

AGENDA # 4

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION	PRESENTED: December 11, 2019	
TITLE: 1835 Wright Street – Public Building, New Madison College Child and Family Center Operations. 12 th Ald. Dist. (57620)	REFERRED:	
	REREFERRED:	
	REPORTED BACK:	
AUTHOR: Janine Glaeser, Secretary	ADOPTED:	POF:
DATED: December 11, 2019	ID NUMBER:	

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

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of December 11, 2019, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL** of a new Madison College Child and Family Center operations located at 1835 Wright Street. Registered and speaking in support were Ken Turba and Garret Perry, both representing Madison College. This facility is primarily used by staff and students of Madison College. The site will be upgraded to meet code, softening the building with plantings and installing a play area. The playground area will have a variety of play equipment, focusing on natural landscaping and sustainable type structures for ages 0-4. Each classroom will have individual access to play areas. For the building they have taken colors from Madison College branding and used them on the spandrel panels. They are still working on the play area surface and layout, but will provide a brick enclosure for security/privacy.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Our big landscape plans show everything is designated TT or TM.
 - There is an updated landscape plan, all plants are labeled and expanded the schedule because of the points requirements. We had to add even more trees. That can get submitted.
- The schedule I saw, nothing really stuck out to me. For instance, Red Oak isn't a really good plant.
 - It's more Elms, hearty durable plants and trees that maintain snow plowing and snow stacking in the center island areas.
- Get some vegetation in the play area itself. You have some shade around the periphery, but in tune with the concept you're describing, you should actually have some plant material in there.
 - That was a specific request by the director. They've had plants in there and the kids just tear it up. It's very hard for them to maintain. We are going to be doing raised gardens, so they'll be growing vegetables in each one of the play areas. If you require it, that's something we could take back to the client.
- I do think that a tree or series of trees would help.

- There are some trees in the middle inside. We could add more because it's a southern exposure. The trees on the outside will help to create more shade as well. I might even add some native grasses.
- What is the large parking lot island plant?
 - That will be a bioretention standard mix, per city requirement it's a plug mix, 12" in center and overseeded with an annual cover.
- I would like to see the more detailed plants. None of these are deal breakers. The Hybrid Elm you have on there, I don't know if there's a particularly reason for that one.
 - Most of the plants are locally sourced from a local nursery. With rebuilding, there is no inventory, it's been very difficult to find locally sourced plants since the recession.
- I get that. A few other selections, you have a fairly nice variety on here, I would question the Summer Hydrangea, it never flowers the way you see in catalogs, there are so many other flowering shrubs.
 - Like an Annabelle?
- Those would be fine in the shadier areas. Where do you have the Alimus (Canada Wild Rye) placed?
 - The sparkly shaped plants, it's a variety, I took the grasses and dispersed them throughout the site.
- I would slightly question that one, it could be more of a native. In some areas of the country it has a bad reputation as being a seeder, it seeds around and starts coming up through everything else. There are better selections. The sedum along with it too, there are some of those that are hardy this far north but they tend to be rather short lived. Do more research if you pick one of those.
 - All those are directly from a local sourced nursery.
- I rarely ever see that one in catalogs. Go towards the cultivar rather than the straight species.
- What is the material on the outdoor play area?
 - It's a mix, the areas with aggressive traffic will be poured rubber. The director desires as much green lawn as possible. Very limited concrete, only areas of pads that have play elements. And traditional structural mulch.
- It shows it black on the renderings, but it's not a dark color?
 - No it'll be very colorful, blues, greens. There will also be interior designs on the ceiling and floors and those designs will be brought outside, it's a bug-oriented theme (ladybugs, dragon flies, etc.). They're talking about naming each playground after one of those things.

ACTION:

On a motion by Braun-Oddo, seconded by Asad, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL**. The motion was passed on a vote of (6-1-1) with Braun-Oddo, Klehr, DeChant, Weisensel, Asad and Abbas voting yes; Harper voting no; and Bernau non-voting. The motion provided for the following:

- Provide a copy of the final landscape plan for the project file and final site plan review.
- Provide some vegetation in the play area in addition to raised garden beds. Consider additional trees (or series of trees) and native grasses.
- Update the landscape selections for other areas:
 - Replace the Summer Hydrangea with an Annabelle.
 - Consider alternate native species rather than the Canada Wild Rye.
 - Select a more hearty Sedum plant, go toward a cultivar rather than the straight species.