

MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION /
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT CIVIC CENTER CONSERVANCY

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MARCH 25, 2015

Held at Marin Center, Friends of Marin Center Conference Room,
San Rafael, California

APPROVED MINUTES

CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Al Boro, Susie Pollak, Helen Williams, Marge Bartolini, Walter Johnson, Nicole Clock, Lynn Borenstein, Colonel Bill Cope

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT CIVIC CENTER MEMBERS PRESENT: Joan Brown, Lynn Downey, Sandra Fawn, June Miller, Annette Rose, Mark Schatz, Kathrin Sears, Suki Sennett

Others: David Speer, Janis West, County Administrator's Office (CAO); Pat Echols, David Vaughan, Pat Zuroske, Department of Public Works (DPW); Gabriella Calicchio, Janet Boddington, Elizabeth Garrison, Tony Taubert, Department of Cultural and Visitor Services

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairpersons Al Boro and Mark Schatz called the meeting to order at 12:13 P.M. and thanked all for attending. Commissioners and Conservancy members introduced themselves.
2. **REVIEW AGENDA:** David Speer said the commissioners and the public will receive background and history from Pat Echols regarding the design of Veterans' Memorial Auditorium (VMA) parking lot and other projects and have the opportunity to share ideas. There will be another meeting in the future to make recommendations.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** This item was moved to receive comments following the review of the VMA parking lot and surroundings design.
4. **REVIEW VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM PARKING LOT AND SURROUNDINGS DESIGN:**

Pat Echols Presentation-Pat spoke about the development of design concepts to refurbish the VMA parking lot. SMART is scheduled to begin service to the Civic Center in 2016 and the Civic Center Drive Improvement project, which began design development in 2012 for are now on the front burner. Additionally, the Agricultural Institute of Marin (AIM) is advancing planning for the creation of the permanent Farmer's Market at the "Christmas Tree" lot, directly across from the VMA parking lot.

The current project under discussion is the re-development of the VMA Parking Lot. The goal is to address four main project objectives: improve parking lot circulation, create a design that maximizes parking capacity, improve arrival experience and meet storm water runoff quality requirements (adjacent to Gallinas Creek). They are currently keeping the main layout with some changes:

- Relocate the south side perpendicular parking along Avenue of the Flags within the main VMA Parking Lot. This will eliminate 50% of the vehicle conflicts (i.e., backing out of the parking spaces) when emptying the lot after an event.



- Remove the parallel parking along the exit lane of Memorial Drive
- Maintain the end planters but convert them for storm water capacity (bio treatment)
- There will be 5 ft. wide bio-swales between the stalls, sloped to drain the storm water
- Layout 1: Will provide wider sidewalks and landscaped areas along Memorial Drive, therefore enhancing the entry experience. The sidewalk areas along Avenue of the Flags will not be as wide and the landscaping will be limited.
- Layout 2: The sidewalk and planter areas along Memorial Drive will be slightly smaller than proposed in Layout I, but the sidewalk and planters along Avenue of the Flags will be wider.
- Since there is limited room, when one element is shifted, it will reduce the width of the other element (i.e., sidewalks and planters)

Commissioner Questions

- Drive aisle – how wide? *Currently not compliant-expansion will be to 24'.*
- Installing the bio-swales vs. Farmers Market conflict? *Several years for this project to see completion; should not conflict with FM project.*
- Parallel parking on Memorial Drive - gaining space? *We will lose about a dozen to allow for the pedestrian path of travel; the greater benefit will see improvement overall.*
- Avenue of the flags - how much faster for patrons? *The overall design will allow for greater flow for both pedestrians and vehicles. Details and way finding signage that will create a specific flow pattern within the lot will be provided in the future*
- Perpendicular parking on Avenue of the Flags eliminated on the southern side? *It is not eliminated, just integrated into the larger lot.*
- Avenue of the Flags on the North side – walkway consideration? *We will explore multiuse; there may be added costs such as lighting, additional environmental review because of being within 700 feet of Gallinas Creek.*
- Suggest that Commissioners are provided with one universal plan for all the plans-helpful to compare. *This will come out in September; they are currently joining forces to plan together and provide a global picture.*
- Time lines? *Unsure of project's end and all the projects; proceeding with this project is based on BOS decisions for the various Capital projects.*

Campus Identity

- Possible RFP process
- Funding options: 1) County funds; 2) Project donation process

Public presentation of ideas-Two presentations provided by architects who are interested in the concept of the identity of the campus:

- Richard Keding
 - North Gateway Marker proposal - proposes marker in center of the roundabout, circular LED lights/moving arrows including crosswalk and warning signs to reduce hazards
 - Provided a spiral bound proposal for the commissioners
- Fani Hansen
 - Proposes a path of travel linking concept for the Civic Center campus with safety being key; concept of car-oriented center versus people-oriented center; way finding signage not needed if direction is clear



- Provided a Power Point presentation

Public comment

- Laura Lovett, graphic designer
 - Interested in having as much aesthetic quality to the public spaces as possible; no need to be too technical
 - Are any of the parking plans permeable? Consider how much in Marin that is already paved
 - RHAA appears to have received all the jobs/contracts; consider other contractors that are more imaginative and who understand the bio-swale concepts and drainage issues; Ms. Lovett can provide recommendations for other contractors she has worked with
- Bill Schwarz, architect
 - Recalled Supervisor Kinsey addressing FLWCCC in 2013 charging FLWCCC to celebrate, protect, and conserve; he commented there is a spirit to the Civic Center that both presentations complement
 - Street lighting, signage are important when designing (FLW design for ball clusters)

Commissioners' Comments

- Roundabout should be as unobtrusive as possible-not distracting to motorists.
- Consider lower tech solutions regarding way finding
- Consider center be a focal point – public art – but not distracting
- Explore partnership with FLW School of Architecture to keep the spirit and history of FLW's original idea/design and tie old and new designs together
- Place holder in the master plan and criteria be established
 - Consider competition for art piece in center (roundabout) but not hold up process (note: Annette Rose clarified has read Frank Lloyd Wright did not want sculptures in Civic Center campus adding other people's work)
- Richard Keding's design is simple and does not show any other signage. Are there way finding specifics required by the City? State? *(P.Echols) Federal Highway Administration provides/allows for introductions of new traffic control ideas. We need to vet with the City of San Rafael who has jurisdiction over public right of way; FHWA does have guidelines for roundabouts that the County is following. The state has a Traffic Control Devices committee that allows application for anything not in the current guidelines.*
- Possible World Heritage site status should be a consideration when designing. How to direct is of most importance.
- Need a process, priorities list such as ingress vs egress for VMA parking lot, to determine what can be done now. *Presentations address the now; current parking lot design does not impede or conflict with any other ideas.*
- Civic Center Drive improvements and SMART will be the first pieces in the coming year; opportunities to grow in and around. *DPW looking for general feedback for this process; coming up with the criteria, objectives, will help form the process in connecting all projects.*
- Think about way finding signage and what people think when they see the signs such as to Marin Center or Civic Center sign placement.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

