



Agenda Item #: 7

Project Title: 1625 Northport Drive - Public Building - Warner Park Community Recreation Center Expansion. 12th Ald. Dist.

Legistar File ID #: 76911

Members Present: Cliff Goodhart, Chair; Lois Braun-Oddo, Jessica Klehr, Christian Harper, Russell Knudson, and Rafeeq Asad

Prepared By: Jessica Vaughn, AICP, UDC Secretary

Summary

At its meeting of March 29, 2023, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** on expansion of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center located at 1625 Northport Drive. Registered and speaking in support were Drew Kemp-Baird, Amy Scanlon, and Jim Brown. Registered in support and available to answer questions was Kevin Yeska.

Robust public engagement process, two information meetings. Expansion to the existing center to the east, tucked around the parking lot and park entry drive coming in from Northport. Set the building back to allow a landscape buffer between the parking. Adding a gymnasium, prefunction area, storage and mechanical and some reconfiguration of existing exercise room. Additional renovation work inside does not impact the building exterior. Very unique building in terms of its roof forms and some of the material banding. The CMU1 is a matched split face masonry to what is on the bulk of the existing building. Also what will wrap around the gymnasium, anchored at corners with a smooth limestone finish to complement the concrete band. South elevation pull similar storefront elements new material introduce is very carefully placed around field masonry in metal panel in three variations of colors. Punched some additional openings to match the running bond variation of the metal panel to add playfulness, character and also views and light into the gymnasium space.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Initially I had some concerns regarding matching materials, but I'm seeing it a lot clearer than it showed up in the plan set. It looks more cohesive now, it's a great addition that looks like it is part of the original building. Pretty successful job.
- One of the successful parts about the original building are the rooflines. Something that adds to their elegance is the overhang. The new addition being proposed is referencing that, but is not quite as successful because maybe the overhangs aren't as dramatic and that might be something to consider as you move forward. The rooflines on this building are one of the strongest features on the building or driving past. The roof on the addition I would suggest is a big deal and to consider refining it a bit.
- It had copper roofing when they first opened it.
- I like this addition, agree that it blends in with the original building in a really nice manner that makes it not look like an add-on.
- You get big blank walls when you add gymnasiums to buildings. You're definitely going to lose some trees. Instead of solo trees in the middle of the lawn, maybe some undulating beds can connect these trees and the spaces in between to break up that big cream colored expanse, and get some plants that can screen that wall. I would recommend upright evergreens and something with winter interest like colored twig dogwoods and

willows, tall ornamental grasses, winterberries, some gold and blue colored evergreens instead of arborvitae. Be imaginative about what goes in there. From a maintenance standpoint, connect those into some mulched beds with trees to be fairly easy to mow around. They haven't specified what the plantings are but they have the right idea to soften up the edges out in front.

Action

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