal does not call for Livingston Park to move; it proposes adding six more acres of green space adjacent to Livingston Park.

4. How much has Children's invested in Livingston Park? Does Children's control Livingston Park's utilities?

A representative from Children's stated that the hospital has provided more than \$100,000 to help upgrade Livingston Park's lighting system, add new walking paths and upgrade the plantings in the park. The City of Columbus controls Livingston Park's utilities.

Audience Suggestions and Comments

1. There are 60,000 African Americans living in the Children's area. Minority participation in the construction should be required to create a minority participation vendor program as part of the 2012 project.

A Children's representative responded that the hospital has hired Smoot Construction and Turner Construction to serve as contract managers of the current construction effort. Smoot Construction is a minority-owned contractor. Children's has been working with its various contractors to ensure minority and local business participation, including the use of local neighborhood contractors to complete work on the residential properties. Children's is putting other efforts in place to also increase minority and local business participation throughout its construction efforts

2. The gateway elements should fit in with the historic character of Schumacher Place. Modern gateway components do not fit with the look of the neighborhood.
3. Over the past 30 years, Livingston Park has shifted from the north to the west.

Summary of Written and Electronic Comments Received by August 21, 2007

General

- Stop feeding people – it's not appropriate

Residential Properties

- A "good property owner" means:
 - a. Exterior maintenance, landscaping
 - b. Property upkeep
 - c. Being informative about changes
 - d. Open dialogue and inviting community members to contribute ideas before bulldozing homes and businesses

- What will happen to the swimming pool at corner of Livingston and Parsons? Is there still one? *(This was the Easter Seals therapy pool and was not open to the public. Easter Seals is moving to Hilliard, and the property will be demolished.)*
- Contact Randy Black with the Historic Dept at the City of Columbus for ideas on what the residential exteriors of homes that Children's own should look like.
- 792 and 789 East Livingston need some upkeep

West Campus

- When developing West Campus, Children's should:
 - a. Have a community-involved selection of public space art. See Columbus State Grant Corridor
 - b. Pursue retail and food establishments
 - c. Pursue access from West Campus to Livingston. Barricades and closed roads prevent access to Livingston.
 - d. Study/incorporate the character of the neighborhood before the original I-70 came through

Green Space

- Is more green space important?
 - a. Yes (5)
 - b. We enjoy walking around the campus
 - c. Vital to all communities
- Should it be open for public use?
 - a. Yes (5)
- Why types of activities would you like to see:
 - a. Some cultural activities
 - b. Sculpture, art and some child-friendly activities (e.g. skateboard stuff)
 - c. Dog-friendly
 - d. Bike/jogger-friendly – perhaps around perimeter
 - e. "Learning" green space with plaques on different types of plants and trees
- How should it relate to Livingston Park?
 - a. A lot of kids use this area, and sometime interact with the park and their families
 - b. Smoothly – pedestrian bridges, bicycle safe, emergency call boxes
 - c. Livingston Park is a City-owned public park
 - d. Livingston Park is our neighborhood park. We need to be able to park around the park (1 hr parking) and walk in it for free.
 - e. Children's commented that they put in \$100,000 into the park, but they actually replaced the substandard lighting as some kind of trade with the City. They used URIF money which could have been spent in a poor neighborhood. When they decided to put Ronald McDonald House south of Livingston, they did not take into consideration the 140 to 500 more pedestrians crossing the street each day.

Parsons Gateway

- What components should be included in establishing a gateway?

- a. Go to the schools, seniors on porches – have a contest to get community involved; churches are no longer the place to do this (2)
- b. Consider police substation on Parsons to help bike patrols
- c. Should relate to neighborhood – wrought iron, brick materials – and reflect the neighborhoods, not just Children's
- d. Make sure Parson's consideration goes further south of Livingston
- e. Consider retail
- f. There's a flyover sculpture in Dayton you should consider as an example. It doesn't have to be trees and could be a sculpture.
- g. Statues and bronze, lighting, seasonal interest and color
- h. Put planters on top of columns
- i. Make it an attraction like Deaf School Park or include items of interest like at the Topiary Garden
- j. Talk to the kids and get their comments
- k. Need to be more inclusive in design process
- l. Parsons is a gateway to the South Side. An effort should be made to announce this fact. Children's does not own Parsons Avenue.
- m. Keep historic feel in a pedestrian crossing.

Circulation/Parking Issues

- Show us the previous/existing conditions so we can see the changes
- When is the stranglehold on Parsons and Livingston Avenue going to cease? The construction is having a negative impact on the community and is unsafe.
- How should we upgrade Livingston?
 - a. No parking allowed on either side.
 - b. Keep your employees and visitors from parking on it!
 - c. Do not make anyone try to cross it at street level.