

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 9th, 2018

7:00pm – 8:30pm – Reeves Center (2000 14th 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	Not Present
Yuri Blazar	ANC 1B	Aria Development, community representative	Not 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 Frentz	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)
Reuben Forman	Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)
Dwayne Gentry	DC Department of Human Services (DHS)
Brian Butler	DC Department of General Services (DGS)

DGS project manager Brian Butler opened the meeting and welcomed the team. He shared that the purpose of the meeting is to review designs prepared by the architecture team. These designs reflect the Advisory Team’s feedback from previous meetings about what architectural styles and features would fit into the fabric of the neighborhood.

The architectural team presented new renderings of the massing of the building. The architects noted that these drawings are massing diagrams only, intended to show the scale and weight of the building, so they don’t reflect the architectural finishes that the building will include.

Based on the feedback from the Advisory Team, the new massing diagrams show that the courtyard would sit back farther from the street, creating a more open feeling along 14th Street NW. There is now also a potential for a terrace for senior residents on Clifton Street, which would be separated from the area where children are playing to provide a quiet area.

Question: Can the inset for this outside space be more in line with the courtyard?

Answer: Yes, the architecture team will look into whether this could work.

Question: Will the seniors in the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program be leaving the building in the evening?

Answer: They will be able to come and go as they’d like, just like anyone else in their own home.

The architects showed how the design has evolved to pull the building back from the 14th St NW sidewalk to make the space along the building feel wider in response to feedback from the Advisory Team. This also makes the entrance to the Rita Bright Family and Youth Center feel wider.

The architects also demonstrated why parking access needs to happen along Clifton Street. This allows two-way traffic to enter the garage, which will make pedestrian walkways safer on the

street. This also allows the architects to put trash cans at the back of the building, and to potentially keep more trees in place on the site.

Question: Can there be an easement in place to let the trashcans from the adjacent building remain on the property owned by the District?

Answer: We are happy to collaborate on what the right solution is for this. A commitment was made to follow up offline to find the right solution. We are designing the building to allow space for this trash.

Question: Can we have a transit study done to see if Clifton Street should be made a one-way street?

Answer: This is a process that DDOT would lead. DGS can connect DDOT to the Advisory Team to discuss this. Our understanding of the process is that the community can petition DDOT for a change. Because very few families in the short-term family housing program will have their own cars, there may actually see less traffic on the block once the site is converted from an active parking lot to a residential building.

Commissioner Bristol also shared that the ANC is already looking at this for the 1300 block of Clifton.

The design team also presented a set of plans for the interior of the building. Office spaces will be on the ground floor of the building along 14th Street, which will allow open window features, in response to Advisory Team feedback.

The design team presented boards which included exterior finishes samples from different buildings.

- One board showed buildings in the neighborhood that the Advisory Team has previously said they liked aesthetically.
- A second board looked at concepts from various buildings around the country that show different window patterns that could be possible for this building. These window patterns would be intended to break up the appearance of the building.
- A third board showed how different materials could be used for the exterior, and how prominent corners on the building could be treated.
- The fourth board showed projects from around the country that use a combination of materials on the exterior, and how materials can make different flanks of the building appear different from one another.
- The fifth board showed traditional and modern buildings in Columbia Heights with exterior materials that could be replicated.
- The final board showed how lighter colored brick can be used, and ways that brick can be contrasted against darker materials.

The Advisory Team spent time reviewing the boards and posting their feedback onto the boards using sticky notes to show which drawings they felt would fit well into the fabric of the neighborhood, and which would not.

In summary, the Advisory Team preferred buildings that were more traditional in design, with varied materials, use of brick, and large window features. The Advisory Team did not like designs with random placement of windows, and did not like cement-like materials. The Advisory Team also liked designs with inviting entry levels, where the stories above sit as a hat above the design on the entry level. The entry level should have big windows and be open and inviting. The Advisory Team also liked the look of design that provided differentiation between the two wings of the building.

Next meeting

The Advisory Team agreed to meet again on October 29th to review a new set of building designs that incorporate the feedback shared tonight.