



Agenda Item #: 6

Project Title: 7103 Millpond Road/4402 Brandt Road - Public Project, Dane County Sustainability Campus. (District 16)

Legistar File ID #: 88296

Members Present: Shane Bernau, Chair; Jessica Klehr, Rafeeq Asad, Harry Graham, Anina Mblinyi, David McLean, Davy Mayer, and Nicholas Hellrood

Prepared By: Jessica Vaughn, AICP, UDC Secretary

Summary

At its meeting of May 28, 2025, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for a new Dane County Sustainability Campus located at 7103 Millpond Road/4402 Brandt Road. Registered and speaking in support were Austen Conrad, Alec Hembree, Drew Martin, John Welch, and Christopher Sina. Registered in support and available to answer questions was Allison Rath sack.

Summary of Commission Discussion and Questions:

The Commission commented that this is a different type of project. They liked the organization and layout of the plan, but suggested the applicant be honest with the materials, incorporate sizing and reveals with materials to accentuate the design of the wood, and to look at moving the gutter placement away from the entries.

The Commission inquired about the material selection and color, lack of articulation and integration of the Education Building in the northwest view. There is no horizontal datum line that carries across the building. The south view of the Scale House, the masonry is carrying the other materials and making the design; is it possible to incorporate that into the Education Building? When designing the northwest view of the Education Building, were you thinking about future buildings and where there are similar materials? These buildings will establish a baseline for the future buildings. The applicant noted that they have been thinking about that, but that it is unclear who will be bringing those buildings forward.

The Commission asked about the color and materials of the mechanical screening on the east elevation of the Education Building being the same. The applicant clarified that that will be a clear anodized aluminum, it is the same color so that it is intended to blend in.

The Commission asked about the depth and angles of the solar shades. The applicant noted that the horizontal sun shading is sized to maximum the shading during summer, while allowing for some solar heat gain in the winter.

The Commission noted that the Maintenance Shop needs another look at the material articulation and integration; it looks blockier and having something continuous horizontally or vertically may be beneficial.

The Commission noted the project is handsome and on the right path, but doesn't show any sustainable features; this is the perfect place to play out those strategies with architecture, algae walls, brise-soleils, berming, etc. The applicant replied that it really comes down to budget on a very large site. There are a lot of progressive things happening on the interior of the buildings. The Commission discussed ways to use recycled materials to showcase sustainability, noting

that it doesn't have to be expensive; looking at what identifies the site, some sort of recycled material in plaza or open spaces, or cladding on a blank wall – could be a great place to reuse materials.

The Commission noted the landscaping could be better integrated with the architecture. There are a few areas of that have fairly large blank walls, those are perfect places to layer in mid-level ornamental trees. Tree islands in the parking lot were suggested to help shade the pavement. There is an opportunity for large swaths of landscape material that is more than just aesthetics, but beneficial to pollinators. The site design is complicated, but realize it is a specified use.

The Commission encouraged the applicant to pay attention to proportions, particularly the northwest view of the Education Building, the height of the black brick and the corner look odd.

Action

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