

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

PRESENTED: January 15, 2020

TITLE: 100 N. Hamilton Street – Addition to Madison Children’s Museum to add New Workshops, Design Studio, Staff Offices, Storage & Assembly, Mechanical Spaces, a New Elevator, Climbing Structure and Outdoor Exhibits. 4th Ald. Dist. (58757)

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Janine Glaeser, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: January 15, 2020

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Cliff Goodhart, Chair; Rafeeq Asad, Lois Braun-Oddo, Tom DeChant, Christian Harper, Jessica Klehr, Craig Weisensel and Shane Bernau.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of January 15, 2020, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for additions to the Madison Children’s Museum located at 100 N. Hamilton Street. Registered in support were Roger Smith, representing Design Coalition Architects; Lou Host-Jablonski and Brenda Baker, both representing the Madison Children’s Museum; Abbie Moilien, representing Saiki Design; and Michael Huffman, representing Huffman Facility Development, Inc. The team reviewed the site showing existing photos, existing site plan, proposed site plan, floor plans, elevations and 3d views. The 1970s parking deck that is no longer viable or in use will be demolished; parking is not the mission of the museum. This will be a much better use of their space to make outdoor areas for the public. They build all of their own exhibits and this project will allow them more space to continue those exhibits. Interior remodeling will not have any effect on the exterior of the building. The goal is to use as much repurposed materials as possible on the new exterior, including things like hose material, tires, street signs cut into shapes. The overall palette will tend to be more muted, natural kinds of colors. At grade they are keeping curb cuts where they are, and any elements disturbed during construction will be replaced. The climber will be surrounded with hard surface while the perimeter will be a green landscaped area.

The Commission discussed the following:

- This is one-story, will it support other floors in the future?
 - There is no expansion anticipated. We’re looking at a 50-year life for the climber. It’s the Downtown Backyard.
- I think it’s really exciting. Is the number of bicycle parking stalls required by the City? There’s so much at the top of the Square at the entrance.
 - We met the City’s bike parking requirements with the first phase. We think there’s a need for more so we’re exceeding requirements.
 - We had 50 stalls under the parking deck that we had to close off when that became unusable.

- It is necessary to have the ones at the easement?
 - There's a traffic control box and fire hydrant at this corner, so we're not sure what we'll be allowed to do but we'd like to keep it in conversation.
 - We'd like to expand the curb line at the corner. We want protection for the loading area. We're pushing the curb line out to create a protection zone.
 - When we presented it to Traffic they actually liked the bump-out.
- I'm curious about the process forward for the climber. You show a fairly detailed drawing; is this something you're going to put out for bids?
 - We talk about that a lot. We're working with a group called Exhibit Team that have done major pieces like this. One of the really wonderful parts of working with them is they have digital capabilities to model everything you're seeing in excruciating detail. It's still being developed.
 - We will be hiring local artists to help build-out some of those pods. That's a big part of our identity.
- Having something like this as part of the downtown experience is really exciting, but with this kind of project and materials especially, it's a fine line between people finding it enchanting and people finding it appalling. I think of Dr. Evermore's sculptures. I worry about the end result, I do like the inclusiveness of using local artists. Sometimes too many cooks spoil the soup.
 - If you're familiar with City Museum in St. Louis, that's been our inspiration.
- Have you met with the neighbors? They're the ones who will be looking at it.
 - We have, and they won't be looking at a decrepit parking deck anymore.
- Is it made out of new materials or recycled material?
 - The vast majority is new materials. There will be consideration for some recycled materials as part of the skin.
- Those winds really come up Hamilton Street.
 - We have someone specifically on that.
- What are the building materials?
 - We're looking at a nice concrete finish. The building itself is shot blasted Bedford stone, neutral. We're going to imitate that in concrete. Building has some nice work on the stone from the 1940s, it's very subtle.
 - We will have budget constraints along the way. We feel everything that goes on top of this structure will be the eye catching piece and much better than the decrepit parking structure.
- Tentative timeline?
 - We're in the fundraising process, advancing the climber design through completion. If fundraising goes well we would hope to be in construction sometime in late 2020 or early 2021. The most likely scenario is the spring of 2021.

ACTION:

Since this was an **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** no formal action was taken by the Commission.