

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Ward 1 Advisory Team Meeting

October 29th, 2018
7:00pm – 8:00pm – 2500 U St, NW

Ward 1 Advisory Team Members

Name	Inviting Organization	Affiliations	Attendance
Jennifer Bristol	ANC 1B	Commissioner, ANC 1B, Team Co-Chair	Present
Joshua Mater	ANC 1B	Commissioner, ANC 1B08	Present
Erica Wissolik	ANC 1B	Community representative	Present
Yuri Blazar	ANC 1B	Aria Development, community representative	Present
Jessica Venegas	ANC 1B	Community representative	Not Present
Ivelina Benitez	ANC 1B & Interagency Council on Homelessness	School representative, community representative	Not present
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau	Councilmember's office	Ward 1 Councilmember	Not present
Tania Jackson	Councilmember's office	Chief of Staff to Councilmember Nadeau	Present
Sara Akbar	Councilmember's office	Community representative, Clifton Condo Association	Present
Ethan Ngo	Councilmember's office	Community representative, Clifton Condo Association	Present
Tim Frenz	Interagency Council on Homelessness	N Street Village	Present
Kristy Greenwalt	Interagency Council on Homelessness	Director, Interagency Council on Homelessness, Team Co-Chair	Not Present

Name	Affiliation
Jamie Keene	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS)
Darrel Cason	DC Department of Human Services (DHS)
Dwayne Gentry	DC Department of Human Services (DHS)
Brian Butler	DC Department of General Services (DGS)

Welcome

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) opened the meeting and welcomed the team. DMHHS representatives shared an update on the overall progress of the Short-term Family Housing initiative. Programs in Wards 4 and 7 have opened and are now serving families, and Mayor Bowser is on track to close DC General once and for all on schedule this October. The next program will open in Ward 8, and Advisory Team members are invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 13th with the Mayor.

Site Design

DGS project manager Brian Butler shared that the purpose of today’s meeting is to continue incorporating feedback from the Advisory Team into the site design, and to build on the feedback received during the last meeting.

The architecture team presented sample images of architectural details that the Advisory Team had previously identified as being aesthetically ideal for this building. These architectural features include brick facades, varied window sizes, and a blend of modern and traditional design. The architecture team also shared images of buildings in the Columbia Heights neighborhood that Advisory Team members had identified as positive examples to replicate. The architecture team reviewed examples of buildings where the Advisory Team had indicated that it did not like the aesthetics of the building. These inputs have guided the development of the design for the Short-term Family Housing building to date.

Next, the architects shared new renderings of the exterior of the building that show a greater level of detail and reflect feedback provided by the Advisory Team. These renderings feature improved continuity between the Rita Bright plaza and the entrance to the Short-term Family Housing site. The exterior material would likely be a combination of fiber cement and brick. The pattern of the windows would be in a non-grid pattern, reflecting preferences of the Advisory Team.

On the 14th Street NW side of the building, the site plans now pull the building back from the sidewalk to make the sidewalk feel wider and more welcoming, further reflecting feedback from the Advisory Team. The use of glass along the sidewalk level softens the edge of the building.

On the Clifton Street NW side of the building, the building decants back from the sidewalk. The Senior Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) wing of the building would also use a different pattern of exterior materials to break up the appearance of the building.

The Advisory Team shared positive feedback overall about the revised building design, including the following comments:

- I think this design strikes the right balances between being modern and traditional.
- I think this fits well on the size of the parcel.
- The corner feels more appropriate than in previous designs and less heavy.
- I think this is a strong design job, and our feedback was really incorporated.

The Advisory Team also shared areas for improvement, including the following comments:

- The top of the building feels unfinished, and not residential enough. I'd like to see whether an additional design feature along the roofline is possible.
- The columns on the 14th Street side could be improved. I don't like the design as it stands now.
- I want to see more vertical design elements on the Clifton Street side.
- I'd like to see a design with thinner vertical columns on the Clifton Street side.

The architectural team also led a question and answer period:

Question: Could more brick be used? What color brick will be used?

Answer: We are still determining where brick finishes will be on the building, and will keep this feedback in mind. We will continue to work with the Advisory Team on what color the exterior finishes will be, both for the siding material and for window treatments. When preparing these designs, we felt that the use of brick at the corner of the building at 14th and Clifton made it feel very heavy and bulky, and have opted to use a different material at this corner to respond to your feedback about making this corner feel lighter.

Question: What colors will the building be?

Answer: The colors haven't been determined yet, and they will be selected collaboratively with the Advisory Team.

Question: What exterior improvements are being made to Rita Bright? This should be considered when deciding exterior finishes so that the buildings are complementary.

Answer: We have been deliberate to ensure that the design of both projects will be complimentary, and we can share additional details as we move forward.

Question: How would emergency rescues work for the adjacent building with this design?

Answer: DGS and the architectural team will look into this further and will bring details back.

Question: What sustainability elements will be included in the design?

Answer: The building will definitely have a green roof, and additional sustainability elements will be included so that the building meets a LEED Gold standard.

Next steps

The Advisory Team agreed to move their next meeting from November 28th, 2018 to December 5th, 2018. This will give the architectural team enough time to come back with revised renderings, as well as a proposed color scheme for the building. DGS and the ANC Commissioners on the Advisory Team will also work collaboratively to determine the right cadence for sharing design updates with the ANC.