URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING REPORT June 11, 2025

Agenda Item #: 7

Project Title: 1402 Wyoming Way - Public Building, MMSD Gompers Elementary School and Black Hawk Middle School. (District 18)

Legistar File ID #: 88480

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

Prepared By: Kevin Firchow, AICP, Acting UDC Secretary

Summary

At its meeting of June 11, 2025, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for a new Public Building located at 1402 Wyoming Way. Registered and speaking in support were Steve Books, Kevin Yeska, and Susan Bowersox. Registered in support but not wishing to speak was Scott Chehak.

Summary of Commission Discussion and Questions:

The Commission complimented the choice of materials, material break downs, and praised being socially conscious by separating the elementary from the middle school. The color should come all the way down for the middle school to reflect the size of kids and size of the buildings. It was suggested that as a school the building should be more vibrant and not so monochromatic; possibly by adding accent colors to the windows or headers. The applicant noted that the gymnasiums are precast, and the education wings are masonry brick. The renderings are showing partial texture on some panels, and there is some brick relief to not appear so monochromatic.

The Commission inquired about site access, and the two tear drops configurations. The applicant replied that the one off of Wheeler Road and the tear drop on the south are for parents, and the tear drop to the west is for buses.

The Commission noted the importance of wayfinding for people who don't speak English as a first language, and making sure all the pedestrian connections to the neighborhoods are in the right places. The Commission discussed flipping sidewalks and paths or a raised sidewalk treatment to avoid having students crossing traffic. Bicycle access should be close to entry locations and also avoid crossing traffic.

The Commission commented that this type of building has a massive roof, which comes with an opportunity to use it for anything other than just ballast. Stormwater comes into play, there could be a demonstration of sustainability as a public project. The Commission recommended not using mowed turf lawn on the larger open spaces.

The Commission commented on the neighborhood being highly residential, which makes this a beacon and a landmark. The proposal is much better than what is existing. The applicant was encouraged to have at least one dynamic feature to distinguish the building as the school of this neighborhood, and to consider the entry mass to be taller.

The Commission commented that this should be something more dynamic than intersecting rectangles; it's time to add some articulation and color to the design.

Action

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