

Notes from meeting with Eric Scott, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, 27 July 2007, Wilson Building

Present: Eric Scott, Amy McVey (ANC 3E), Anne Sullivan (ANC 3E), Cathy Wiss (ANC 3F), and

Sue Hemberger

1. There's been no real proposal from Roadside yet. In any event, this is not likely to be a sole source contract. If the DMPED decides to pursue a mixed-use project at the Tenleytown site, then a Request for Proposals (RFP) would probably be issued. What such an RFP would say is still up in the air, as is the threshold question of whether to go forward with a joint public-private redevelopment project at all. Community input, including ANC input, on what the RFP should say will be solicited before any RFP is issued.
2. The Mayor is very interested in affordable housing at this site. The substitution of affordable housing for some of the luxury condos would lower the land value (purchase price) and thus the amount of money available to the school and the library. Everybody is asking for money from the Housing Production Trust Fund right now, so you can't count on subsidies from that source.
We have to look hard at the numbers to see whether all of these goals can be met. If they can't, then priorities will have to be set. We could end up with an affordable housing/library project that doesn't involve the school.
3. Mr. Scott will be meeting with DCPS to discuss whether this kind of project is really feasible and desirable at the Janney site. That step has to come before the drafting of an RFP. He had not previously been aware of the overcrowding issues or of the scope of the work DCPS envisioned at that campus under the Master Facilities Plan. He affirmed that the city must ensure that the school's needs can be met before it allows land on the campus to be devoted to other uses.
4. He will also be meeting with Ginnie Cooper to discuss how a mixed-use project could benefit the library and whether it would fit in with the library's plans. It's not clear yet whether he will discuss these issues with John Hill and/or Richard Levy (from the Library Board of Trustees) as well.
5. If there is an RFP and it leads to a mixed-use project, then it is unlikely that the developer will actually build any school facilities. Instead, the developer would simply pay DCPS for rights to build on its land. DMPED would encourage DCPS to earmark that money for Janney School.