



Muriel E. Bowser  
Mayor

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Capital Projects, Planning, and Design



Keith A. Anderson  
Director

**Rita Bright Family and Youth Center  
Community Meeting #1 - Meeting Notes**

July 11, 2018 6:30 PM

Reeves Municipal Center

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**Presenters**

- Brian Butler (DGS)
- Nick Kushner (DPR)

**Commissioners/Council Present**

- Jennifer Bristol (ANC Commissioner 1B06)
- Jerry Johnson (ANC Commissioner 1B02)
- Tania Jackson (CM Nadeu's office)

**Meeting Discussion**

*Presentation*

- Presentation covered project budget (2.5 – 3.5M), project and engagement phases, and survey results
- There are some necessary maintenance and accessibility improvements to the space that will be done as part of the upgrades
  - Request to try to have carve out a portion of the funding for “wish list” upgrades
- Overwhelming support for outdoor play area from survey
- Also support for picnics, exterior improvements
- Programming support for art, dance, cooking classes

*General Comments/Questions*

- Timeline is planned to be concurrent for the Short Term Family Housing (STFH) and Rita Bright upgrades
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- Comment to ensure that all voices in the community are heard and be cognizant of the different populations within the broader “community”
- Comment about the NEAR Act and not segmenting resources
  - STFH and Rita Bright are two separate projects - separated to ensure appropriate expertise and attention for each
- Question on safety screenings for residents of STFH
  - Applicants are assessed when they enter emergency shelter in order for DHS to provide appropriate services, which may include behavioral health services; STFH will have 24/7 security; DHS already operates apartment-style shelters in the District and there is no increase in crime in these neighborhoods
- Parking is an issue- Clifton street is already dangerous as a small two-way street
  - There will be 1:1 replacement of existing parking
  - We will discuss traffic and road impacts as we get further into the process

#### *Site Suggestions*

- Interest in redoing kitchen so that it can be a teaching kitchen connecting what is grown in the garden outside
- Desire for sustainable design in construction
- Playground on roof would spend entire available funds
- A rooftop garden is actually the most expensive option
- Suggestion from youth for playground with sandbox and zipline on roof
- Don't want dog space
- Some interest in spray park or water feature, but comment that spray park equipment is seasonal
  - Spray parks are on looped system like a pool – not wasting water

#### *Programming*

- LAYC would like to explore additional programming opportunities like permits for kids to play on nearby fields
- Football team practices on small patch of grass along 14<sup>th</sup>
- Lots of charters don't have gymnasiums, and they use Rita Bright's

- Rita Bright has football and basketball teams – two vans to transport
- LAYC does workforce training too – looking to offer Microsoft certification for free
  - Also working on an initiative to clean-up the garden
- LAYC is paying for Comcast- DPR IT goes in and out
- Some things in Rita Bright owned by DPR and other things purchased and owned by LAYC

### **Next Steps**

- Anyone with additional suggestions should send them to Nick Kushner ([nick.kushner@dc.gov](mailto:nick.kushner@dc.gov)) and Brian Butler ([brian.butler@dc.gov](mailto:brian.butler@dc.gov)) over the next month.
- DGS is currently reviewing bids for the STFH on the northern portion of the site. Once a contractor is selected for that project, the scope of work for the Rita Bright improvements can be issued.
- If necessary, another meeting will be scheduled to finalize the scope of work, otherwise the next meeting will be held once a project team is onboard.